

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

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Locum Clerk to the Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Bleadon Parish Council held in the Coronation Hall, Bleadon, which commenced at 7.30pm on Monday 6th June 2016 when the following business was transacted.

Present Councillors C Gutsell (Chair), I D Clarke (Vice Chair), D Chinn, R Dobson, M Edwards, P Gibbon, S Hartree, M Sheppard and the locum clerk T. Jay.

Eight members of the public were present.

Prior to the meeting the following items were raised:

- i) The health and safety implications of the refurbishment work to be undertaken at the Village Hall. The meeting was told that all necessary arrangements were in place.
- ii) District Councillor Porter gave background information regarding the planning application 16/P/1053/O. He emphasised that anyone wishing to comment on this application should submit their comments to the NSC planning website as soon as possible. Comments can still be received. Long delays are being experienced in the imputing of comments on the website, but be assured that all comments will be considered.
- iii) District Councillor Porter also spoke regarding the proposal to introduce a metro mayor covering NSC; South Gloucestershire; Bristol and BANES. NSC will be voting upon this on 7th June 2016.
- iv) The white line outside the pub in Shiplate Road is non-existent. District Councillor Porter said that he would raise this with highways. NSC will be taking over the responsibility for parking enforcement in the area later this year.
- v) Matters raised by the public prior to the commencement of the meeting should be recorded in the minutes. The Locum Clerk suggested that in future there should be a specific agenda item, near to the start of the meeting, 'to invite public participation'. This is the practice at many other Parish Councils, and ensures that all comments made are recorded in the minutes. It was agreed that the Parish Council will discuss this issue with the new Clerk when appointed.

284.1 To receive any apologies for non-attendance

No apologies were given.

284.2 To receive any declarations of interest in items on this agenda

Cllr Clarke asked whether she had to declare an interest in agenda item 284.12 as she is the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall committee. Cllr Hartree referred to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct which states that if a Councillor is a member of the management committee of an outside body then they should declare a non-pecuniary interest. The Locum Clerk quoted further from the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and advised that if Cllr Clarke asked the Chair to grant a dispensation in regard to this issue then she would be able to take part in the debate and vote. Cllr Clarke asked for a dispensation which was granted.

284.3 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 9th May 2016.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (4 in favour, 4 abstentions).

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

284.4 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th May 2016.

A request was made to amend the minutes to state 'extraordinary Parish Council meeting'. The amendment was made.

It was resolved to approve the minutes (5 in favour, 3 abstentions).

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

284.5 To comment on the following planning applications:

- i) 16/P/1053/O. Land at Bleadon Hill Weston-super-Mare. Outline application for up to 79 open market and affordable dwellings, public open space and associated infrastructure. All matters reserved except for means of access.

It was resolved that the Parish Council strongly objects to this proposed planning application on the following grounds:

The proposed development is outside the development boundary of both Bleadon Parish Council and that of Weston-super-Mare Town Council

It is in an AONB – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

It is a SSSI – Scientific Site of Special Interest.

The access to the land is extremely difficult with very poor visibility and on a road where it is almost impossible for two cars to pass. This would particularly be a problem during the construction of development. The site is situated on a narrow road with three dangerous corners and poor sight lines. The site would give rise to a significant number of traffic movements which would prejudice the safety of residents, drivers, riders and pedestrians on an already dangerous stretch of road.

Inadequate public transport facilities which will only increase and be exacerbated by a further housing development

No immediate local facilities such as shops school doctor or indeed employment which will by necessity see a daily migration of vehicles and thus increase carbon pollution

There are no footpaths within the vicinity of this proposed development thus increasing the potential hazard for pedestrians

This proposal if allowed would destroy the current green belt lung between the community of Bleadon and that of Weston-super-Mare which has always been clearly different in its individual identity.

The Hamlet of Hilcote would be badly effected by this unnecessary proposal

It is clearly overdevelopment of the site

There is no street lighting at present and further lighting from a development of this size would increase light pollution

Because of the current agricultural nature of the land it has a natural fall off which would be adversely effected by additional hard landscape areas which would then impact on a drainage system which is not currently fit for purpose

Any proposed development would destroy the much valued fauna and flora currently situated in and on this agricultural land

Due to the proposed development location it would be highly visible and therefore detract from the current views of the Mendip Hills

The developer states that this development will help towards the much needed housing in the locality. Bleadon already has an approved application for 49 houses on a Brown Field Site and it is not therefore necessary to take much valued agricultural land.

It is the site of an ancient burial ground

There is a Church Commissioners covenant on part of the land which states only 5 properties per acre are permitted to be built. This proposed development far exceeds that restriction

Sustainability

The development has not been identified in the Housing Core Strategy as the area is not sustainable.

Housing growth is most sustainable when close to the community facilities and services a community requires. These services are mostly situated in Weston where a great deal of brown field development is already taking place.

The development fails tests on the economic social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Bleadon has no school. Children are often allocated places at schools miles away from the village. The development would effectively remove and chance of village children getting into any schools within a reasonable travelling distance. The knock on effect would be that village children will end up attending many different schools, which means that children will grow up not knowing each other. In villages with a school there is a much stronger sense of community. Essentially this development would further erode one of the fundamental building blocks of the community.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

- ii) 16/P/1190/TPO. Bleadon Hill Golf Course Roman Road Bleadon BS24 0AD. T1-T4 poplar – fell.

It was resolved to approve the felling of the tress on the strict condition that the trees should be replaced with newly planted trees. (Unanimous)

284.6 To review and approval the renewal of the Council’s insurance policy with Came and Co.

A discussion took place regarding the cover provided. It was decided that when a new asset register is prepared then the newly appointed Clerk will review the cover provided in the policy.

It was resolved to approve the renewal of the Council’s insurance policy with Came and Company. (Unanimous)

284.7 To confirm the appointment of Richard Young to carry out the Parish Council’s internal audit for 2015/16 only.

It was resolved to approve the appointment of Richard Young to carry out the audit. (Unanimous)

284.8 To review the Council’s risk assessments and asset register.

It was resolved to adjourn this until the new Clerk is appointed (Unanimous).

284.9 To approve the Annual Governance Statement (s.1 of the Annual Return 15/16)

It was resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement. (Unanimous).

The Chair and Clerk signed the statement.

284.10 To approve the Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31st March 2016 (s.2 of the Annual Return 15/16)

It was resolved to approve the Annual Accounting Statement. (Unanimous).

The Chair and Clerk signed the statement.

284.11 To consider the appointment of Councillors with responsibility for various areas of the Council's work for 2016/17.

It was resolved to appoint the following Councillors (Unanimous)

Village Hall – Cllrs Clarke and Edwards

Churchyard – Cllr Clarke

Open Spaces – Cllrs Clarke, Edwards and Sheppard

Roads and Transport – Cllr Sheppard

Footpaths – Cllr Dobson

Playground – The Village Ranger will be asked to provide a report to each meeting.

Website – The Clerk

Newsletter – The Chair

Neighbourhood Watch – To ask Jo Gower-Crane to provide a report to the Council meetings.

284.12 To discuss the Village Hall rebuilding works.

A working group has been set up, and met a week ago. The auditor Terry Lewis has advised that if invoices for all the work are made payable to the Parish Council then the VAT can be reclaimed. The nominated contractor is Somerset Bespoke. The first stage payment is due to the builder before work starts.

It was resolved to approve the writing of the cheque for the first stage payment, and to issue it when the contract has been signed (Unanimous).

The venue of the July Parish Council meeting will be decided at a later stage.

284.13 To approve the Closure of the Car Park for Hall Works, and the Queen's 90th Birthday Picnic.

It was resolved to approve the Closure of the Car Park (Unanimous)

284.14 To confirm the removal of the previous Clerk as a signatory on the Parish Council's bank account and to confirm the Chairman as a new signatory.

It was resolved that the new signatories would be the Chair and Cllrs Clarke, Gibbon and Sheppard (Unanimous)

284.15 To approve a donation of £200 towards the Bleadon party to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday.

It was resolved to approve the donation of £200 and to make the cheque out to the Village Ranger who will be asked to provide receipts for the expenditure (Unanimous)

284.16 To discuss changing the day that the monthly Parish Council meetings re held, should the newly appointed Clerk be unavailable on the second Monday of the Month.

It was resolved to hold the meetings on the first Monday of the month if the newly appointed Clerk is not available on the second Monday (Unanimous)

If any invoices are received after the agenda is published then the amounts will be added to the list of payments at the meeting.

284.17 Finance

To approve items of expenditure paid under delegated powers for the month of May and those items to be approved in June

(26) Salary and expenses – Locum Clerk £356.32

(27) Salary and expenses – Village Ranger £483.80

(28) HMRC. PAYE and NI £200.00

(29) Microshade, hosting fees for May 2016 £54.30

(30) SSE Enterprise. Electricity for toilets £62.79

(31) Intouchcrm, email addresses and domain fee £84.

(32) Bin-it, dog bin emptying £82.77

(33) P. Skelley. Contactus party donation. £100.00

(34) Zurich. LCAS membership £114.00

(35) Webglu. Mailboxes and hosting fee. £84.00

(36) Came and Co. Insurance renewal. £2761.70

(37) Taylor Thorne, Printing. £420.00

It was resolved to approve the items of expenditure apart from payment (31) as this appears to be a duplication of payment (35) (Unanimous)

The Locum Clerk is awaiting a reply from Webglu clarifying the situation.

284.18 To receive the following Open Spaces Committee reports:

(a) Allotments

The Somerset Autistic Society rents plot number 9. They are behind with their payments, and the new Clerk will be asked to chase this up.

(b) Churchyard

The cemetery wall is a matter of concern. It is unsafe and cracking. The Church architect has examined the wall and drawn up specifications. Two contractors have quoted for the work. Attempts have been made to contact the Architect to progress things, but he is not replying to requests. The new Clerk will be asked to chase him up regarding this. Cllr Clarke will contact the Clerk.

(c) Footpaths & Bridleways

There are problems with the footpath behind the caravan park. The stile needs replacing. A trailer is blocking the footpath. This is the responsibility of NSC. Cllr Dobson will contact NSC regarding this.

Several paths will need strimming. As the Village Ranger will be having a period of sickness shortly then arrangements need to be put in place for the work to be carried out in his absence. Volunteers will be approached.

Also arrangements will have to be made for the toilets to be cleaned when the Ranger is unavailable.

(d) Roads & Transport

A pothole has been filled in on the road by Ferry Cottage.

(e) Children's Playground

There was nothing to report.

(f) Newsletter

The newsletter has recently been appointed, and has been very well received in the village. This is a fantastic effort from everyone involved.

(g) Website

The new Clerk will be asked to take over the management of the website.

(h) Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety

There was nothing to report.

A large number of plants have been donated by NSC. There are far more than is required. A discussion took place regarding what would be happening to the extra plants. A request was made for suggestions where

the extra plants can be donated. New tubs are being purchased and when they arrive then some of the extra plants will be used in them. Others can be donated to people in the village who display pots etc which can be viewed from the street.

Keith Pyke has been assisting with this, as well as with the newsletter, A letter of thanks should be sent to him.

Police attendance at Parish Council meetings was discussed. The Locum Clerk said that an email had recently been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner which said that Police attendance at Parish Council meetings was now considered to be low priority, but they would endeavour to send a report to the meetings.

The damage to the telephone kiosk has been reported to the service provider. The syringes found in Roman Road have been reported to the Police.

The Chair thanks everyone who had helped out with a number of tasks over the last few weeks since the previous Clerk left.

284.19 To receive the following brief holder's reports:

No reports were received.

284.20 **To set the date of the next Parish Council Meeting.**

This will be decided later, when the availability of the new Clerk is known.

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