



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CORONATION HALL AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2024.

PRESENT: Councillors Mary Sheppard (Chairman), ID Clarke, Ann Davies, Jo Gower-Crane, Mark Howe, Andy Scarisbrick (Vice-chairman) and Steve Sugg.

IN ATTENDANCE: Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk)
WARD COUNCILLORS: Cllr Terry Porter
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Five

Before the meeting was convened, members of the public were invited to speak.

i) **Members of the public**

A resident referred to a planning application in relation to Fakeham Lane and the increasing pressures placed upon running an agricultural business.
A resident raised concerns that drivers appeared to be ignoring the road restrictions at the junction of Bleadon Road and the A370.
A resident questioned whether it might be possible to ask the Highways Authority to address overgrown bushes at the junction of Chestnut Lane and Bleadon Road.

ii) **Beat Manager's Report**

The written report forming part of the agenda papers was noted.

For up-to-date information residents can keep in touch via the Avon & Somerset website or follow them on social media, Facebook "Weston & Worle police" or Twitter "ASPNorthSom" or email 8338@avonandsomerset.police.uk

iii) **Ward Councillors' report**

Cllr Porter provided an update in relation to the following issues:

Both ward Councillors had concerns regarding the diversion arising from the closure of Bridge Road and had raised these concerns with North Somerset Council's Highways Department.

Both ward Councillors were in discussions regarding the play area relating to the development at the former quarry site.

The 126 bus service had been re-instated. Although this did not directly affect the parish of Bleadon, it would serve neighbouring areas such as Bleadon Hill.

The planning application in relation to additional houses in Rockville had been called in for further consideration by a North Somerset Council committee on 17th January 2024.

Cllr Sheppard opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

The meeting was convened.

373.1 To receive apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

None.

373.2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Howe in respect of agenda item 373.9.

373.3 To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 11th December 2023.

Resolved: To approve the Parish Council minutes of 11th December 2023.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

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

373.4 To consider reports from Working Parties/Committees

There had been no meetings of Working Parties/Committees since the previous Parish Council meeting.

373.5 Local Plan

Cllr Gower-Crane provided an update in relation to a number of meetings and responses made to the draft Local Plan relating to the Parish Council's concerns regarding the lack of emphasis upon the protection of land for food production. It was noted that a formal response would be made following the open meeting with residents scheduled for the evening of 15th January 2024.

373.6 Training and Events

The availability of SCRIBE and NALC training was noted.

373.7 Financial/Staffing Matters

i) To authorise bills for payment for January.

It was noted that the cost of energy supply to the toilets had been based upon an estimate of £19.24. The actual bill received was £19.73. As a consequence, the total bills for payment for January was £0.49 higher than the figure stated in the report.

Resolved: To authorise the payments for December of £2,227.47.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

(Councillors Ann Davies and Andy Scarisbrick were duly authorised to action the online payments)

ii) To note the Parish Council's end of December budget position, bank balances and bank reconciliations.

The Parish Council's end of December position, bank balances and bank reconciliations were noted.

373.8 Parish Council Precept and Budget 2024/25

Councillors considered a report setting out an update to previously discussed budget figures and the proposed precept for 2024/25.

It was noted that the proposed precept for 2024/25 was £67,800 which, based upon the Council Tax base figures provided by North Somerset Council would result in a 4% increase on the precept for the current financial year. A modest increase in the precept was considered necessary as the Parish Council was expecting increased contract costs of up to 40% on its externally commissioned works.

The total proposed budget for 2024/25 would be £138,387. Additional income from bank interest and rent was anticipated to be £1,550 which, along with a range of other measures, would reduce the impact upon the precept. The primary reason for the difference between the precept figure and the proposed budget related to the number of projects the Council was planning to progress, which would be largely financed through the use of CIL and reserves.

It was noted that there would be an opportunity for Councillors to revisit cost centres to help ensure meaningful budget monitoring.

Resolved:

- i) That the Bleadon Parish Precept for 2024/25 is set at £67,800.
- ii) That the budget for 2024/25 is set at £138,387.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

373.9 Report of the Parish Clerk

1. Roles and Responsibilities

Resolved:

- i. That Councillor Sugg be confirmed as the Council lead in relation to Highways/Transport and Historic Monuments/Memorials
- ii. That Councillor Davies be confirmed as the Council lead in relation to Social Activities.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

2. Closure of Bridge Road

Resolved: That the closure of Bridge Road and the subsequent diversions be added to the agenda for the residents meeting on 15th January 2024.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

3. Allotment – Replacement Gate

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Sheppard, be authorised to agree a specification and appoint a contractor to replace the allotment gate (and associated works), subject to the Council's contribution not exceeding £500.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

4. Playground Bark

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk be authorised to purchase additional play bark subject to the cost not exceeding £400.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

373.10 Planning Applications

23/P/2833/TBCA - Prior Approval for a proposed temporary use as a recreational campsite for up to 50 tent pitches. Land At Riverside Holiday Village, Bridgwater Road, Bleadon. BS24 0AN

Resolved:

That the application be supported.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

23/P/2685/FUL - Proposed change of use and conversion of 2no. Existing garages to form 3no. Holiday lets. Alterations to hardstanding and landscaping alongside the creation of timber decking. Gorselands, Roman Road, Bleadon. BS24 0AD

Resolved:

That the application be supported, subject to clarification regarding the disposal of foul waste.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

23/P/2840/AOC - Request to discharge condition number 6 (Arboriculture Method Statement) on application 23/P/1269/FUL. Land At Wick Wharf, Fakeham Road, Bleadon. Grid Ref: E 332940 N 157410 - additional comments have also been received in relation to related application 1270/FUL.

Councillors noted the proposed condition discharge and concluded that it was not necessary to add any additional comments to that previously submitted in relation to application 1270/FUL.

Resolved:

That the application be noted.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

373.11 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting Monday **19th February 2024**, 7:30pm (venue to be confirmed)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:25

.....Chairman

.....Date