

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Parish Council
Bruce Poole
BA (Hons); Fellow ILCM; MMC



2004&2009

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Government has changed the rules relating to how they give the Council Tax Grant to District Councils which has had a knock on effect as to how the Parish Council receives the Precept. It is highly likely that this form of grant will disappear in the future. With all this in mind the Parish Council decided to fix the Precept at the same level as last year albeit producing a deficit budget.

The Coronation Hall and the Jubilee Hall has had the best publicity ever recently appearing in an article in the "Somerset Life" magazine where it was promoting the Village Market detailing its ups and downs over the past year. Well done to the Hall Management Committee and its many volunteers. It is probably one of the village's greatest assets.

The Youth Club continues to thrive the number of young attending is up with the club operating on two nights per week. Last year a Ball Wall was installed in the Children's Play Area – a hit with the but initially created some safety problems. Warning signs were put up but to no avail hazards remained. RoSPA was called in to inspect and make recommendations. The solution was to relocate the Ball Wall - cut the tops off at an angle and place them in front of the birch trees. The problem seems to have been resolved and with the on-going programme of improvements all is well in the Play Park. A new pic-nic table with easier access for wheelchairs and buggies is in place in time for the summer. No Smoking signs have now been placed on the entrance gates.

The Churchyard and wall are the responsibility of the Parish Council so we pay for the care and maintenance. The information from last year was that the wall was complete. The Parish Council however understands from the Diocesan Architect that more work is needed on the older part of the wall and that the railings are past repair. The wall will be raised to the level with the part already repaired and finished in a similar manner. The large tree stump is to be "blasted" and the bank of soil removed. Estimates are currently being sought.

A reminder that this year's Civic Service will take place on Sunday 17th May when all the village parishioners are invited.

Planning Site Meeting have continued to be undertaken and members of the public are continually encouraged to attend and speak in the public sessions of such meetings. Until very recently very little has been heard regarding the Marshalls Quarry site. Now the Parish Council understands that they have applied for outline planning permission to erect 53 Houses. Be assured the Parish Council will be to the fore in these discussions.

The Public Lavatories are the property of the Parish Council and our future budgets will include financing this village amenity.

Endless questions have been put to the Parish Council over the past three years relating to cancelled buses no timetables and certainly no forthcoming information from the bus operators. These complaints have been duly passed on to North Somerset District Council and the two District Councillors representing our ward.

A Village Rights of Way Volunteer Group has recently formed who are out in all winds and weathers to clear and re-surface footpaths mend fences and replace gates. The parish Council thanks the merry band.

The Allotments are in fine fettle with a waiting list of one. The work on the entrance gate is about to commence.

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is extended throughout the village – the new yellow signs are up with the words “No Doorstep Trading in the Village” which is a better category than “zone”. The Community Police Officer for Bleadon is PC Dave Eastham.

The Annual Contactus Welcome Party sponsored by the Parish Council will be held on Friday June 23rd from 6.30 to 8.30 pm. It is hoped that the Clubs and Societies of the village will come and help welcome the new villagers and tell all that we have to offer in Bleadon.

The Summer plant up will take place on Saturday 10th May in the Coronation Hall Car Park and our source of plants are well within budget.

This report is a short resume of the work the Parish Council covers for this community. More details may be found on the web site and full council reports are found in the village news and on the notice boards. We meet on the second Monday of each month except for the month of August. Please come and see your volunteer team at work and please remember that we live in Bleadon as well as you do

Penny Skelley

FOOTPATHS & BRIDLEWAYS

This year has seen some significant improvements to our footpaths thanks to Andy EDDY and his team of volunteers, a program of work has been identified and is being methodically worked through. North Somerset Council have provided the Parish with gates, posts, a secure metal storage container and other equipment to assist the team known as Bleadon Rights of Way Group (BROW). The BROW team do not undertake any work without a risk assessment, completed by Andy and correct clothing and protective equipment is used. The Parish has been successful in securing four places on a course of instruction for the use of strimmers this was funded mostly by NSC and partly by the Parish Council.

Funds have been allocated by the Parish Council for improvements to the allotments access and footpath, NSC has provided some material to go under new type 1 scalping's this should see a vast improvement to this area. The work has not been undertaken yet due to the inclement weather but is expected to start soon.

The footpath redirection on Southhill Farm is at the appeal stage and the outcome as yet is not known but expected shortly. It is understood that an application will be put in under a ruling that if a pathway not designated as a footpath has been used regularly by walkers for 20 years then an application supported by evidence can be made to NSC to make it a footpath The pathway in question is on Southhill, I have not seen this application but have recommended the Parish Council support it. It should be noted that the Parish Council currently has one such application put in by Andy Eddy for a permissive path, currently correctly blocked, to be changed to a footpath which would see it reopened this application is now 8 years old and NSC currently have 80 such applications. The pathway in question leads to Hillcote. Until such time as any application is successful then the landowner is quite entitled to restrict access and any walkers would in effect be trespassing.

Anybody with questions on footpaths and open spaces can always contact me directly or via the Parish Clerk.

Ian Findlay

PLANNING

PLANNING APPLICATIONS 2013			
13/0052	<p>Extension and conversion of domestic garage to provide tied residential annexe</p> <p>1 Riverside Cottage Bridgwater Road Bleadon</p> <p>Re-submission of Planning Application 12/1456 which received approval</p>	<p>No objections to the proposals and therefore recommended approval subject to the same conditions being applied as was the case for Planning Application 12/1456</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>04/03/13</p>
13/0063	<p>Demolition of existing MOT Bay Machine Shop/Store/WC and existing area for vehicles "For Sale" area – Construction of new MOT Bay Workshops Office Kitchen and WC – Use of existing repair ship to display vehicles for sale.</p> <p>Bridge Garage Bridge Road Bleadon</p>	<p>Bleadon Parish Council is of the view that these proposals would enhance this key site on the A370. It recommends approval of the application as it supports sustainability and employment for the local community. The Parish Council has been concerned for a number of years regarding the drainage of surface water at this location and requests that the remedying of this problem is given high authority</p> <p><u>ADDENDUM</u></p> <p>Resolved that North Somerset be requested to call in the application</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>24/04/13</p>
13/190	<p>Erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling</p> <p>St George Cottage Shiplate Road Bleadon</p>	<p>Recommended approval</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>26/03/13</p>
13/235	<p>Increase ridge height to create a first floor and erection of a front canopy</p> <p>Lacona Hillcote Bleadon</p>	<p>The Planning Committee recommended approval of this application</p>	<p>Refused</p> <p>04/04/13</p>
13/495	<p>Construction of an additional decking area and one transverse set of access steps to the rear of the property as an alternative to the two individual sets of access steps approved in approval 11/1185</p>	<p>The Planning Committee recommended approval of the application but would advise that the conditions set out in 11/1185 such as screening on the upper deck and the obscure glass on side wall of conservatory ought</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>07/05/2013</p>

		to be completed as a condition of this application	
13/851	<p>Non material amendment to planning permission 12/P/2154 (erection of a single story bungalow) to change the interior layout; addition of 2no roof lights to north elevation and 2no roof lights to south elevation change windows on east and west elevations to top hung windows with top opening vent and addition of steps/ramp to front door</p> <p>Land at rear of 23 Coronation Road Bleadon BS24 0PG</p>	The Planning Committee had no objections to the proposed material amendments	<p>Approved</p> <p>13/06/13</p>
13/854	<p>Solar photovoltaic (PV) array and ancillary development</p> <p>Land at South Hill Farm Bridgwater Road Bleadon</p>	<p>Bleadon Parish Council's Planning Committee would ask that North Somerset Planning Committee take note of any complaints made by residents of Fackenhams Lane. It should be noted that the Parish Council wrote to all the residents of this location and asked that they express their views either directly to the Parish Council or to North Somerset.</p> <p>At the point when the application was being considered only one objection had been received.</p> <p>The planning committee would like to bring to the attention of North Somerset the mass of the site especially from higher ground this development will be highly visible from the top of Purn Hill. The report states that the area has already been degraded by caravan parks disused farm buildings etc., The Planning Committee do not feel that this argument can be used to add to the degradation of the area/view.</p> <p>It is noted that there will be a high security fence surrounding the whole 21 hectare site complete with cctv, The Planning Committee has concerns about the security of the site and whether its location will encourage theft or vandalism in this area we would also</p>	<p>Refused</p> <p>21/08/13</p> <p>Appeal Lodged</p> <p>APP/D0121/A/13/2201819</p> <p>8</p> <p>31/12/13</p> <p>The Planning Committee previous comments has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate</p>

		<p>encourage this fence to be screened with improved and maintained planting mindful of screening which does not shed its leaves in the winter.</p> <p>Special consideration must be made of the access to the site during its construction phase, the A370 is a very busy road and not only must access be done safely it should have minimum impact on the traffic flow.</p> <p>With regards to the site at the end of the solar farms life we would ask that the site must be returned to farm land this would protect this area from any kind of brown field development.</p>	
		<p>We have studied north Somerset's sites and policies plan draft 2013 policy DM2 renewable and low carbon energy, this gives good guidelines for implementation of renewable energy production. Also the core strategy adopted 2012 gives guidelines of what is hoped can be achieved in this area regarding renewable energy.</p> <p>Given the scale of the development we are surprised there has been so little communication.</p> <p>The planning committee feels that if North Somerset implements its strict guidelines when reviewing this application we can raise no objection to this proposal, We would however once again urge the council to take note of any concerns raised by Bleadon parishioners.</p>	
13/1089	<p>Retrospective Planning for the erection of stable development</p> <p>Land adjacent to Wayacre Drove Accommodation Road Bleadon</p>	<p>The Planning Committee recommended refusal as the development was outside the village fence</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>11/11/13</p>
13/1135	<p>Application to vary condition 3 attached to planning permission 2980/89 (operation of holiday park on eleven months of the year basis) to allow touring caravans to</p>	<p>The Planning Committee recommended refusal as any permission's given would make this park a wholly residential site which is not the intention of a</p>	<p>Withdrawn</p> <p>28/08/13</p>

	<p>remain on site all year round</p> <p>Purn Holiday Park Bridgwater Road Bleadon</p>	<p>holiday park.</p>	
13/1418	<p>Single storey extension to the rear of existing dwelling plus a detached garage</p> <p>6 Willow Drive Bleadon</p>	<p>The Planning Committee had no objections and therefore recommend approval</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>26/09/13</p>
13/1429	<p>Retention of front retaining boundary wall and conservatory style greenhouse with retaining wall and hard standing</p> <p>Land at Fakenham Lane Bridgwater Road Bleadon</p>	<p>The Planning Committee recommends refusal on the grounds that the plastic conservatory is out of keeping in a rural aspect as this type of conservatory is attached to be attached to a dwelling. Furthermore any greenhouse should be freestanding and not in need of retaining walls</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>29/09/13</p>
13/1574	<p>Remove existing window from first floor lounge and replace with French doors – erect a wooden balcony from first floor room leading on to rear elevated garden</p> <p>South Hill House Shiplate Road Bleadon</p>	<p>Following the pre-arranged site visit the Planning Committee recommended approval of this application</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>15/10/13</p>
13/1577	<p>Retrospective application for amending access on site (off public highway)</p> <p>Bleadon Golf Course Roman Road Bleadon</p>	<p>Following the pre-arranged site visit the Planning Committee recommended approval of this application</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>15/10/13</p>
13/1672	<p>Erection of a storage building for use with donkey breeding/agriculture mixed use (retrospective)</p> <p>Bridleway Roman Road Bleadon</p>		<p>Withdrawn</p> <p>30/10/13</p>
13/1884	<p>Alterations to existing flat roof dormers to provide pitched roofs and enlargement of rear dormer</p> <p>Pinetops Shiplate Road Bleadon</p>		<p>Approved</p> <p>04/12/13</p>
13/1967	<p>Erection of a detached garage</p> <p>6 Willow Drive Bleadon</p>	<p>The Planning Committee was of the opinion that the proposed development was totally out of keeping with the immediate surroundings and as such the planning application should be refused</p>	<p>Refused</p> <p>21/08/13</p> <p>Appeal Lodged</p> <p>APP/D0121/D/14/2211953</p> <p>18/02/14</p>

			Appeal Dismissed 19/02/14
13/2012	Erection of 2 no detached dwellings with detached double garages and access to Shiplate Road Quantock House Shiplate Road Bleadon	The Planning Committee is of the view that the proposed development unduly impacts on the site and that the houses as a consequence are too large and out of keeping with its immediate surroundings. The proposed development traffic movement by way of ingress/egress would further seriously impact on the highway at this point and it is the view of the committee that it would create even further potential road hazards than those that already pertain at this present time. Any road splay requirements would have to be quite substantial in order to provide a clearer line of sight a factor which again would have a detrimental effect on the character of the centre of the village	Refused 14/04/14
13/2013	Prior approval request for erection of a single story rear extension that would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 4 metres have a maximum height of 3.5 metres and have eaves that are 2.4 metres high 6 Purn Way Bleadon	The Planning Committee had no objections to this Planning Application and therefore recommended approval	Prior Approval not required 06/2013
13/2210	Erection of a front porch and rear sun room with balcony above and raised decking area. Four Winds Hillside Road Bleadon	The Planning Committee had no objections to this application and therefore recommended approval	Approved 22/01/14

Miles Orme

OPEN SPACES REPORT

I am pleased to report another good year for our Village and its 'Open Spaces'. Much work and great effort by many is required to keep the village looking good throughout the year.

Having said this, I will begin by mentioning our two now regularly featured problems - litter and dog mess.

The litter around the village - In fairness 'we' are not 'litter throwers' - the introduction of re-cycling has meant that rubbish is often being blown out of the bins. Please may we ask that bins are not placed out for collection before the night prior to collection – and if rubbish is dropped by the collectors at the 'multi collection points' please can it be picked up – both would be a great help and a benefit to all.

The 'litter throwers' tend to be visitors to the village and in particular those visiting the viewing points and the lay-bys in Roman Road. Having chosen to drive there, usually to eat their purchased foods, they must be people who appreciate the views, so it is really difficult to understand why they then choose to spoil it by leaving their food packaging strewn about.

Dog mess – What more can be said - In the past years when writing this report both Penny Robinson and myself have pleaded for cooperation in 'picking up' and using the bins which are placed around the village. So on behalf of those of us with dogs, those without and our dogs themselves – please help us to keep our environment clean. If you know or see an irresponsible owner please inform one of your Councillors – be assured confidentiality will be respected.

Moving on to the positives: The shrub and plant areas as well as the general area around the Village Hall, Youth Club and Play Park have all been well maintained by Tony Derrick our Village Ranger. He also maintains the tidiness around the village and the outlying areas – Accommodation and Roman Roads as well as Hillcote.

The village tubs have once again provided us with splashes of colour throughout the seasons alongside the lovely displays that have been planted or have just appeared on the verges and in the hedgerows.

The general remedial work of trimming, tidying and cutting back the undergrowth around the churchyard has been ongoing through the year. The repairs to the cracks in the church wall in Mulberry Lane had not long been completed when another problem appeared. We are presently seeking quotes for the work required to carry out the repair required.

As a consequence of budget reduction undertaken by the District Council, as from the 1st April 2013 North Somerset Council withdrew their budget for public conveniences. This would have meant that our lavatories would have had to close. After careful consideration we agreed to take on the responsibility to provide and maintain the provision. To cover both the legal and the identified repair costs involved in the transfer of this service and asset North Somerset Council duly awarded us a grant.

We are aware of the need for remedial work to be carried out on the boundary wall of the Play Area and have asked our 'Finance and Personnel Committee' to consider making £1,000 available to enable us to carry out the repair. **Help - Not sure if agreed**

Behind the scenes we have produced a 'Terms of Reference for the Open Spaces Committee'– Reviewed / Produced our 'Risk Assessment and the Parish Ranger Work Schedule. Our thanks to the Parish Clerk for his guidance in these matters.

We rely on many people to help in keeping our village looking good and in good repair, our grateful thanks to:

Brian and Jean Thorne for placing a bench in memory of the late Mr Frank Thorne on Well Green – a most kind thought that benefits us all. I am sure it will be used and appreciated by many over the coming years.

The volunteers who help at 'plant up' times and to the residents who kindly take it upon themselves to plant up and tend their own containers.

To Tony Derrick our Village Ranger for his work around the Village

To Mark Howe and his team who continue to maintain the various grassy areas and verges around the village and churchyard and undertaking various other jobs that need attention.

To Mr Capel for keeping the public lavatories in good working order.

To those who when coming across litter pick it up.

And finally to those who take the time to report / share their concern/s, suggestions and compliments with us.

Your endeavours and contributions are noticed and greatly appreciated.

I.D Clarke

BLEADON RIGHTS OF WAY GROUP

Storage Container

Arrangements are in hand to have a storage container on site at Purn House farm, hopefully this week. The container is for secure stowage of all the petrol power tools we have, brush cutters, hedge trimmers, blowers, chain saws and all of the hand tools and safety equipment. The group would like to express our sincere thanks to Alistair and Rob House for providing the space for this container.

Riverside Footpath (Bleadon Bridge to Purn Caravan Park)

Due to damage to the sluice gate at Bleadon Bridge the water level in the river is at a very high level. The footpath alongside Riverside Cottage is partly under water. This was brought to the attention of North Somerset by the Bleadon Rights of Way group. Concern was expressed that the path at this point was dangerous to walk along particularly for young children, a shear drop of 6-8ft. into very deep water. North Somerset inspected it, together with the river authority, and issued a closure order. It is anticipated that this order will be in force for approximately 12 months.

Group's Work

The total number of hours worked on the rights of way to date are 65 hours. On three occasions this summer working dates were postponed due to the very hot weather!!. During the autumn and winter we will installing new kissing gates, replacing old stiles and continuing to keep the Bleadon Rights of Way clear from obstructions.

PLAY AREA

For some years we have been made aware of the noise problem and damage created by young gamesters kicking their footballs against the play area fencing. A practical, simple and robust solution appeared to be to install a wall of timber that the youngsters could aim their kicks at, well away from other park users. But nothing is that simple! A new ball wall of Rowena timber posts was installed just before the summer holidays last year. This was an immediate hit with the youngsters. Unfortunately, the location of the wall adjacent to the southern boundary fence has created other safety problems which subsequently needed to be tackled.

Children were using the structure as a climbing challenge and even using it to jump over the fence into the road. Things improved when warning signs went up, but it appears that even the brightest of children sometimes have difficulty reading warning notices. It was also obvious that our footballers were not yet ready to be signed up by Man United. Sending too many footballs into the road and neighbouring gardens. The parish council called in RoSPA to do an inspection and to make recommendations. The preferred solution was to re-locate the ball wall in front of the two Silver Birch trees on the west side of the play area. The tops of the posts to be cut at an angle to discourage youngsters climbing along the top of the posts.

It was not be a simple job to uproot the timber posts from their current location. Being very securely installed to withstand the onslaught of hormone enriched youngsters. But in early January the ball wall was moved to its preferred location. I'm pleased to report that the problems appear to have been resolved. As part of its constant programme of improvements to the play area the parish council installed a new picnic table with easy access for wheelchairs and baby buggies. The extra large new picnic table allows access on both sides for wheelchairs or buggies. Positioned close to the play equipment and under the trees to provide shade in the summer or shelter from the rain. Perfect for

mums, dads and grans to keep an eye on their charges. No Smoking sign is soon to be installed on the play area gate to discourage any smoking around children playing.

Keith Pyke

ATTENDANCE											
2013-14											
	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	De c	Jan	Feb	Ma r	
Clarke I D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	10
Findlay I	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	10
Hartree S	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	10
House R	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	0	7	10
Morris C	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	10
Orme M	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	10
Pyke K	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	7	10
Sheppard M	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	10
Skelley P	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	10
	9	7	6	9	9	9	9	9	7	0	74 90