

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 14th November 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.

Seventeen members of the public were present.

289.1 To receive any apologies for non-attendance

There were no apologies for non-attendance

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

The Chair granted a permanent dispensation to the Parish Council's representatives on the Coronation Hall Management Committee in relation to business relating to the hall.

289.3 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th October 2016.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

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

289.4 To invite public participation

Members of the Public

Rev Tim Erridge spoke regarding the 'marriage' of the two Parishes (Bleadon and Bournville) which will be taking place on 22nd November 2016. Everyone is welcome to be involved. Further information is available from the Reverend.

A member of the public spoke regarding the litter bin not being emptied during the Village Ranger's recent period of annual leave. Also that some notices have not been put on the notice boards during the period of leave.

The Chair said that procedures will be looked into, and volunteers were asked for in relation to the notices on the notice boards. Cllr Chinn volunteered to liaise with the Village Ranger when he has a period of leave or sickness to make arrangements regarding the notice boards.

A 30mph sign has been ripped out of the ground in Bleadon Road. Cllr Mary Sheppard has it and will try to reinstall the sign.

The 'no parking' sign by the village cross is missing. No-one had any idea where it had gone.

The planting of flowers has not taken place this autumn. It will be decided whether planting will take place in the spring. Several tubs need replacing.

District Councillor

Cllr Porter spoke regarding the Westwood Drive planning application hearing that took place last week. He said that this was always going to be difficult to defend. A strong case was put forward in regard to landscaping. The inspector was shown the proposed site from different locations. The decision is awaited. Between 30 to 40 residents attended the hearing, and key local issues were raised by residents.

The next hearing regarding the Bleadon Hill development takes place between 29th November to 1st December in the Council Chamber. It will then be adjourned until 13th and 14th December in the Royal Hotel. A final day will be 15th December in the Council Chamber, if required. Landscaping will be the strongest objection point. The protest group have put forward a lot of good points in their submission. An experienced barrister has been appointed. Notices have been placed on Facebook sites, on BPC noticeboards and businesses in the village advertising the planning appeal.

An extra contracted team has been brought in to clean the drains in North Somerset, so Bleadon's should be cleaned shortly.

Andy Johnson and Shaun Clarke of Marshalls will be addressing the Parish Council meeting in December. It was agreed that the December meeting will start at 7pm to allow the time for this. There are no planning regulations regarding vehicles entering or leaving the site, but they have their own voluntary policy allowing this between 7am and 7pm.

Police Report.

PCSO Alex Humphries presented the Police report.

There have been 17 calls from the public, and 7 crimes reported. These were 1 theft; 2 RTC's; 2 burglaries; 1 harassment and 1 criminal damage.

The Police are increasing their evening patrols in the parish to deter rural crime, provide reassurance and make residents feel safe and be safe.

The Chair reported that a highly offensive word had been sprayed on a road sign the previous evening.

PCSO Humphries said that this is not an ongoing problem in the area.

289.5 To receive the Clerk's report

NSC has reported that a grit bin in Roman Road needs replacing.

It was suggested that there is a second damaged bin that needs replacing. Councillors were asked to check this, and report back to the Clerk.

As grit bins need replacing as a matter of urgency the Parish Council authorised the Clerk to arrange replacement(s).

The diocese has still not replied to a request for documentation regarding the Parish Council taking over responsibility for the maintenance of the churchyard. This is very frustrating as an approach cannot be made to NSC for them to take over responsibility until the documentation is received.

The budget and precept for 2017/18 needs to be set at the January meeting. The Finance and Personnel Committee will need to meet beforehand; however there are two important financial matters to be decided before the meeting can be held. Namely, the cost of the latest repair to the churchyard wall, and whether the Parish Council can reclaim the VAT for the improvement work carried out at the Coronation Hall.

289.6 Exchange of information between Councillors.

What looks like the remains of a sizeable shed has been dumped off Roman Road. Cllr ID Clarke will report this to NSC.

A new grit bin was requested in Muddy Lane on the bend going down into Canada Coombe. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Tenders for the schedule of work required at the churchyard have gone out, and should be back in time to be considered at the December meeting.

The working group regarding the churchyard has yet to meet. A meeting should be arranged as soon as possible to consider the PCC submitting a grant funding application.

Safety issues regarding the fallen wall were discussed. Different options will

be explored. Warning signs have been installed.

During the 22nd November celebrations there will be the planting of bulbs both in Bournville and Bleadon. The Councillors agreed to the planting of bulbs in the Council owned land next to the church cross.

Only one Parish Councillor attended the Wentwood Drive planning application hearing. It is hoped that more Councillors will attend the Bleadon Hill planning application hearing, where the Parish Council should pass comment.

289.7 To consider whether the Parish Council wish to support a campaign regarding traffic issues in the village.

It was unanimously resolved that the Parish Council supports the Women's Institute campaign.

The Parish Council would like to be involved in the setting up of the campaign. Cllr ID Clarke is a member of the WI, and she will attend on the Parish Council's behalf. WI members said that they would like to join the Speedwatch team.

In the meantime the Clerk was asked to write to NSC to ask what plans are in place to tackle speeding in Bleadon. The Parish Council would like to have an official response in writing.

289.8 To consider whether the Parish Council wish to purchase its own speed indication device.

The Clerk gave details of the costings involved, which would total around £4,000.

It was unanimously resolved not to purchase a speed indication device.

289.9 To consider whether the Parish Council accepts the view of the Coronation Hall management committee that the Hall management committee own the building and the land that it stands on.

The Clerk began by saying that following information received after the publishing of the agenda the item should read 'that the Charitable Trust owns the building and the land that it stands on'.

The Clerk quoted from an email received from the Parish Council's auditor. Also from the minutes from a hall management committee meeting in 2008 when advice was received from solicitors Hall, Ward and Fox, and from advice recently received from the Charity Commission.

The Clerk said that in his opinion the three documents contradicted each other regarding the ownership of the land.

The Clerk also said that the auditor has advised that the repayment of the VAT paid on the recent improvement work to the hall could be legally claimed, but it may be that HMRC will refuse to refund. The auditor's advice was that the hall management committee should be asked to indemnify the Council that in the event that the VAT is not repaid such underpayment will be made good by the management committee.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council takes legal instruction regarding this matter.

The Chair stated that the advice from the Charity Commission was that the hall committee should also take legal instruction.

Cllr Hartree said that he would be extremely nervous if the Parish Council took legal advice as it could be very expensive.

Cllr Chinn is awaiting the result of a land registry search on the building and land.

Cllr ID Clarke expressed concerns regarding liability in the future.

Standing orders were suspended.

Ian Gibson spoke on behalf of the hall management committee, and said that they pay the insurance for the public liability and contents of the building. The Parish Council insures the building. He said that the VAT matter was 'not an issue' as the request from the hall management committee was that the Parish Council underwrites any shortfall in regard to the project. VAT was never mentioned, and the Parish Council resolved to fund any shortfall, which would include the VAT. The hall management committee do not intend seeking legal advice as they rely 'chapter and verse' upon the advice from the Charity Commission.

Standing orders were reinstated.

It was resolved that the Parish Council writes to the hall management committee requesting that they take on responsibility for all expenses currently paid by the Parish Council building insurance for the hall, broadband and telephone costs and that the management committee accepts legal liability for any claims against the hall in any form. Until such time as the Parish Council hears from the hall management committee in response to this request no further action be taken and no further action be taken in regard to the VAT issue until the Parish Council hears from the Inland Revenue. (4 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions).

The Chair commented that her concerns were that even if the management committee takes over the insurance, then the problem remains that if

something happens in the future, and it is legally found that it is the Parish Council's responsibility and is liable then the Parish Council will be left open. The Chair's view is that even if the hall management committee agree to our request then this needs to be drawn up in a legal document. This will be considered when the response is received from the hall management committee.

290.10 To consider a request from the NSC tree officer to lift the curtilage of the Norway Maple tree outside the Coronation Hall to 5.2m.

This is the tree in the park.

It was unanimously resolved that the work should be carried out.

The Clerk will make the arrangements.

289.11 To receive an update regarding the proposal to use the services of the Community payback team.

Cllr Chinn reported that work could be possible in the New Year. There would be a fee of £50 per attendance. There would be a requirement to remove the green waste.

The Clerk will enquire with NSC regarding the cost of the removal of the green waste.

This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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

A discussion took place regarding the advantages and disadvantages of a committee system.

It was unanimously resolved that the Committee system remains as at present.

289.13 To consider a suggestion from BT to remove the phone box outside the Coronation Hall.

It was unanimously resolved that the phone box be removed.

289.14 To consider a letter received from the secretary of the PCC dated 25th October 2016.

Comments were made that it was unfortunate that the PCC has not offered

to make any contribution towards the churchyard wall repairs, however small, especially as the Council made a grant to the Church reasonably recently for works to the Church.

The Parish Council thanks the PCC for offering to take over the responsibility for paying the honorarium regarding the church clock. The Parish Council will continue to pay the maintenance costs.

289.15

Finance

To approve items of expenditure

Chq	Payee	Details	Net	VAT
300612	Atwill	Churchyard work	3,845.00	
300613	Atwill	Churchyard work	13,623.00	
The above two invoices were paid in October 2016				
300614	A. Jay	Clerk's Salary	690.88	
300615	A. Jay	Clerk's Expenses – Mileage £24.30; Postage £7.88; Home working £19.50; Mobile phone £1.67; Printer cartridge £16.48; Warning sign £13.98	78.53	5.08
300616	I. Findlay	Ranger and Toilet Cleaner Salary	524.00	
305617	I. Findlay	Mileage £19.80; Toilet consumables £25.18	40.78	4.20
300618	HMRC	PAYE and NI	367.84	
300619	Faye Thomas	Toilet cleaning	100.00	
300620	Came and Co.	Extra insurance for Coronation Hall	93.59	
300621	Bin-It	Dog bin emptying	68.98	13.79
300622	SSE	Lighting maintenance	15.65	3.13
300623	Grant Thornton	Audit fees	200.00	40.00
300624	Bloxham & Barlow	Valuation – Coronation Hall	125.00	
300625	Royal British Legion	Wreath – Replacement cheque	50.00	
300626	EDF Energy	Electricity for toilets	23.10	4.62
DD	BT	Phone and broadband	43.60	8.72

It was unanimously resolved to approve the items of expenditure

289.16

To receive Open Spaces Committee reports.

The allotment invoices for 2016/17 have now been sent out.

There is a half allotment available, which will be advertised in the next edition of Bleadon news.

The proof reading of the next newsletter will be taking place shortly, and it will be published next week.

289.17 To receive the following brief holder's reports

Reports were not received due to time restraints.

289.18 The date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

12th December 2016