

From: Bruce Poole <parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>

Sent: 11 May 2022 10:12

To: 'Bleadon BOB Community Website' <bleadon@live.co.uk>

Cc: Bruce Poole <parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr Mary Sheppard <MarySheppard@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Ann Davies <anndavies@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Gill Williams <gillwilliams@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Graham Getty <grahamgetty@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. I D Clarke <IDClarke@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. K. Hemmingway <kirstenhemmingway@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Rob Tyson <robtyson@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Sara Garrett <saragarrett@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Huw Boyce <huwboyce@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Questions and answers requested for Monday's Council meeting

Dear Jo

Responding to your e-mail of Friday last.

As I stated at the meeting on Monday some of the answers you were seeking became apparent during the course of the meeting.

1. Not currently available but when they are they will of course posted on to the website.
2. Again they were not available when you requested them because at the time I was not aware of whom had recorded them in my absence. Now posted on the website.
3. Now on the website
4. The letter which I believe you are referring too was promulgated prior to my return to Bleadon as the Parish Clerk. Some research will be necessary to locate the said correspondence.
5. 2021 APM Minutes now on the Website. 2022 yet to be compiled.

Other questions

1. All notifications from North Somerset are automatically resent to councillors for their information as was the consultation notices.
2. There was not a need to make a formal decision as you put it "to disband" the Planning and Open Spaces Committees. When I was formally appointed as the Parish Clerk for a second time it was fully understood and re-emphasised at a subsequent appraisal meeting that in terms of available time I would not be servicing any additional meetings other than the Parish Council Meetings and if available some extraordinary meetings. It is far more efficient in terms of time and expenditure that the Portfolio system and working groups exist for smaller membership number councils such as Bleadon. That situation is made worse when a council does not have a full complement of memberships which has been the case with BPC and potentially makes any held meetings inoperative. The average time spent by a clerk to service a meeting is between 10 to 12 hours. The purpose of Working Groups is that they do not need clerking services and are not closed meetings. Also despite the misconception they are open at any time for the members of those working groups to invite expertise and local knowledge to participate. Working Groups are permitted to make recommendations to the Council but not take formal decisions. A lot more work is achieved by this arrangement especially with small membership councils.
3. When the Agenda was issued there was not the availability of either minutes. As the Proper Officer I have the sanction as to what is issued to Councillors and what is issued to the members of the public.
4. I do not recall being asked to place that subject on the agenda as a matter for discussion. Secondly I believe the said e-mail was one that the Council was copied into and was a matter between yourself and Cllr. Porter.
5. Because as the Corporate Body it chose to do so.
6. I know not of a reason why.

Thank you

Bruce
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07453358318

Please Note

My core daily working hours are Mon-Thu - 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm.
I endeavour to provide a written response to all enquiries within 48 hours.

From: Bruce Poole <parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>
Sent: 06 May 2022 14:07
To: 'Bleadon BOB Community Website' <bleadon@live.co.uk>
Cc: Bruce Poole <parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr Mary Sheppard <MarySheppard@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Ann Davies <anndavies@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Gill Williams <gillwilliams@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Graham Getty <grahamgetty@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. I D Clarke <IDClarke@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. K. Hemmingway <kirstnhemingway@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Rob Tyson <robtyson@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Sara Garrett <saragarrett@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr.Huw Boyce <huwboyce@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Questions and answers requested for Monday's Council meeting

Dear Jo

Thank you for your e-mail in which you raise a number of questions and requests.

Due to the lateness of your request and the rest of my working day for Bleadon is already committed I regret that on this occasion I will not be able to accede to answer your e-mail in a manner that I would wish.

As to responding to you on Monday this is also likely to be a challenge as my time again is committed. Whilst I should not have to defend myself to you I do in fact have a fairly long dental appointment Monday morning. Added to this of course is the necessary preparation for the meeting itself. If of course I had received this request some days before I might have been in a better position to provide a reply.

Bruce

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07453358318

Please Note

My core daily working hours are Mon-Thu - 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm.
I endeavour to provide a written response to all enquiries within 48 hours.

From: Bleadon BOB Community Website <bleadon@live.co.uk>
Sent: 06 May 2022 12:02
To: Bleadon Parish Clerk <parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>
Cc: Cllr. Gill Williams <gillwilliams@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr Mary Sheppard <MarySheppard@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. I D Clarke <IDClarke@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Rob Tyson <robtyson@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Ann Davies <anndavies@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; kirstnhemingway@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk; Cllr. Huw Boyce <huwboyce@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Sara Garrett <saragarrett@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Graham Getty <grahamgetty@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Terry Porter <terry.porter@n-somerset.gov.uk>; Mike Solomon <mike.solomon@n-somerset.gov.uk>
Subject: Questions and answers requested for Monday's Council meeting

Dear Councillors/Clerk,

I note that there is a full council meeting on Monday, please send me the following documentation before the meeting as these items are on the agenda to be discussed as I can't find them on the BPC website and so and I/the public have no access to the information being publicly discussed:

1. The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting that I presume were taken, on behalf of residents, by the clerk (Agenda item 353.13.11 & Appendix F)
2. The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting 26 April 22, (Agenda item 353.9, Appendix B)
3. BPC's response to NSC regarding the Local Plan Consultation (Agenda item 353.13 & 353.9)
4. The letter written to North Somerset Council by the clerk stating Bleadon was 'Frack Free' and the subsequent response received by NSC, Agenda item 353.13.11
[NB Request outstanding since 12 Apr 22 via email copied to BPC, see email to Cllr Porter below]
5. I can't find on the BPC website the 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports to Parish Meetings as indicated in the Publication Scheme, please send me copies (Agenda item 353.13.8)

Questions I aim to raise at the meeting, and request minuted answers so that they are open, transparent and accessible to all residents:

1. What is the reason stated by NSC for not informing BPC, and therefore the majority of residents, of the Local plan? (Agenda item 353.13 & 353.9)
[NB. BPC stated at the APM that it was not aware of the Local Plan Consultation, and had not received any correspondence from NSC I assume BPC followed this up with NSC after the resident meeting. I have also requested a response from NSC via Cllr Porter – see email below. This consultation will affect 1000+ parishioners until 2038, all of whom should be made aware and consulted e.g. via BPC newsletter]
2. What is the minuted reason BPC has chosen to disband its Planning and Open Spaces sub-committees, as these publicly held meetings would have been aware of the Local Plan consultation seven weeks earlier, potentially with residents informing BPC as seen at the APM? (Agenda item 353.6, 353.13.11 & 353.9)
[NB. Planning, Open Spaces and Finance/Personnel sub-committees were held in public, and documented, from at least 2006-2019 when they were last on the 2019 May AMPC minutes. These meetings were removed/not included in the July 2020 with no minuted explanation. All current BPC working groups are closed to the public and undocumented causing miscommunication and frustration within the community]

3. Why does BPC choose to publish some publicly held minutes with the agenda and not others, e.g. why not Appendix F (APM) or Appendix B (Extraordinary Meeting – the current Agenda doesn't inform residents that this meeting was to discuss the Local Plan Consultation in a public forum, why not)? ((Agenda item 353.13.11 & 353.9)
4. Please can you tell me why my correspondence requesting BPC's 'Frack-Free' status via the email to District Cllr Porter is not listed on the agenda? (Agenda item 353.13.11)
5. Why did BPC choose to hold an extraordinary meeting three days from the consultation deadline, despite being informed by me/BOB 2 weeks earlier? (Agenda item 353.9)
6. Why has BPC not informed residents of the separate NSC boundary review consultation, as mentioned at the APM? (Agenda item 353.9)

Kind regards,

Jo

email: bob@bleadon.org.uk

web: www.bleadon.org.uk

twitter: @bleadon

facebook: BleadonBOB

latest news: <http://www.bleadon.org.uk/news.html>

From: Bleadon BOB Community Website <bleadon@live.co.uk>

Sent: 12 April 2022 12:28

To: Terry Porter <terry.porter@n-somerset.gov.uk>

Cc: Cllr. Gill Williams <gillwilliams@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr Mary Sheppard

<MarySheppard@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. I D Clarke

<IDClarke@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Rob Tyson <robtyson@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr.

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Cllr. Sara Garrett <saragarrett@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Graham Getty

<grahamgetty@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>; Bleadon Parish Clerk

<parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>

<parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk>

Subject: Tonight's Council Meeting - Fracking Licences in Bleadon

Dear Cllr Porter,

Following last night's Bleadon APM, thank you for agreeing to raise the Bleadon energy issues at tonight's North Somerset Council meeting (<https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=169&MId=793>)

Considering the current energy situation, and the Green Agenda, please can you confirm that:

- NSC will continue to commit to its 'Frack Free' position on fracking as indicated in its Climate Emergency Action plan, i.e. to "*Pass a motion declaring North Somerset a Frack Free Zone to discourage the exploration and production of shale gas*". (Appendix 1 in tonight's Climate Emergency Progress Report (<https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s3293/20%20Climate%20Emergency%20Progress%20Report.pdf>))
- (Please can you confirm whether this motion has been, or is scheduled to be, passed)
- NSC will continue to ensure that "... *shale gas development of any type should not be classed as a permitted development*" either by the government or by any NSC policy or plan, e.g. Local Plan (<https://www.thewestonmercury.co.uk/news/north-somerset-council-votes-for-government-not-to-decide-fracking-4534898>)

- NSC will not destroy the tranquil rural Bleadon Levels and Parish environment in its "... aim of being a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030" with an aim to "Encourage our partners and stakeholders to procure electricity supply from 100% renewably generated sources". In particular not to pass the proposed Local Plan suggestion on wind turbine and solar PV search areas (see attached image) (<https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s3293/20%20Climate%20Emergency%20Progress%20Report.pdf>)

You may also recall that Bleadon Parish Council declared Bleadon Frack Free agreeing "... that Clerk would write to the Leader (of NSC, Cllr Don Davies) and copy it to ALCA and DEFRA" (July 2019 Min 324.11 <https://www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/content/large/documents/minutes/minutes-324-july-19-draft.pdf>)

- I'm asking BPC for a copy of the letter above and the response received from NSC via this email, I'll forward a copy to you as soon as I receive the information.

As you heard last night, Bleadon Parish Council said that it, and so presumably the majority of Bleadon residents, is not aware of the current Local Plan consultation due to end 29 April 22 (<https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/PreferredOptionsMarch22/consultationHome>). Please can you confirm:

- Were parish councils, in particular BPC, made aware of the Local Plan 2038 consultation and invited to comment?
- If so, when and how were they informed?
- If not, please explain why not.

Hopefully BPC will call a widely publicised extra-ordinary meeting to discuss this consultation before the deadline, but in the meantime I'll endeavour to attend tomorrow's last NSC drop-in session to talk to officers about how the Local Plan process will shape the future development of Bleadon and North Somerset up to 2038 (<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/planning-building-control/planning-policy/our-local-plan/local-plan-2038/draft-plan-2021>)

Please let me know the outcome of the meeting.

Kind regards,

Jo

email: bob@bleadon.org.uk

web: www.bleadon.org.uk

twitter: @bleadon

facebook: BleadonBOB

latest news: <http://www.bleadon.org.uk/news.html>