



MINUTES OF BLEADON ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD AT 7PM ON FRIDAY 28th APRIL 2023 AT THE CORONATION HALLS

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Kirsten Hemingway (Chairman of Bleadon Parish Council).

Present: 19 members of the public, 5 Parish Councillors, and Liz Shayler (Parish Council Locum Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Garrett, Boyd and two members of the public.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 11th April 2022 –

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 25th April 2022 were approved as a correct record of the meeting with the following addition in the section 'During the reports the following questions / concerns were raised':

- That the Local Plan had not been publicly discussed and that councillors indicated that they were unaware of the Local Plan consultation.
- Concern regarding Bleadon's Frack-free status in regard to any changes to NSC's new Local Plan
- That the Halls were stated to be in Bleadon Parish Council ownership, not held in trust on behalf of residents.
- That the status of the Bleadon-in-Bloom group and its funding position were unclear (independent or Bleadon Parish Council project).
- That the editor had full editorial control but that the council had no say on behalf of residents, and that the Annual Chairman's Report and Finances were no longer in the newsletter (but it would be a good thing to reintroduce).

The minutes of the meeting to be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS –

Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a roundup of the year covering the following points:

- i) Planning working party update
- ii) Regilding of the church clock – should be completed by August
- iii) Hall report – include Water butts at the Hall
- iv) Creation of the budget working party
- v) Creation of the Communications working party
- vi) Contact Us party
 - a. Thanks to the hall for letting us use it free
 - b. Thanks to the tea and coffee and refreshment ladies
 - c. Thanks to Les Masters
 - d. Thanks to all for the support
- vii) New play equipment
- viii) Work done in the allotments
Allotments. These are all occupied with a short waiting list. Plans are in place to remove the compost heap, and to hold a meeting of allotment holders in the coming months.
- ix) Churchyard.
This is looking neat and tidy with a 6ft corridor of uncut grass on the east and north side for insects and wildlife.
- x) Bleadon in Bloom
Congratulations on the gold, plaque up, trees up, plans for this year – Bleadon blooming nothing

- xi) Coronation Events
- xii) Queens loss and Jubilee events
- xiii) Not returning a deficit next year

The Chairman also thanked the following:

- i) The new clerk
- ii) The new finance officer
- iii) Regulators such as ALCA for Support
- iv) Local District Councillors – Cllr Porter & Solomon
- v) The outgoing clerk for his service
- vi) The councillors for a brilliant year – Ann and Graham for stepping up with new working groups
- vii) The ranger for his work in the village
- viii) Bleadon News Editor
- ix) Grass cutter
- x) The parishoners for showing up
- xi) Village groups
 - a. Hall Committee
 - b. Youth Club
 - c. Church
 - d. Bleadon in Bloom
 - e. WI
 - f. And many others who keep the village a great place to live

Draft statement of accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023

The Locum Clerk gave an update on the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023.

The budget set for 2023/24 is based on the current accounts which are undergoing review. As such the budget allocation will be considered again at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 11th of May 2023 to be reprinted in the June edition of the Parish Magazine.

However, the budget agreed in January resulted in a precept request of £64,653.00 which is £117.94 for a Band D property. This is an increase of 21.1% (1.1% which is due to a decrease in the tax base) or £20.55 a year.

The Clerk invited the residents to seek clarification of any issues. There were no queries raised.

4. NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL REPORTS

Ward Councillors Report

No District Councillors were in attendance and no report had been received.

Bus responsive service

A North Somerset Council Officer spoke about the new WestLINK service (bus responsive service). The service consists of up to 30 accessible, 16-seater minibuses which you can book to take you anywhere within North Somerset.

Journeys can be booked through a free app, by phoning the call centre or through the website. You can book it when you need it or up to 24 hours in advance. Smart technology will match your journey with other customers to best use the space on board. Currently only £2 per journey for an adult and £1 for a child, free for bus pass holders.

An Ambassador Programme is in place where volunteers will attend meetings and events to promote the service. Information can be found at: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/.../tra.../bus-travel/westlink>.

Questions were asked about:

- Getting to Southmead Hospital and Bristol Royal Infirmary
- Accessing the different zones
- The possibility of adding the Long Ashton Park and Ride to the zone
- Accessibility for those without smart technology
- Dogs on buses
- Extending service times beyond 7am – 7pm.
- Using the App and the alternatives
- The 50 service and its future
- The fare cap which is due to be reviewed in July.

A full copy of this PowerPoint is held by Bleadon Parish Council and may be inspected by making application to the Parish Clerk.

5. AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY – Local Beat Manager’s Report.

No Beat Manager was in attendance and no report had been received.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Residents raised the following concerns:

- Concern was raised about North Somerset Local Plan Policy in relation to solar panels and wind turbines on agricultural land and its impact on farming.
- Suggestion that a Parish Meeting is held for the next Local Plan Consultation for the Parish Councillors to hear residents’ views.
- Irresponsible parking around the village. The use of yellow lines and other measures to encourage sensible parking. Concern of residents about additional yellow lines and the suggestion of parking restrictions. Reminders to local businesses to ask their patrons to park sensibly was suggested.
- Request that the Parish Council informs residents of North Somerset Consultations and that they encourage residents to contribute their views.

7. REPORTS BY VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS.

Reports were presented by the following village organisations over the past year.

- Bleadon Coronation Hall*
- Bleadon Youth Club*
- Bleadon in Bloom*

(*Copies of these written reports are held by Bleadon Parish Council and may be inspected by making application to the Parish Clerk)

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF ELECTORS – TBD April 2024

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm and thanked all those who had attended.

..... Chairman

..... Date