

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk

Marian Barber, Clerk
07453 358318
parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk



Coronation Hall
Coronation Road
Bleadon BS24 0PG

DRAFT Minutes of the Bleadon Parish Council meeting held in the Coronation Hall at 7pm on Monday 8th July 2019.

Present: Councillors Jim Baines (Chairman), Gill Williams, Mary Sheppard, Kirsten Hemingway, Steve Hartree, Andy Scarisbrick, Jo Richardson. District Councillors Terry Porter and Mike Solomon. 9 members of the public. Clerk: Marian Barber.

324.1 To Receive any apologies for non-attendance.

None received.

324.2 To Receive any declarations of interest in items on this agenda.

Cllr Sheppard – item 324.10.

324.3 To Invite public participation.

i) A member of the public said that item 324.25 should not be decided by the whole council but instead a panel should be set up to manage the whole process. Cllr Baines explained that a panel had been set up, had viewed every application, and would be interviewing shortlisted candidates on Friday. This was to be reported to the Council. The member of the public objected to the word 'consider' in the item.

The same person then referred to item 324.12 and said that it should not be in the church all year round as that was not sufficiently public. Cllr Williams explained that it was there temporarily - safe, and more appropriate than being in the store cupboard pending decision.

ii) District Councillor – Cllr Porter explained that the new district council plans to move to a committee style rather than executive style system -decision in September. Many councillors are new to the role; the political balance is quite different. Opportunities for devolution of services to town and parish councils will be discussed.

Regarding the Planning Appeal Inquiry (200 homes) Cllr Porter stressed that it was important for people to attend every day. He confirmed that he would ascertain whether BPC could speak with NSC Barrister beforehand.

Cllr Solomon reiterated Cllr Porter's message regarding the new district council composition. He mentioned that speed limit setting and monitoring was on item that might be devolved.

iii) The Clerk read out the police report for 1st to 30th June. 13 calls were received resulting in 10 crimes reported: road related = 6; burglary = 2; alarms = 1; suspicious person/ vehicle = 1.

324.4 Exchange of information between Councillors

Cllr Baines stated that several members of the public had complained to him regarding the impassable state of some footpaths in the village.

Cllr Hartree reported that he and Cllr Williams had attended NSC's Councillor Training on Standards. Of particular note was the complexity regarding when to declare an interest. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests are clearly explained in the Code of Conduct (and are a legal requirement). When deciding whether to declare a non-pecuniary interest the Councillor should consider what the perception would be in the mind of the public / resident. The recommendation is that the councillor should declare and withdraw if there is any doubt. Clarity was also given regarding private interests – simple membership of organisations (for example, Greenpeace) is not disclosable.

324.5 To Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2019.

APPROVED after amending Item 323.3i – ‘fracking’ replaced the word ‘oil’.

324.6 To Consider an application for co-option

David Sharman gave a short summary of his experience and reasons for applying. He confirmed that he was a keen allotment holder and member of the Bleadon in Bloom team. He has attended several council meetings as a member of the public.

CO-OPTION APPROVED

Cllr Sharman read out and signed his declaration of acceptance of office and was welcomed as a member of BPC.

324.7 To Consider Planning Applications on NSC weekly lists to 7th July. Including:

19/P/1092/FUH. 4 Bleadon Mill. Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of new single storey extension to rear elevation. The Clerk reported that the applicant had altered the plan from ‘flat’ to ‘pitched’ roof and NSC asked BPC for comment.

Two Councillors reported that they had visited the address and were content to support the application. On hearing about the amendment the Councillors confirmed that they remained content with the application, noting that similar pitched roof extensions had been made to other properties nearby. Bleadon Parish Council **AGREED TO SUPPORT** the application.

19/P/0835/OUT – for information: earlier this year Marshalls advised BPC that they would be renewing their application for homes on their site although they did not have firm plans to cease operation any time soon. The outline application has now been lodged and will be on the next BPC agenda.

[Cllr Porter left]

324.8 To Note applications /appeals decisions to 7th July.

19/P/0176/FUL. Land adjacent to the Layby, east of Bridgwater Road. **REFUSED** It was **AGREED** that all applications not yet determined should be on every agenda.

324.9 To Note the List of Enforcement cases from NSC.

Circulated - restricted to councillors. **NOTED.** It was agreed that the clerk should send regular reminders to NSC regarding outstanding items.

324.10 To Approve the Parish Council’s statement regarding the Planning Appeal (200 homes off Bleadon Road) and To Appoint a councillor to attend.

The proposed statement was circulated. The aim is for BPC to categorise BPC’s stance and to not contradict or duplicate what BAT have submitted. **AGREED** that **Cllr Williams** will attend to read the statement. **AGREED** that the statement will have appendices: the Survey Responses, BPC’s original objection, and a few pertinent photos. **AGREED** that **Cllr Williams** and **Clerk** will finalise the documents and liaise with NSC regarding how many copies are needed, and for whom.

A resident had suggested to the Chairman that tenants at Riverside and Purn Holiday Parks are now able to have twelve-month residency by paying a fee to the park committee. **Cllr Solomon** was asked to check the residency status of the two parks. They are self-contained holiday parks with shop, bars, entertainment, etc. **Clerk** to check the electoral roll and to write to NSC for clarification of the status of the parks.

324.11 To Consider any legislation (new, amended, or potential) affecting the parish.

It has been suggested that the parish be declared ‘plastic free’. Councillors discussed whether alternatives to plastic are more expensive and therefore have a negative impact on people in, or close to, poverty; how to be plastic free if people in the parish simply ignore it; how to put pressure on businesses. After considerable discussion the council **AGREED** to declare the council to be “Working towards a Plastic-free Bleadon”. **Cllrs Sharman** and **Hemingway** agreed to lead the project.

It has been suggested that the parish be declared ‘frack free’. Cllr Williams had attended a

meeting arranged by a resident and reported that the method of gas exploration and extraction was extremely harsh and damaging in environmental terms. Currently, landowners need planning permission to explore (there is also a question of who owns the mineral rights on any land). The key concern at the moment is that there are plans to change legislation so planning permission is not needed. It was **AGREED** to declare Bleadon parish to be "Frack-free".

[standing orders suspended] Cllr Solomon suggested that a letter be sent to Cllr Don Davies who is the new Leader of NSC. *[standing orders resumed]* **AGREED** that Clerk would write to the Leader and copy it to ALCA and DEFRA.

324.12 To Consider Options for the year-round display of the Silhouette.

There is the potential for vandalism if it is placed outside. It was noted that improvements to the Hall vestibule would mean that the piano and Bleadon Man would probably be moved. Suggestion that whatever the final location, the silhouette should 'sit' by the war memorial in the church for Remembrance Day/s. Suggestion that a frame be prepared to include the roll of honour from both World Wars. **AGREED** that Cllr Scarisbrick would draft a proposal for the next meeting.

[Cllr Solomon left].

324.13 To Note the bank balances at 30 June 2019

Deposit = £76,348.54. Current = £2,144.60. **NOTED**

324.14 To Note the Reserves Schedule.

Reserves at 1.4.19 = £66,518.09

Allocated from Special Reserve 10.4.19

Road safety signs	-1,650
Car Park one way	- 910
Bleadon in Bloom	-1,750
BIB addition (Hall)	- 480
Seating planter	- 300
CCTV	<u>-2,000</u>
Total allocation	<u>-7,090</u>

Allocated from Special Reserve 13.5.19

Defib cabinet etc	<u>-1,000</u>
Total allocation	<u>-1,000</u>

Reserves Schedule at 1.7.19 = £58,428.09

TARGET reserves 1 April 2020: £44,100

NOTED.

324.15 To Consider allocations from Reserves, including:

1. Inspection of trees required on BPC land at the junction of Celtic Way and Roman Road. The beech trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders but are encroaching on neighbouring land and some surgery may be warranted. **AGREED** that inspection was required; **Clerk** to obtain quotes for next meeting decision.

2. Public Toilets: there is a duty of care under HSE legislation regarding Legionella risk assessment. Two quotes had been received, both from accredited operators. **AGREED** to accept the lower of the two - £80.00. A report confirming the risk assessment undertaken and any remedial actions recommended will be provided.

3. VE Day celebrations: preparation in this financial year. Cllr Williams reported that the May Fayre committee would move the May Fayre to the bank holiday Monday on 25th May 2020 if BPC were to agree a VE Day event on the first bank holiday in May, now to be held on Friday 8th May 2020. It was **AGREED** that BPC would arrange an event for VE Day 75th Anniversary on 8th May. A working group initially comprising **Cllrs Sharman, Richardson,**

Hartree, Baines and Hemingway would invite other organisations to join the group.

324.16 To Approve Expenditure

Chq	Payee	Details	Net £	VAT £
BACS	Clerk	Expenses June Home working	17.33	0
BACS	Clerk	Mileage June – 54 miles	24.30	0
BACS	Post Office	Postage for BVN112 & invoices	7.30	0
BACS	Currys	Printer ink (b/w and tri-colour)	52.48	10.50
BACS	Currys	A4 paper and Scandisk memory stick	8.33	1.66
BACS	Rich's Cider	6 x Tub Planters for BiB	190.00	38.00
BACS	Taylor Thorne	2 x banners for BiB	70.00	14.00
BACS	Proper Job	Hose and connector for watering	6.49	1.30

APPROVED.

324.17 To Note regular and other payments made, orders, and income received

Payments (Cllrs Hartree and Baines confirmed the highlighted corrections)

BACS	Clerk	Clerk salary June	776.18		
BACS	HMRC	PAYE&NI June	293.57		
DD	NEST	Pension June	37.38		
DD	Vodafone	Mobile phone June (£18.04)	18.04	15.03	3.01
BACS	Ranger	Contract June (39hrs + 4hrs dog bins)	602.00		
		Agreed works to planter at phone pole	100.00		
BACS	F Thomas	Public Toilets cleaning June (twice wkly)	200.00		
BACS	Taylor Thorne	Neighbourhood Plan survey results booklet Village News 112	1,880.00		
Chq	Fountain Timber	Bark strips for play area	279.55	232.96	46.59
BACS	NSC	Info Governance support	326.76	272.30	54.46
BACS	GB Sport	Annual inspection for play area	90.00	75.00	15.00
BACS	Defib/Imperative	Defib cabinet and spare pads	738.00	615.00	123.00
BACS	Archant	Advert for Clerk post	1021.14	850.95	170.19
BACS	EDF	Street light power Mar-Jun	121.04	115.27	5.77
BACS	K Hemingway	Expenses – Bleadon in Bloom	60.27	59.06	1.21
BACS	Westhaven Garden Club	Plants for BiB (May)	50.00		
BACS	Wheatleys	Plants for BiB (April)	140.60		

Orders

	Waterhouse	Install defib cabinet; new isolator	228.00	45.60
--	------------	-------------------------------------	--------	-------

Income

Pay in slip	Ch/cash/BACS	Details	Amount £	Invoice
000074	chq	BVN 112 advertiser	30.00	18065
	BACS	VAT refund (half-year to 31.3.19)	1,089.43	
	BACS	BVN 112 advertiser	125.00	18058
	BACS	BVN 112 advertiser	125.00	18057

ALL NOTED

Next Finance & Personnel Committee to review the income from Advertising.

324.18 To Receive the Neighbourhood Planning Group update and Consider any recommendations.

The First Survey Results document has now been delivered to most homes in the parish. The second grant application wording and items were agreed by the Group last week but we need two items of information before it can be submitted. Firstly, a Consultant to research existing policies, regulations, planning guidance etc relevant to Bleadon in order to determine the gaps. Secondly, a Facilitator to engage residents in guided meetings to progress to a draft Plan. Both have been identified (local and qualified individuals) and they are submitting formal quotes by the end of the month. These can then be added to the Grant Application. The new Clerk will need to be involved because the parish council is responsible for the funding even though the Group is independent. The Youth Club is to be asked for ideas regarding play activity for the 'older children'. Perhaps a Trim Trail to be used by them and adults could be considered. As always, the question is whether any landowner will provide space. Next meeting is 21st August.

324.19 To Receive the Bleadon in Bloom update and Consider any recommendations.

The Britain in Bloom judges were delighted with the number of residents who met them earlier today and were surprised by the amount of work that had gone on in the parish. They liked the innovative Tub Parent scheme and the Blue Hearts trail and welcomed the extent of Thatchers and Marshalls corporate contributions. They were impressed with the financial schedule which detailed not only the cash expenditure but also put a monetary value on all of the donations received (time and materials). The total project value to date was £8,292.40 being cash £1,602.15 and gift in kind £6,690.25. The Blue Hearts trail leaflet cost £150 to print. Advertising of £175 covers this cost.

The money taken at the Bleadon Outdoors event was donated to charity because none of the contributors to the event charged for their time or products.

Cllr Hemingway was congratulated for the energy and enthusiasm she has shown and encouraged in others. Councillors were appalled to hear that some residents are making negative comments to the volunteer 'Bloomers' as they go about their work to improve the look of the parish. Some Blue Hearts have been removed because residents do not want 'strangers' viewing them near their properties.

a) Social Isolation, particularly among older people, is a current concern and Bleadon in Bloom seeks to help people to engage with others informally. One element for people with physical or mobility challenges is the difficulty of walking any distance without a rest. On Bleadon Road, halfway between the Hall and the Post Office, is the pumping station and a bench here would be ideal. However, Wessex Water were somewhat reluctant to allow this, requiring extensive licences/guarantees/ waivers from us as owners of the bench. **AGREED** that the **Clerk** should write to Wessex Water asking them to consider providing the bench themselves, thus removing the need for their own red tape.

b) **AGREED** to the new format for expenditure and reporting, noting that there was no change to the overall budget.

324.20 To Receive the Following Reports and Consider any recommendations:

- a) Allotments: Lower 2&3 lower are particularly overgrown – **Clerk** to write to tenant. Thanks to the tenants who have worked hard to improve the track and the area by the entrance gate. A person has been offered Lower 9 upper free – if the plot is managed well he will be offered a contract from 29th September (the start of the Allotment year).
Churchyard: **Clerk** to ask contractor (Mark Howe) to spray round the building line. East and North sides of the land need more clearance, although those areas are in the 'In Your Neighbourhood' scheme with Britain in Bloom. **Clerk** to discuss with Rector (also to ask him to cut back the

- Rectory Garden vegetation overhanging the pavement).
- b) Public Rights of Way and other footpaths – see 324.22.

9pm: The Chairman asked the council to resolve to continue the meeting beyond 9pm. **AGREED**

- c) Marshalls Liaison – Lighting: they are in discussion with a lighting company and expect significant improvements shortly.
Transport – a driver trying to turn left into Bridge Road (from A370) was challenged as they should all have the route requirements on their schedules. However, the driver did not speak or read English. Marshalls are considering how to ensure all drivers understand the information.
- d) Neighbourhood Watch and Community Safety – no report.
- e) Transport and Roads – Speed Enforcement Unit will continue their monitoring as soon as the vegetation obscuring the 30mph sign on Bridge Road is cut back.
- f) Play Area – Ranger has made a small repair to the fence as suggested by the RoSPA report. Outside the play area, the Ranger was congratulated for the excellent renovation of the fencing around the telegraph pole.
- g) Bleadon Village News – next copy date is 8th August.

324.21 To Receive the Following Reports and Consider any recommendations:

- a) Coronation Hall – meeting held 20th June; kitchen refurb is ongoing and will result in all-electric equipment as gas is no longer recommended for such premises. Wifi had a problem but is now fixed. Question whether the large blue container is still required as it is unsightly and perhaps the space could be better used. Council confirmed that the container is necessary and there does not appear to be another suitable location for it.
Ivy still a major problem; it is already on the Ranger's job sheet but the Council **AGREED** that **Clerk** would ask him to do it ASAP.
- b) Youth Club – will attend the Tripartite meeting 10.30am on 9th July.
- c) ALCA – the AGM on 13th June included interesting discussion regarding Bristol Airport expansion and Junction 21 Park and Ride. Cllr Don Davies, new Leader of NSC, gave an address proposing more co-operation between NSC and the town/parish councils. Also review of rural connections and social isolation. Parish councils have found that preparing and adopting a policy for reducing social isolation is valuable; nationally it is on the increase, notably single residents through bereavement.
- d) Chairman – no report.

324.22 To Consider arrangements for strimming footpaths.

Complaints are being received regarding paths being 'impassable'. The responsibility for clearance lies with the landowner and NSC as enforcer. NSC will train volunteers (the cost is £100 per volunteer, which NSC will grant aid 50%) in the use of brushcutters. BPC has a brushcutter and strimmer. The following **ACTIONS** were **AGREED**: **Cllr Richardson** to prepare a report and proposal with map of the essential paths. **Clerk** to ascertain from insurers whether we are already covered and, if not, the cost of doing so. **Clerk** to request NSC write to landowners to remind them of their duty. **Clerk** to write to landowners (where known) if no action apparent by end of July.

324.23 To Approve new/revised policies/procedures/statements.

DEFERRED Grievance and Discipline, and Sickness and Absence, to next meeting.

324.24 To Receive the Clerk's report, including Correspondence, and Consider any requests.

1. Do councillors want to have a table at the monthly Village Market? **NO – prefer to**

attend informally, based at the book stall.

2. Note the Tripartite meeting arranged for 9th July. **NOTED.**
3. WI offered to donate a bench – position to be agreed. **THANK YOU; location to be sought.**
4. Xmas tree – needs to be bigger and better! **AGREED.**
5. Suggestion to send BVN electronically to save on printing cost.
6. Pre-planning for stables and hay store in field off Bleadon Hill – applicant happy to have site visit.
7. External auditor confirmed receipt of completed forms.
8. Sales info ref Rainwater Harvesting.
9. Corylus (planning consultancy) – request to discuss planning application in Weston but adjacent to Bleadon. Location not disclosed.
10. Church Commissioners (agents) regarding the Neighbourhood Plan process and their land near The Veale.
11. New Crisis and Recovery Centre in Weston.
12. Hinckley cooling water and fish – new report from Environment Agency.
13. Email from resident regarding BPC stance on fracking.
14. Letter from resident suggesting that BPC could run an ‘adopt a tree’ scheme to plant more wildlife-friendly flowering trees; and run a wood-recycling scheme to make products for the village, thus saving money.
15. Defib cabinet now installed and working. SW Ambulance Trust notified of the new code to open it.
16. Letter from resident regarding impassable footpaths.

324.25 To Note the date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

NOTED. The next scheduled meeting date is Monday 9th September 2019.

324.26 To Consider whether to hold an extraordinary Parish Council Meeting in August.

AGREED. Clerk to circulate dates.

324.27 The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda item by reason of the confidential nature of the item of business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. SO RESOLVED.

324.28 To Consider the applications received for the Clerk vacancy.

The Panel comprises Cllrs Hartree, Baines, and Sheppard. Cllr Baines confirmed all applications received by the closing date had been assessed by the Panel, a shortlist compiled, and interviews agreed for Friday 12th July.

324.29 To Approve the draft Youth Club lease and submission to solicitor.

APPROVED. Tripartite meeting on 9th July to be informed.

324.30 To Consider the quotes for tree assessment report and works.

Clerk to secure further quotes.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.