

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Bleadon Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting – 13 April 2015

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Bleadon Parish Council that was held in the Coronation Hall, Coronation Road, Bleadon on Monday 13 April 2015 at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted:

PRESENT Mrs P J Skelley (Chairman)

The following Councillors were recorded as being present:
Mrs M Sheppard, Mrs I D Clarke, Messrs I Gibson, S Hartree, R House, C Morris,
M Orme, and K Pyke

APOLOGIES The Clerk (Mr B Poole) due to illness

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE District Councillors Elfan ap Rees and Terry Porter and 25 members of the public

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed the District Councillors and members of the public

POLICE REPORT

Prior to the start of the formal meeting, the Chairman invited PC Adam Hingston to present his report (attached) on behalf of PC Dave Eastham who was on duty elsewhere.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 April 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman as being a correct record

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Attached

PARISH PRECEPT

Cllr S Hartree gave an overview of the Parish Precept and confirmed that this had been set at £38,000 for the third year running.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr Miles Orme presented his report (*attached*)

At the conclusion of Miles' Report he invited questions which resulted in a brief discussion on general planning policies/issues in North Somerset.

CORONATION HALL

Cllr I D Clarke presented her report as follows

Coronation Halls Annual Report 2014 – 2015 for BPC Annual Parish Meeting

As the Council Representative and the Secretary of the Hall Management Committee I am pleased to present the Coronation Halls Annual Report.

I think it fair to say that the Halls not only stand in a central position of the Village but I feel they also play a central part in the life of our village. I think it also fair to say that they (the Halls) are well thought of and this is reflected in the fact that one hears very few if any moans or criticisms regarding them.

The Halls are well used throughout the year providing a meeting place for some twenty groups who meet either weekly or monthly - indeed the booking calendar is completely full. Groups meeting here range from The Toddlers Group, Brownies, and Children's Dance Class to The Friendship Club and every age in between with groups catering for a wide variety of interest and activities.

The Halls play a central part in the life of the village and this indeed is borne out by the fact they 'The Halls' host the most important dates in the lives of many local residents - receptions for christening, birthdays, weddings and funeral wakes.

So all in all it's not just the NHS that can boast from cradle to grave or from womb to tomb – Coronation Hall can be seen to achieve - the same.

The monthly Village Market is both a major source of income and a social event for local residents and beyond. Thirty plus tables are booked every month, offering a wide range of items - including food, plants, books, crafts and many more.

We continue to be grateful to the stallholders for their support, to the hard working volunteers who play a key role in the background organisation that ensures its smooth running and the Kitchen Volunteers, who cheerfully cook and serve snacks and drinks throughout the year but pulling all the stops out and more for the Christmas Market.

Overlooking and co-ordinating the day today management of the Hall is our Booking Officer Joanne Jones, who is now quite an expert in cajoling and persuading and shifting things around to fit every one in and keeping everybody happy.

I think everyone will agree that the Halls are always fresh and clean and we are lucky to have Anne Bird-Kellogg and Angela Harris who take a great pride in their work. A big thank you to all three.

The Management Committee meet monthly and for many years now Len Chamberlain has been our gentlemanly Chairman steering us in a most diplomatic way. It is made up of representatives of user groups and interested village residents.

During the past year we were shocked to hear of the sudden death of John Loxton whose contributions were much appreciated but missed most of all is his wicked sense of humour.

Just recently we were saddened to receive Tony Pettitt's resignation. Tony was a long serving stalwart member of our committee who was totally committed to the management and to the day-to-day hands on running of the Hall and its activities. We will miss both his presence and his dedication.

Major responsibilities of the Management Committee are the general maintenance and the operating, repairs and improvements and health and safety issues.

Naturally there is a cost to these, which is ever increasing. Our main items of expenditure are Gas/Electricity, Insurance, Cleaning and Maintenance. Our finance is in the safe hands of our Treasurer Ian Gibson who advice keeps us well on track.

As well as income raised as already mentioned – we would also like to thank Peter Lindsay, Les Masters and Bleadon Parish Council for their ongoing financial support, which is most gratefully appreciated.

Our finances are in good shape with reserves now at a pretty high level as we are planning to embark on major works to the entrance, central areas and lavatories so making it fully accessible to all – wheelchair users, buggies etc

We have had our plans approved by North Somerset and are presently involved in securing quotations. We anticipate that the cost will be in excess of the amount we can put up, so with fingers crossed our next step will be to seek grant funding.

I end by saying I think we are indeed privileged to have in our midst the Coronation and Jubilee Halls – I hope you agree with this sentiment.

OPEN SPACES REPORT 2014 /15

As always I am able to begin my report by saying that I am pleased to say that it has been another good year for our Village and its 'Open Spaces'. I hope you agree with me that the village has looked good throughout the year.

Having said this I will dispose of the negative issues first.

Sadly I am forced to begin by mentioning the two issues that are now regular opening features of my reports - litter and dog mess.

Litter around the village – As mentioned last year I do not think 'we' are litter throwers but that rubbish is both blown out of our bins or dropped by the collectors. To help overcome this please may we ask that bins are not place out for collection before the night prior to collection – and if rubbish is scattered by the animals or 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 viewing points and the lay-bys in Roman Road are frequently strewn with general litter and takeaway food packaging. This is particularly difficult to understand as presumably the people have driven there as they appreciate the outstanding views – so why spoil it? Sadly we have seen an increase in fly tipping – we can only presume it is linked to the increased cost of disposing of such waste at the local re-cycling centres.

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 strategically 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 of or see an irresponsible owner please inform our Parish Clerk – 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 our Village Ranger. He also maintains the tidiness around the village and the outlying areas – Purn Quarry, 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. We are also lucky to have so many well-tended gardens with their seasonal changes around the village.

The general remedial work of trimming, tidying and cutting back the undergrowth around the churchyard has been ongoing through the year. The Church Yard / Mulberry Lane wall has undergone major repair

and the area running along the wall within the churchyard has been cleared of tree stumps and been given a general tidy up.

We are aware of the need for remedial work to be carried out on the boundary wall of the Play Area and our 'Finance and Personnel Committee' have agreed to make funding available. We are presently seeking quotations to carry out the repair work. We are also presently pursuing the contractors who recently white-lined the Coronation Hall car park - you will have noticed that the job is of very poor quality – in many areas the new paint has not bonded with the old.

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

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.

Our Village Ranger – Tony Derrick who resigned earlier in the year and to Ian Findlay who has since taken on the task.

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

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 most valued

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

1) Rights of way Group

Mr Ian Findlay presented his report regarding work completed on footpaths within the village. He thanked Mr Andy Eddy and all the volunteers for their continuing support.

2) Ranger

Mr Ian Findlay presented his report on activities during the past year.

3) Defibrillator

Mr Ian Findlay updated the meeting on progress with installing the defibrillator which is now well advanced.

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman invited members of the public to raise any questions for discussion.

Points discussed included the possibility of traffic lights being installed at the junction of Bleadon Road and the A370 opposite The Anchor Inn and the unreliable bus service which prompted a lengthy discussion with the District Councillors.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and Mrs Jo Pyke for organising the refreshments.

She went on to confirm that she would be standing down as a Councillor at the forthcoming elections after 17 years of service on the Parish Council. She thanked Councillors for their work and dedication to the village.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm