

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

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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 12th September 2016 when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors Claire Gutsell (Chair), I D Clarke (Vice Chair), David Chinn, Morag Edwards, Peter Gibbon, Steve Hartree, Mary Sheppard and the clerk Tony Jay.

District Cllr Terry Porter.

Six members of the public were present.

287.1 To receive any apologies for non-attendance

No apologies were received.

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

No declarations were received.

The Clerk was asked a question regarding declaration of interests. He replied that Councillors who represent the Council on other committees can be granted a permanent dispensation to allow them to join in debates and to vote upon matters relating to that particular organisation. Councillors who sit on a committee where they are not representing the Council need to declare an interest and leave the room during agenda items relating to that particular organisation.

287.3 To invite public participation

i) District Councillor

Cllr Terry Porter gave a comprehensive update regarding the two major current planning applications in Bleadon.

The community group set up to oppose these applications have been

granted 'rule 6 party' status. Their statement of case has now submitted. Meetings have taken place with the barrister representing NSC.

At the enquiry, the community group will be raising highways, landscape and sustainability issues. It is very important that there is a presence of people every day during the hearing, as this will create a strong impression with the Inspector. The enquiry is scheduled to take place in the new Council Chamber at WSM town hall from 29th November to 2nd December.

The Wentworth Drive application will be heard at a hearing in November. No barrister will be involved. The community group will be submitting evidence once again.

A new recycling contract has been awarded by NSC.

The new traffic lights to be installed on the A370 are reliant on s106 money. Cllr Porter is confident that the lights will be installed when the s106 money is received.

Cllr Porter was told that two gulleys just south of the railway bridge need cleaning. He said that extra teams have been brought in to clear gulleys. Cllr Mary Sheppard will provide him with a map showing where the gulleys are.

ii) The Police

No Police report was received. There was no Police presence at the meeting.

ii) Members of the public

No comments were received.

287.4 To receive the Clerk's report

The Clerk told the meeting that Richard Dobson had resigned as a Parish Councillor since the agenda had been published. Richard was thanked for his services whilst a Councillor.

Councillor training has been arranged. The date of Monday 3rd October was agreed, to commence at 7pm. The Clerk will book the Coronation Hall. All Parish Councillors are encouraged to attend.

A response has been received from the Drainage Board regarding the Common Rhyne. The Clerk read the following:

The Board has a long outstanding problem with an invasive weed called Pennywort which has been growing in the channel in excess of ten years. The Board has tried different methods to eradicate the weed from the channel and the most effective and current approach is to spray with Glyphosate (under license) which is proving to be the best way forward as mechanical removal tends to encourage the spread of the plant.

The Scribe accountancy package has been purchased and installed. Microshade will be returning our electronic files when they have received their final payment.

Invoices should only be authorised for payment if the details appear on the agenda. Therefore, any invoices received following the publication of the agenda should not be paid until the following meeting. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

It is good practice for the accounts to be checked by a Councillor every month. Cllr ID Clarke has volunteered to do this, and the system of checking will commence immediately.

A road closure notice has been received for Shiplate Road commencing 24th October. It is anticipated that the work will take three days.

The Clerk will arrange for £30,000 to be transferred from the Current Account to the Nationwide savings account.

Cllrs Claire Gutsell, ID Clarke and Peter Gibbon will be the new signatories on the Nationwide Account.

287.5 Exchange of information between Councillors

The following items were raised:

Extensive groundwork has taken place near to the caravan park close to the river. Weeds and wildlife are being disturbed. It is uncertain what work is taking place. Cllr David Chinn will make enquiries with NSC.

Cllr Steve Hartree said that a number of complaints have been received regarding a party which took place on private land in the locality recently. Loud music was played until 3am in the morning. Many residents had a disturbed night. An article will be included in the newsletter asking residents to be considerate to neighbours.

Cllr Steve Hartree expressed concern regarding the recent resignations of three Councillors and the previous Clerk. He described it as a 'cancer' within the Council. He suggested that the Council spend some time 'in camera' to debate the reasons behind this.

A discussion took place, following which

It was resolved not to hold a debate to discuss the issue of Councillor resignations (4 in favour, 2 against).

287.6 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th July 2016.

It was resolved to approve the minutes, with an amendment to item 286.15 – removing the individual's name and inserting 'a member of the public'. (Unanimous).

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

287.7 To consider the allotment rental fees for 2016/17

The Clerk explained that the records held regarding the allotments need updating. He will liaise with Cllr Mary Sheppard regarding this.

It was resolved to maintain the current fees on £15 for a full plot and £7.50 for a half plot in 2016/17 and to increase the allotment fees to £17 for a full plot and £8.50 for a half plot in 2017/18 (Unanimous)

287.8 To consider the arrangements for the cleaning of the public toilets whenever the Village Ranger is not available.

It was resolved to place an advertisement in the Post Office and in the newsletter offering the position of 'ad-hoc' cleaner to provide cover during the absence of the regular cleaner through holidays, sickness etc. (Unanimous)

287.9 To receive an update regarding the location and condition of the Parish Council notice boards.

The potential moving of the notice board at the top of Celtic Way to Hillcote was discussed. This will be put on hold until the spring.

The Village Ranger will be asked if he would quote to rub down the notice boards and re-stain them. Also, he will be asked to get quotations to replace the plastic with toughened glass. This will be an agenda item for a future Open Spaces meeting.

287.10 To receive an update regarding the Community payback team assisting with the clearance of footpaths in Bleadon.

Cllr David Chinn said that this issue was becoming more complicated than at first thought. He has been trying to arrange a meeting with one of the payback scheme supervisors to discuss what work could be done. Hopefully the Village Ranger would be present to ensure that the payback work does not encroach into the tasks he undertakes. Following the visit then there will be a risk assessment. Then the payback scheme insurance policy will be forwarded to our insurers for comment.

287.11 To consider whether the Parish Council should introduce a future programme of maintenance in regard to the Churchyard.

The Chair gave a comprehensive update regarding the work that had taken place in the Churchyard, and the projected work that would be needed in the future. This will be a long process, for which three quotes will be needed for future work as it will not be a continuation of the previous contract.

It was resolved to approve, in principle, that the loose stones on the fallen section of the wall be removed and a temporary safety fence be erected to prevent members of the public falling into the adjacent garden (6 in favour, 1 abstention).

A fencing company will be asked for their advice regarding which type of fence should be installed.

Cllr Steve Hartree said that it may be necessary to exhume some remains close to the wall. Enquiries need to be made with the diocese regarding this.

The Clerk will write to NSC asking them to take over the maintenance of the closed Churchyard, and to the Diocese to obtain details of the documentation they hold regarding the closure of the Churchyard.

It was resolved to ask the Clerk to write to the PCC asking if they would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of the work required to the walls (Unanimous)

It was resolved to set up a working party, including representatives from the Parish Council and the PCC to decide the way forward regarding all matters relating to the closed Churchyard (Unanimous).

The Parish Council's representatives on the working party will be the Chair and Cllr David Chinn. Ex-Cllr Richard Dobson will be approached to ask if he would be prepared to be involved. Rev Erridge will bring this to the attention of the PCC.

287.12 To consider whether the Parish Council should work towards achieving the Foundation Award in the New Local Council Award Scheme.

This will be adjourned until the next meeting.

287.13 To consider whether the Parish Council should continue with a Committee system.

This will be adjourned until after the Councillor training session has taken place.

287.14 To discuss the replacement of the bus shelters in Roman Road and Celtic Way.

This will be adjourned until the next meeting.

287.15 To consider offering to transfer the ownership of the Church clock from the Parish Council to the Church.

It was resolved that the Clerk should write to the PCC Secretary, offering the ownership of the clock to the PCC. The PCC would then be liable to pay the honorarium, but the Parish Council would reimburse the full amount of the honorarium to the PCC upon receipt of an invoice from the PCC (Unanimous)

287.16 To consider including a questionnaire in the next edition of the Parish News, asking how Parishioners access information from the Parish Council.

It was resolved to include the questionnaire in the next edition of the Parish News. All completed questionnaires will be entered into a draw with the winner given a £20 voucher from a national store of the winner's choice (Unanimous)

287.17 Finance

To approve items of expenditure

Chq	Payee	Details	Net	VAT
300586	A. Jay	Clerk's Salary	690.88	
300586	A. Jay	Clerk's Expenses	43.18	
300587	A. Jay	Installation and stocking of troughs	88.92	17.78
300588	I. Findlay	Ranger and Toilet Cleaner Salary	524.00	
300588	I. Findlay	Expenses	19.80	
300589	HMRC	PAYE and NI	367.64	
300590	Scribe 2000	Software licence	195.00	39.00
300591	H. Brinton	Handover services	96.33	
300592	BIN - IT	Dog bin emptying	68.98	13.79
300593	SSE	Electricity in public toilets	44.49	2.22
300594	Microshade	Remote hosting of software Aug/Sept	45.25	9.05
300594	Microshade	Remote hosting of software Sept to Jan	135.75	27.15
300595	Banwell PC	25% cost of Clerk attending conference	17.25	
300596	Scott Morris	Replace projector cable	51.00	
300597	R. Jones	Groundwork in churchyard	150.00	
300598	Strutt & Parker	Land rent	72.50	
300599	Somerset Bespoke	Hall renovations	31071.90	6214.38
DD	BT	Phone and broadband	43.60	8.72

It was unanimously resolved to pay the listed invoices, apart from the invoice payable to H. Brinton for which there was one abstention.

A further invoice had been received regarding extra works to the Coronation Hall. This amounted to £1234.20 plus VAT.

It was resolved to pay this invoice, and to ask the Hall Committee to reimburse one of the amounts, £25.16, on the invoice which they should pay as it relates to consumable items (Unanimous)

287.18 To note the 'Summary of Receipts and Payments' for the period 1st April to 31st August 2016

The Clerk gave an explanation for some of the figures on the summary.

287.19 To approve the purchase of two filing cabinets for use in the Coronation Hall.

It was resolved to purchase two four drawer cabinets up to a total cost of £250. (Unanimous)

When purchased, the Clerk will provide details of the cabinets to the Hall Secretary.

287.20 To receive the following Open Spaces Committee reports:

At this point of the meeting the Chair suggested that the remaining agenda items are not discussed, due to the time being 9.30pm.

The Chair asked if anyone had any further points to raise.

Cllr Steve Hartree raised concerns that certain members of the Council had met with members of the Coronation Hall management committee to discuss the Hall's proposed constitution document, before the issue had been discussed by the Parish Council.

The Chair said that she had emailed Councillors prior to this informal chat taking place, but no replies or objections had been received from any of the Councillors.

The Clerk explained that this issue had arisen very recently, and the idea of the chat was to 'fact find' before reporting back to the Parish Council. It is not always practical to wait for authority to be given at the next meeting before making enquiries into an issue.

The trees at Quantock House, Shiplate Road urgently need cutting, as they are causing a danger to road users. The Clerk will write to the householder, Mr Spanner.

287.21 To receive the following brief holder's reports:

Coronation Hall

Cllr Morag Edwards has resigned as the Parish Council's representative on the Coronation Hall management committee. The next agenda will need to include the election of a new representative, and also a new footpaths officer following the resignation of Cllr Dobson.

287.22 The date of the next Parish Council Meeting - 10th October 2016.