

# BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

[www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk)



Clerk to the Parish Council  
**Tony Jay**

**15 Manilla Place, Weston-super-Mare BS23 2AB**

tel – 07741 461982 email - [parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of Bleadon Parish Council held in the Coronation Hall, Bleadon, which commenced at 7.00pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 when the following business was transacted.

**Present:** Councillors Claire Gutsell (Chair), I D Clarke (Vice Chair), David Chinn, Morag Edwards, Peter Gibbon, Steve Hartree, Mary Sheppard and the clerk Tony Jay.

District Cllrs Elfan Ap Rees and Terry Porter.

Seventeen members of the public were present.

**290.1 To receive any apologies for non-attendance**

No apologies were received.

**290.2 To receive any declarations of interest in items on this agenda**

No declarations were received.

**290.3 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

**It was unanimously resolved** to approve the minutes.

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

**290.4 To invite public participation**

The Parish Council met with representatives from Marshalls on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

The notes taken at the meeting were provided to everyone attending the meeting. They are reproduced in these minutes:

*Marshalls would like to have a regular dialogue with the Parish in the future, and suggest that regular liaison meetings take place, where members of the Parish Council and other locally elected residents can become part of this group. Marshalls have 55 sites across the UK, and this dialogue happens elsewhere. A public meeting will be arranged by the Parish Council to discuss the setting up of this working group in the New Year. If anyone would like to be included in this group then please contact the Parish Clerk at [parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)*

*Most Marshall's employees come from the NSC/Sedgemoor areas. There are a total of about 30 employees. Efforts are always made to employ local people.*

*The opportunity to close the Bleadon site is not available to Marshalls at present, although there are no plans to expand the site. There are no plans for extra HGV traffic into and out from the site, as the 'ceiling' has already been reached.*

*There are occasionally a maximum of 100 HGV movements every day (in and out). This varies greatly. Sometimes the figure is much less.*

*There was once a protocol regarding HGVs arriving at Marshalls at different times of the day, but this is very difficult to enforce, as there is little control over third party contractors. Marshalls' own drivers are very responsible, and are professional drivers.*

*Marshalls would be prepared to consider funding any extra signage on the A370 directing HGVs to their site if NSC feels that this is needed.*

*District Cllr Porter told the meeting 'the NSC highways department has recently inspected the kerbs and verges in Bridge Road, and their view is that there are no specific problems apart from superficial damage. The highways officers from NSC have decided that bollards on the A370 would make little difference to the current traffic situation. Experience elsewhere shows that a change from a 60 to a 50mph speed limit would also make little difference. There are other junctions in the NSC area which are more dangerous than this one, and NSC does not have the funds to make major changes at these junctions. The size of HGVs is regulated by central government, and every vehicle which uses the Bridge Road junction to visit Marshalls meets the regulations. To change a speed limit requires the road to have the characteristics to match the limit. It is accepted that there are major local concerns at this junction, but it meets all legal standards according to the current highways regulations. The statistics are that there have been 3 injury accidents at the Bridge Road junction in the last six years, including the tragic recent fatality'.*

*Marshalls are prepared to work with NSC to improve highway matters in the vicinity if they can. HGV movements generally do not occur before 7am or after 7pm. If third party haulage firms do not confirm to these guidelines then they can be banned from the site. There are no regular complaints about HGV movements outside these operating hours. If a member of the public wishes to complain about the driving of third party contractors then the HGV vehicle registration number should be provided to Marshalls so that they can investigate. Marshalls encourage members of the public to provide information regarding bad driving by third party contractors. Information should be passed to Sean Clarke, the Marshalls business manager on 01633 284603 or 07733 318461.*

*The Parish Council thanked Marshalls for their efforts in trying to resolve these local issues.*

A debate took place regarding the traffic issues in Bleadon.

Cllr Hartree made it clear that Marshalls have said that they would be prepared to meet with the Parish Council, along with up to three elected Parishioners but this would not be an open meeting where other members of the public can attend.

It was agreed that the three Parishioners should live in different areas of the village.

Cllr's Ap Rees and Porter explained that the NSC Highways Department have confirmed that the junction at Bridge Road/A370 is considered to be safe. There have been two injury accidents at this junction over the last six years, plus the recent tragic fatal collision. Marshalls have a perfect right to allow their delivery vehicles to use Bridge Road. There can be no restrictions over how many vehicles can use the road, or the hours that they operate, or the routes that they use. Negotiating with Marshalls on a voluntary basis is the only way forward. A 'no turn left' restriction could be placed on the junction for vehicles travelling from the Weston direction, but this would apply to all vehicles, not only lorries, and would be unpopular with residents. A sign could be placed on the A370, showing the location of Marshalls site from vehicles travelling from the southerly direction. Double yellow lines could possibly be painted in Bridge Road to prevent parking and alleviate the problems with lorries, but this would be unpopular with residents. If Marshalls receive complaints regarding the driving of vehicles visiting their site then they will investigate.

Cllr Ap Rees said that traffic lights would be installed using S106 money at the Anchor junction at some point in the future.

Cllr Chinn asked that a member of the NSC highways department attends the meeting with Marshalls, the Parish Council and the three locally elected

residents, including a site meeting. Cllr Ap Rees said that a site meeting could be arranged.

The Chair said that an open meeting will be held in January to elect the three Parishioners who will join the Parish Council when they meet with Marshalls.

#### Police Report

There have been 16 calls from members of the Parish. 5 crimes have been reported. Vehicle crime is on the increase in the WSM general area. The drink drive campaign is currently taking place.

Further information regarding speedwatch training for volunteers is available on this link:

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/services/watch-community-schemes/community-speedwatch/>

#### District Councillor

Cllr Terry Porter gave his report. The Wentwood Drive planning appeal application has been lost, and permission has been given for the houses to be built. The Inspectors report was very disappointing. Sustainability and landscaping were not considered to be issues for refusing the development. The instructions given to planning Inspectors, from central government are that unless there would be demonstrable damage to the landscape then they should approve planning applications.

The Bleadon Hill planning application hearing is ongoing. There has been a disappointing attendance at the hearing from local residents. More attendance over the final days of the hearing is important. This could make a big impact into whether the development will be allowed. Cllr Porter will submit a copy of the Bleadon Parish Plan to the hearing, although this will carry a very limited weight as the need for massive housing development now takes precedent over Parish Plans. The lack of local school places is a concern which will be highlighted to the hearing.

NSC has agreed to spend funds on the refurbishment of the Hutton Moor Leisure Centre. The long term effect will be to generate income for NSC.

The NSC budget is likely to be about £3.1 million overspent in the current year. This is mainly down to an increase in social care, which is a statutory obligation. A further £5.6 million needs to be saved in the following year, as central government has cut the budget to NSC by this amount. Council tax will increase by a minimum of 3.5% next year. A large problem is the new living wage, which will now need to be paid to many NSC employees and

will naturally mean an increase in council tax for everyone.

**290.5 To receive the Clerk's report.**

The allotment invoices for 2016/17 have been sent out, including SAEs for replies.

Unfortunately four allotment holders have not replied, and have not paid. This will be chased up.

**290.6 To note the resignation of the Village Ranger / Public Convenience Cleaner and to thank him for his services to the village.**

The resignation of the Village Ranger was reluctantly noted. The Village Ranger did not have a contract, so he was entitled to leave his position without giving a notice period. The Clerk will write to him thanking him for his services to the Parish and the Council.

**290.7 Exchange of information between Councillors.**

Cllr Gibbon will be dealing with the pension arrangements for the Clerk, who has indicated that he does not wish to take out a pension.

**290.8 To consider the purchase of a new grit bin for Muddy Lane on the bend going down into Canada Coombe.**

**It was unanimously resolved** to purchase a new grit bin.

**290.9 To consider and approve the arrangements for the Community Payback team carrying out work in Bleadon.**

Cllr Chinn gave an update. The work should be ready to commence in January 2017. The work will mainly take place on Sundays, once a month. The cost will be £50 a visit, therefore £600 per year. Light refreshments would need to be provided. There are some loose ends to be tied up regarding NSC removing the green waste, but there may not be a charge for this.

**It was unanimously resolved** to provide the funding for this project for a three month trial period, commencing February 2017.

Cllr Chinn was thanked for the work he has done in regard to this.

**290.10 To receive an update regarding the Churchyard walls.**

A meeting has taken place with two members of the PCC regarding the problems with the churchyard walls. Concerns are now apparent that even though the Parish Council may have the funds to carry out all the repair works it could considerably reduce their reserves. Numerous requests have been sent to NSC to ask them to take over the funding of the churchyard, but no response has been received.

Three quotes have been received for the work to the churchyard walls. £12,900; £15,394.21 and £27,375. All plus VAT. There will be a separate architect's fee to be paid on top of this. The architect can recommend the companies who have submitted the higher two quotes, and will obtain references regarding the company submitting the lower quote.

**It was unanimously resolved** to budget for the middle quote, but if satisfactory references are received regarding the company with the lowest quote then this will be accepted.

As lime is being used in the mortar for the work then it will not be possible to start the repair work until March 2017 at the earliest.

290.11

## Finance

### To approve items of expenditure

Chq	Payee	Details	Net	VAT
300628	B Robinson	Honorarium re winding and maintaining the Church Clock	£100	
The above invoice was paid prior to the meeting				
300629	A. Jay	Clerk's Salary £690.68; Expenses – Mileage £31.50; Postage £46.20 (allotment letters £38.40); Home working allowance:£19.50; Mobile phone £1.67; External hard drive £30.00: Printer cartridges £45.58  Grand total £865.13	£852.53	£12.60
300630	I. Findlay	Ranger Salary £327.50; Toilet cleaner salary £196.50; Christmas tree £50; Mileage £4,95	£578.95	

300631	HMRC	PAYE and NI	£367.84	
300632	NSC	Supply of grit bin	£150.00	£30.00
300633	D. Chinn	Land registry fee	£28.95	£5.79
300634	Bin-It	Dog bin emptying	£68.98	£13.79
300635	Mark Howe Gardening	Grass cutting during 2016	£2911.00	
DD	BT	Phone and broadband	£43.60	£8.72
DD	Water 2 business	Water for toilets	£228.82	

**It was unanimously resolved** to approve the payments.

**290.12 To receive the following Open Spaces Committee reports:**

Allotments

There was no report

Roads & Transport

The landowner of the footpath at the caravan park has said that it will be reinstated following the recent work that has taken place there.

The white lines at the Bridge Road junction need repainting. This will be reported to NSC.

The Clerk was asked to arrange for the tree at the playing fields to be pollarded. Three quotes will be obtained.

Newsletter

The latest newsletter was produced recently, and has been very well received in the village.

Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety

No update has been received.

**290.13 To receive the following brief holder's reports:**

Coronation Hall

Cllr ID Clarke stated that there had been no hall management committee meeting in December. The village market was well attended. The net profit has increased this year. The raffle and kitchen did very well.

Cllr Hartree said that there had been a hall management committee meeting since the last Parish Council meeting. The photographs of the mural are now in the hall. The hall management committee accepted the situation regarding the Parish Council's ownership of the hall.

A complaint has been received regarding an accident which took place in the car park, where a driver drove into the wall in front of the Youth Club. The driver was asked to send a letter to the Clerk detailing any possible claim against the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to purchase two signs stating that anyone who parks in the car park does so at their own risk.

A large white van is regularly parked in the car park. No-one present knew who the owner is. Councillors will try to identify the owner and ask this person not to park overnight.

**290.14            The date of the next Parish Council Meeting.**

9<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30pm

**290.15            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 items of business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.**

**It was unanimously resolved** to exclude members of the press and public.

**290.16            To discuss employment issues.**

**It was unanimously resolved** to ask the professional cleaner who is currently cleaning to public conveniences to continue doing so permanently at the rate of £25 per cleaning on a self-employed basis. The cleaner will purchase consumables, and be reimbursed following production of receipts. There should be one cleaning per week during the winter months (the end of October until Easter) and two cleanings per week during the summer months.

An agreement will be drawn up by the Clerk. This will be reviewed on a six monthly basis.

Cllr Chinn volunteered to empty the litter bins and service the notice boards until a new Village Ranger is appointed. The cost of any consumables will be reimbursed. Cllr Chinn will ask NSC if they could provide a large wheelie bin, where the contents of the smaller litter bins can be emptied.

The previous Village Ranger put out the litter bins at the village hall on a voluntary basis. The hall management committee will be told that they will need to take on this task in the future.

**It was unanimously resolved** to ask GB Sports and Leisure of Weston-super-Mare to carry out monthly inspections of the play area at the cost of £15 per inspection until a new Village Ranger is appointed



**It was unanimously resolved** to advertise for tenders from contractors to carry out the work previously carried out by the Village Ranger in the New Year. Therefore the Parish Council would not employ the person(s) carrying out the tasks previously done by the Village Ranger.

The Chairman will contact the previous Village Ranger to obtain details of what is required to check the defibrillator.

The meeting concluded at 10.10pm.