

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

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Interim Clerk to the Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of Bleadon Parish Council held in the Coronation Hall, Bleadon at 7.00 pm on Monday, 8th January, 2018 when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors Steven Hartree (Chairman), Mary Sheppard (Vice Chairman), Ray Bleazard, David Chinn and Richard Dobson.

Interim Clerk: Kevin Barrett

District Councillor: Terry Porter

Four members of the public were present.

304.1 To Receive any Apologies for Non-Attendance.

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

304.2 To Receive any Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items.

No declarations were received.

304.3 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th December 2017.

Agreed to approve the minutes, subject to the third sentence of minute 303.22 being amended to read 'Councillor Chinn outlined preliminary discussions he had had with the Chairman and another member of the Youth Club Committee and certain issues that had arisen'. The minutes, as amended, were signed by the Chairman as being a correct record of the meeting.

305.4 Public Participation.

Members of the Public

The Chairman advised that members had discussed the issue of public participation at its meetings and were of the view that, notwithstanding recent leniency, the Council in future would be strictly adhering to its Standing Orders in respect of public contributions to its meetings. Accordingly, members of the public were urged to raise matters under the public participation item which appeared on all agendas.

The following issue was raised –

Bus Service – A parishioner referred to the increasingly limited and inconvenient bus service to the parish and asked what action was being taken to secure improvements. District Councillor Porter accepted that the current service was inadequate and reminded the meeting that the bus service covering the parish was currently out to tender and efforts were ongoing to secure improvements, with a range of options having been circulated to the operators. However, the hoped for improvements were to a large extent dependent upon the subsidised services that the bus operators were willing to provide. He would report back in due course. The Chairman added that the Parish Council would continue to press for an improved service to the parish.

District Councillor

District Councillor Porter referred to the desirability of parishes preparing Neighbourhood Plans and advised that he had indicated to the Clerk at Hutton the willingness of this parish to explore joint working where this was feasible.

With regard to NSC's Sites and Policies Plan, he was hopeful that the Inspector would sign it off as acceptable in the not too distant future and this would put the planning authority in a much stronger position.

A member asked what contribution NSC might be willing to make to the scheme prepared by the Highways Team to improve road safety and pedestrian access at the junction of Bridge Road and the A370 (see minute 304.12 below). Councillor Porter would look into this.

Police

A Police report was provided indicating that 19 calls had been made from the parish in the past four weeks with five recorded crimes, namely two thefts and one each of criminal damage, burglary and non-residential burglary.

304.5 Clerk's Report.

Light Pollution from the Quarry - Councillor Dobson reported that he had contacted Marshalls about this problem and they had taken action to amend timers so that the lights did not remain on throughout the night. However, he was seeking to set up an early meeting to pursue the matter further. The situation would continue to be monitored and raised with Marshalls.

Issues Reported to NSC – The Clerk had referred the following issues to NSC –

- Fly tipping in the layby on Roman Road.
- Potholes at the junction of Bridge Avenue and the A370 and in Purn Way.
- An apparently defective street lamp in The Barton.

Parish Council Phone – The phone had been registered until recently in the name of the former Clerk but a new business contract had now been set up in the Parish Council's name, retaining the existing number. The cost was £14.17 per month.

Website/Email Address – The Council's website had a .co.uk domain name but, for historical reasons, the email domain name was a .gov.uk address. The latter domain name recently expired without any prior notification having been received by the Council, meaning that the Clerk was unable to send or receive emails. Thanks to the good offices of Webglu, who host the website, it had been possible to restore the email service within two days with a new email address, namely parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk. This removed the previous anomaly of having two different domains for the website and email and was a cheaper option than the former arrangement.

Parish Clerk Recruitment – Six applications had been received for the post and three applicants shortlisted. The interviews were taking place on 10th January.

304.6 Exchange of Information between Councillors.

Nationwide Account – The Chairman updated the Council on efforts to close this account. A cheque book had now been received and he would be going into the branch with a former member who was a signatory to close the account.

Healthy Weston Event - Councillor Dobson would be attending this event at the football club on 17th January.

Resignation of Former Member – Councillor Chinn read out a statement that he had prepared in response to statements made by former Councillor Strong in resigning from the Council at the last meeting. The statement covered issues raised relating to meetings, decision making, failure to utilise the local knowledge of long standing Councillors and the transparency of the Council to the public (copy of the statement available on request).

No Waiting Cones – As requested Councillor Chinn had researched the cost of purchasing additional cones for use at the village market and May Fayre. They were either £4.68 or £7.44 each plus VAT. Details would be passed to the Hall Management Committee. He had also approached the police as to whether they had any old cones they could provide and seeking guidance on their correct use.

304.7 To Note Planning Decisions.

17/P/2418/F - Land to south of Mulberry House, Roman Road. Conversion and change of use of agricultural barn to form two holiday lets. Works to include alterations to interior and exterior of building.
GRANTED

304.8 To Consider Planning Applications Received

17/P/5584/FUL - Land at grid reference 33896, 57991 west of reservoir off Roman Road. Retrospective application to retain antennas mounted on two existing masts.

Agreed to recommend refusal of this application on the grounds that the conditions of the permission granted in 2009 had been breached in that 'no additional antennae shall be erected on the land nor shall the existing antenna be extended or altered without planning permission'. In addition, the antennae were considered to be visually intrusive in the Mendip Hills AONB by virtue of their height and prominent position. The proposal is contrary to policy CS5 of the NS Core Strategy, policy DM11 of the Sites and Policies Plan, the NS Landscape Character and Assessment (Mendip Ridges and Combes) and s.11 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

17/P/5202/MMA - Minor material amendment to planning permission 15/P/2701/F (erection of a single storey side extension, alteration to roof structure including the addition of a first floor and the construction of a detached car port) to allow for additional rooflight to rear elevation, Hill View Bungalow, Celtic Way.

Agreed that the Council object to this application on grounds of loss of privacy to an adjoining property but that this objection may be overcome by the use of obscure glass.

304.9 Planning Enforcement Update.

The update from NSC was noted. The Council asked that its concern that little action was being taken to enforce planning breaches be passed to the District Council. Councillor Chinn referred to another issue not appearing on the list regarding a change of use of a field in Accommodation Road from car boot sales to static caravans. The land already had change of use to static homes. The site was being developed possibly without planning consent. He understood that this had been reported to NSC.

304.10 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan Process.

Councillor Dobson reported that it had been confirmed that grant applications for funding had been extended up to 2022 and authorities would be able to apply from April although the precise rules governing this were awaited. He and Councillor Chinn had met to plan the initial consultation stage of the process and were suggesting meetings with small groups of stakeholders through workshop sessions and would be preparing for these over the next couple of months. Once grant funding had been applied for, the more substantive work would commence from May/June onwards. A number of local parishes had been contacted to ascertain any interest in joint working. Loxton PC had expressed interest in working together and both Yatton and Congresbury had offered assistance. Further contacts would be made before the next meeting.

It was noted that there were a number of exit points in the process when the Council could decide not to proceed but that there were real benefits to be gained from the exercise, however far it was taken.

304.11 To Review and Consider the Medium Risks Highlighted in the Risk Assessment.

The Chairman advised that he and Councillor Sheppard would be working on compiling an up to date asset register.

Agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the new Clerk was appointed.

304.12 Scheme to Provide New Footway and Central Refuge on A370 Close to the Junction with Bridge Road.

NSC had prepared a scheme, details of which had been circulated to members, to improve pedestrian access to the bus stops on the A370 close to the junction with Bridge Road. The scheme also provided a central refuge on the A370 to improve road safety and ease of access for pedestrians across the road. The total cost estimate was over £21,000 and NSC were asking whether the Parish Council could contribute. It was unlikely to be in this year's programme but could be included in the 2018/19 programme. The larger the contribution from this Council, the more chance the scheme had of being progressed.

It was noted that the scheme had a number of community benefits and the central refuge would prevent vehicles overtaking when lorries were turning left off the A370 into Bridge Road. It would also give protection from overtaking vehicles when turning right into Bridge Road. Marshalls had previously indicated a willingness to contribute to such a scheme and it was agreed that the issue should be raised at the next liaison meeting with them. In addition, Councillor Dobson agreed to set up a tri-partite meeting with the Highways Officer and the Liaison Group to pursue the scheme. It was also important to put pressure on the District Councillors to push for the inclusion of the scheme with a high priority in next year's programme and for them to press for a substantial NSC financial contribution.

304.13 To Consider the Provision of Horse Riding Signs.

Representations had been made at previous meetings about the safety concerns felt by horse riders around the village. Councillor Chinn had approached the police seeking their views on whether horse and rider warning signs would be appropriate for erection on key roads around the parish. He had also raised a number of other road safety concerns with them including speeding and erratic riding by cyclists, vehicle speeds/Community Speedwatch and fly tipping.

Agreed that the issue of road safety including the safety of horse riders, speeding cyclists and vehicle speeds be referred to the Highway Authority for comment and that, depending on the response received, they be asked to attend a future meeting to address these issues.

304.14 To Consider a Response to the Final Draft of the West of England Joint Spatial Plan.

Agreed that Councillor Dobson prepare a response on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Chairman for submission by the deadline of 10th January.

304.15 To Note the Introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation.

Agreed that implementation of the GDPR be discussed by Councillor Chinn with the new Clerk to ensure that the Council was fully compliant.

304.16 To Review and Approve Monthly Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation for December.

Agreed to approve the December monthly budget report and bank reconciliation.

304.17 To Approve Items of Expenditure and Income.

Agreed that the following items of expenditure be approved -

Chq	Payee	Details	Net	VAT
300738	Void			
300739	Faye Thomas	December public conveniences cleaning	£100.00	
300740	GB Sports	Playground inspection	£15.00	£3.00
300741	Bin-It	Dog bin emptying	£70.54	£14.11

300742	Alistair Gill	Village Ranger salary	£312.00	
300742	Alistair Gill	Village Ranger expenses: Mileage and refuse sacks	£26.34	£0.50
300743	Kevin Barrett	Clerk salary (December)	£780.00	
300743	Kevin Barrett	Clerk expenses: Print cartridges £32.14 and stamps £5.88.	£32.66	£5.36
300744	HMRC	PAYE and NI	£78.00	
300745	Bleadon Youth Club	Contribution towards car park lights	£200.00	
Direct Debit	Water2Business	Water/sewerage supply to public conveniences (May to November)	£100.66	
300746	Void			
300747	Brian Robinson	Clock honorarium (Fourth quarter 2017)	£50	
300748	SSE Lighting	Lighting maintenance (3 rd Quarter)	£15.65	£3.13
300749	Cllr Chinn	Village Hall Christmas tree and accessories	£67.54	£4.51
300750	EDF Energy	Street lights power	£84.94	£4.22
300501	Bleadon Youth Club	Hire of room for interviews	£15.00	

Income

Chq		Details	Net	VAT
Cheque	Allotment holder	Allotment Rental for half plot	£7.50	
Cheques	Advertisers	Winter Edition of Bleadon News	£145.00	

304.18 To Receive the Following Reports:

- (a) Allotments – Councillor Sheppard reported that one and a half plots were currently vacant.
- (b) Churchyard – No report.
- (c) Footpaths & Bridleways – Councillor Sheppard reported that a stile off Hillside Road had disintegrated and that the waymarkers had disappeared from the footpath between Roman Road and The Dring. The Clerk advised that NSC had undertaken some work to stabilise the handrail on the stile on Celtic Way previously reported to them, which they hoped would improve the situation. Councillors stated that they hoped to reinstate the BROW group of volunteers to help maintain and improve Bleadon's footpaths and bridleways.
- (d) Roads & Transport – See minutes 304.12 & 13 above.
- (e) Marshalls Liaison – See minute 304.12 above.
- (f) Children's Playground – The Clerk had asked GB Sport & Leisure to look at the climber/slides equipment which appeared to have a loose fitting.

- (g) Newsletter – No report.
- (h) Website – The new Clerk would be asked to look at improvements to the website.
- (i) Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety – No report.

304.19 To Receive the Following Brief Holders' Reports:

- 1) Coronation Hall – There had been no meeting of the Committee in December. The Chairman reported that he had met the Village Ranger and asked him to ensure that the items in the BROW storage container were made safe prior to its transfer to the village hall site.
- 2) Youth Club – No further report pending a proposed joint meeting with the Hall Management Committee.
- 3) ALCA – No report.
- 4) Chairman – No report.

304.20 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting.

Monday 12th February at 7 p.m. in the Coronation Hall.

304.21 Exclusion of the Press and Public.

Agreed that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda item by reason of the confidential nature of the item of business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

304.22 Review of Contract for Cleaning of Public Conveniences.

As set out in its terms, the contract was required to be reviewed each January. The Council noted the current position and –

Agreed that the contract be renewed for a further year on the existing terms.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Chairman