



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CORONATION HALL AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 9th OCTOBER 2023.

PRESENT: Councillors Mary Sheppard (Chairman), ID Clarke, Ann Davis, Jo Gower-Crane and Andy Scarisbrick (Vice-chairman).
Councillor Sugg (following co-option)

IN ATTENDANCE: Craig Bolt (Clerk)
WARD COUNCILLORS: Councillor 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 an increase in traffic at the junction of Bridgwater Road and Bleadon Mill, partly arising as a consequence of increased residential development. There were no 'Give Way' signs at this location and the road markings had deteriorated to a point where they were no longer visible. Cllr Porter undertook to investigate this matter further.

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 the following updates:

The Council had received no bids for the No. 126 bus service which had recently been put out for tender. There would now be a new round of tendering and if that proved unsuccessful, then there was the potential for the No. 10 bus to be re-routed to come through Bleadon. Cllr Porter was hopeful that there would be a solution in place for January 2024.

Bleadon in Bloom had achieved Silver Gilt status at the recent regional awards event. The community work element had scored particularly highly.

In response to a question, Cllr Porter acknowledged that there were delays with addressing planning applications and that the Council was facing a shortfall in experienced planning officers.

Cllr Sheppard opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

The meeting was convened.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Howe.

Resolved: To accept the apologies received.

370.2 To receive and consider an application to fill a casual vacancy by co-option from Steve Sugg

Mr Sugg addressed the Council regarding his application.

Resolved: That Mr Sugg be duly appointed as a Councillor of Bleadon Parish Council.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

Cllr Sugg read aloud and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

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

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

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

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

370.4 To consider reports from Working Parties/Committees

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

370.5 To note the North Somerset Corporate Plan and budget development and agree a way forward.

It was noted that the mechanism by which North Somerset Council had sought to obtain the views of Town and Parish Councils was problematic in that it did not really allow time for meaningful engagement. Concerns had also been raised about the proposed development of a Rural Strategy alongside the Corporate Plan, but no further details regarding this strategy had been received. A draft response had been prepared by the Parish Clerk in readiness for submission by the deadline for responses of 16th October 2023.

Resolved: That Councillors provide their comments on the draft response to the Clerk by 13th October for collation and submission.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

370.6 Financial/Staffing Matters

i) To authorise bills for payment for October.

It was noted that the direct debit payment in relation to NEST pension contributions would be higher than stated in the summary bills for payment due to the timing of when the payment would be collected. The bills for payment summary referenced a figure of £82.05. The actual amount would be £191.46 at the point at which the payment would be taken. The difference reflected the cumulative effect of payment relating to a number of months rather than any increase in the contribution levels expected from the Council. The effect of this change was that the gross bills for payment amount would increase from £3,148.89 to £3,258.30.

Resolved: To authorise the payments for October of £3,258.30.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

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

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

iii) To note the 2nd Quarter Monitoring report and approve the recommended changes to budget headings and cost centres.

It was noted that proposed changes to budget headings and cost centres supported proposals in relation to contract awards which would be considered under the Parish Clerk's report (Item 370.8).

Resolved:

- i) To note the 2nd Quarter Monitoring Report and approve the recommended changes to budget headings and cost centres.
- ii) To request that the Parish Clerk prepare a report in relation to reserves for the November meeting of the Council.
- iii) To request that the Parish Clerk investigate the costs associated with the provision of additional defibrillators.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

iv) To agree the following expenditure:

Resolved: That the Council make a £50 donation for the Remembrance Day wreath.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

370.7 Planning Matters

Resolved:

- i) That consideration of any planning matters be deferred until the November meeting to enable site visits and further discussions to take place.
- ii) That in relation to the proposed street naming in request in relation to the quarry development, the Parish Clerk be requested to advise North Somerset Council that the Parish Council's preference is for the name 'Quarry Close' to be used and for the reasons for this decision to be communicated to North Somerset Council.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

370.8 Report of the Parish Clerk

i) External Auditor's Opinion – AGAR 2022/23

It was noted that the establishment of a bank account for the play area charitable trust required further work.

Resolved:

That the Council formally notes the External Auditor's opinion.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

ii) Tree Felling & Associated Works – Award of Contract

Resolved:

- i. That a budget of £2,000 is agreed in relation to the costs relating to the tree survey and any actions arising.
- ii. That the quote received from Drinkwater Tree Services in the sum of £1,275 (net of VAT) be accepted and a contract awarded.
- iii. That the Parish Clerk be authorised to agree contract variations in relation to the retention of chipped products and logs, if it is considered that there is a likely benefit to the local community and such variations do not result in additional costs.
- iv. That the Parish Clerk be further authorised to agree contract variations to undertake pruning works to other trees not specifically identified in Atworth Arboriculture's report, where it is considered expedient. Provided that such costs are within the limits established by the Council's Financial Regulations and that the total budget provision agreed by Council as a consequence of recommendation (i) above is not exceeded.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

iii) Works in the Vicinity of the Coronation Halls

It was noted that the Parish Clerk would arrange a meeting with the Management Hall Committee and other interested parties to discuss timescales and matters of details regarding the operation of the contract and energy supply.

Resolved:

- i. That budget provision of £8,000 is agreed in relation to the costs relating to works in the vicinity of the Coronation Halls.
- ii. That the quote received from P T services in the sum of £7,284 (inclusive of VAT) be accepted and a contract awarded, subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.
- iii. That the Parish Clerk be authorised to agree contract variations provided that any consequent costs are within the limits established by the Council's Financial Regulations and that the total budget provision agreed by Council as a consequence of recommendation (i) above is not exceeded.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

iv) Works to Jubilee Gardens and Pea Green

It was noted that the specification required minor modifications in relation to the Council's area of responsibility adjacent to Pea Green.

Resolved:

That the Council seeks further competitive quotes in relation to works at Pea Green and Jubilee Gardens.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

v) Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved:

That, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972, ss 100 and 102, the press and public be excluded for the following reason:

The discussion relates to 'terms of tenders and proposals and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts'.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

vi) Works in the Vicinity of the Coronation Halls

The Council considered a recommendation of the Parish Clerk regarding the capacity of the Council to manage a number of potential contracts over an extended period of time.

Resolved:

- i) That Cllr Sugg be invited to support the Parish Clerk in relation to the monitoring of the contract in relation to works in the vicinity of the Coronation Halls
- ii) That all councillors be invited to contribute to the identification of trees potentially benefiting from work as part of the contract for tree felling.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

370.9 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting Monday 13th November 2023, 7:30pm at Coronation Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:29

.....Chairman

.....Date

DRAFT