

From: Bleadon BOB Community Website <bleadon@live.co.uk>
Sent: 10 September 2017 20:54
To: Bleadon Parish Clerk
Cc: David Chinn; Kathy Strong; Richard Dobson; stevenhartree194
Subject: Matters Arising from September Agenda & August Minutes

Dear Maria,

Many thanks to you for Agenda and Minutes and apologies for this long reply on 'matters arising'. However, this is unfortunately really a consequence of long standing queries not being answered by BPC and/or information not being made available via the BPC website.

As you are aware, following our/BOB's comments and queries on last month's BPC agenda items BPC invoked its vexatious policy for a further six months i.e. until next year, February 2018. Despite this decision residents still want answers to key questions especially in the areas of the Future of Bleadon; BPC duties, roles & responsibilities; openness/transparency of communications and decision making; and finance/precept. Many of the following queries are ongoing and unanswered from before January 2017 when the vexatious policy was first started to be implemented, with 'Rights to Public Access' subsequently removed from its policy, to try and persistently ignore and avoid answering key questions from BOB/residents.

Regardless of BPC's approach to BOB/residents/public access to information Bleadon is going through a period of repeated planning application attacks by developers. We/residents believe that the parish's main defence would be a consistent, open, transparent and publicly supported approach to policies and applications, something currently needing business process and communication improvements by BPC. We/residents therefore hope the following queries will be satisfactorily and publicly answered by BPC as soon as possible.

Queries arising from the September Agenda

<http://www.bleadon.org.uk/media/other/24400/Agenda-299-September17.pdf>

The Open Day on 13 Sept regarding the School & 250 Houses planned on Bridge Road fields is not on the September Agenda but please can you publish/send a response to us as to what BPC understands will happen to the comments made by residents directly/indirectly to the developers? Will they subsequently be anonymously published to residents to discuss, like the last consultation; or are comments for the developers 'eyes only' to support and improve their application to NSC? Please can BPC tell us whether they made comments to the Sites & Allocations Policy Examination Hearing in May 2017 that made reference to this site (as we can't seem to find any from BPC), and if so, please can you publish/send us a copy of these comments ?

Many outstanding queries relate to understanding what BPC's duties, roles and responsibilities are so that residents are aware of what our precept is paying for. Please can you publish/send us a response as to precisely 'what are BPC's duties, roles and responsibilities', as previously requested?

299.7 Please can you confirm when the updated BPC policy documents will be made available on the BPC website? Will any changes made to previous versions please be identified for the purpose of openness and transparency to the public?

299.10 Given BPC is not the planning authority please can you make it clear in minutes that it is NSC who have 'granted' or 'refused' planning applications and that BPC's role is to comment on applications that they have been notified of with the response 'object', 'support' or 'observation', like any other person commenting to NSC, similar to BPC's advice to residents in the recent parish newsletter? Otherwise, in BOB's opinion,

the minutes imply a duty or power that we believe BPC does not actually have, being only a statutory consultee.

299.11 As any maintenance of the park facilities will affect residents' precept, and their child's safety, please can you publish/send us a copy of the Annual Playground Inspection Report?

299.13 Considering that out-of-date information has been contained in the parish newsletter and village notice boards, will BPC also be considering the out-of-date/missing information on its website (299.21.g) as per its previous resolutions regarding the ICO Model Publication Scheme (with the aim of reducing resident/public information requests to BPC)? Surely the purpose of a resident precept funded website is to enable residents to quickly and easily access BPC public information without having to repeatedly request it from the Clerk, and/or be denied information without explanation?

299.16 Please can BPC publish/send us a copy of the documents they have been asked to consider on behalf of residents e.g. the 'Draft Accessible Housing Needs Assessment Supplementary Planning Document' from North Somerset Council, along with BPC's considered response?

299.18 Please can BPC publish/send us a response of their view as to why a Neighbourhood Plan will benefit residents over and above the existing Parish Plan, especially considering BPC comments in the recent parish newsletter i.e. "*even some new neighbourhood plans have been shown to be irrelevant or at best hold very little weight*"? Can BPC also publish/send us a response as to why BPC feel that they will follow this plan if they are ignoring views of residents in the current Parish Plan only eight years into a 20 year plan i.e. the one created by previous BPC councillors? Can BPC also publish/send us response as to how much will this new plan will cost via the precept in addition to any grants? (see 298.25 BPC minute below)

Please can BPC also publish/send us a response as to whether the current, valid, expensive and widely consulted 2009-2029 Parish Plan will be submitted as a 'Supplementary Planning Document' to the North Somerset Local Plan/Core Strategy as suggested by CPRE, and if not, why not? Can BPC publish/send us a response as to how BPC currently make decisions on behalf of residents if they are ignoring the current Parish Plan? Please can BPC publish/send us a response as to what current councillors' vision of Bleadon is, as indicated in the May 2017 minutes, and how it relates to, or differs from, the widely publicly consulted Parish Plan 'vision'?

299.21.f From the April minutes the parish newsletter was due out mid/end of July but did not arrive until the end of August, after public consultation deadlines had closed for major planning applications in and around Bleadon. As previously asked, please can BPC publish/send us a response as to what is the purpose of the newsletter, who is responsible for its timing, content and accuracy? In the interests of openness and transparency please can BPC indicate on each article which have been paid for and which have been freely published by BPC, as previously requested, to ensure no favouritism is being undertaken?

299.23 BPC meetings are being held on behalf of residents, and decisions are being made that will affect them and their finances/precept. In the interest of openness and transparency please can BPC publish the Terms of Reference (TOR) for all BPC committees and sub-committees, with associated agenda, minutes and reports as it does for some BPC meetings, as previously requested? And if not, why not? For example, please can BPC send us a copy of the the Management Working Group (See 298.25 BPC minute below) and the Vexatious Sub-Committee TOR, agenda, minutes and reports as these are not currently available on the BPC website?

299.26 Reference has previously been made by BPC to the lack of time the Clerk has to answer resident queries (instead of automatically publishing any publicly accessible documents on the BPC website).

Also, the Village Ranger is seemingly undertaking some NSC duties. In the interest of openness and transparency please can you publish/send us a copy of the Clerk and Village Ranger's roles, responsibilities and duties as offered by previous configurations of BPC? Especially if additional contractual time is being considered at a cost to resident's precept.

Queries arising from the August Minutes

<http://www.bleadon.org.uk/media/other/24400/Minutes-298-14.8.17.pdf>

298.4.ii Thank you for publishing/minuting a more detailed explanation of the 4A reduced bus service as requested. We/residents look forward to an update on the future bus service.

Thank you also on the update on the Enforcement issue on the caravan site but clarification as to the disappearance of the SNCI doesn't seem to have been given? In the interest of openness and transparency please can you publish/send us a response so that we may be aware of whether or not Bleadon's other SNCI's may disappear in the same manner?

298.5, 298.19 & 298.23.c As Bleadon residents have already been asked to finance PROW work (via Village Ranger) and possibly BROW equipment (to be housed behind the halls), with residents now being potentially asked to volunteer to do the work, please can you publish/send us a response as to BPC's legal and financial responsibilities with regards PROWs including their maintenance, closure, diversions, etc. as previously requested? Also, please can you publish/send us a an update on keeping the Axe footpath open from the Bridge Road end along with this new concern from the Accommodation Road end. If the Clerk is being asked to contact NSC for the grass verge issue why not all footpath, bridleway, roads and transport issues as it is NSC's responsibility? <http://www.bleadon.org.uk/media/other/24400/BVNSummer2014issue99.pdf>

298.7 As Bleadon is currently under increasing pressure from developers please can you publish/send us a copy of BPC's response, on behalf of residents, to the North Somerset Local Plan 2018-2036 - Bleadon Settlement Profile? As the Sustainability status of Bleadon is clearly critical to this process and protecting our rural identity.

298.8 As Bleadon is currently under increasing pressure from developers please can you publish/send us a copy of BPC's response, on behalf of residents, to the North Somerset Council Planning Site Allocations Plan: Further Assessment of Residential Sites?

298.10 BPC has seen three clerks and numerous councillors leave in the last few years, each with differing access to assets paid for by resident's precept. In the interest of openness and transparency please can you publish/send us a copy of the current Asset Register and Risk Assessment as previously requested, and as offered by previous BPC clerks?

298.13 The closure of Accident & Emergency at Weston Hospital on 4 July 2017 was, and continues to be, of great concern to many residents. In the interest of openness and transparency please can you publish/send us a copy of BPC's letter to the Chief Executive of Weston General Hospital highlighting their objection to the closure of the A&E Department , as copied to the Local MP and Minister of Health?

298.17 BPC unanimously agreed to discuss the renewal of the Youth Club lease on the December Agenda. From previous BPC communications BPC is only responsible for the land the Youth Club building stands on, not the building or the lease? Please can BPC publish/send us a response as to its duties, role and responsibilities in this matter, especially legal and financial, as previously requested? If this is a new responsibility please can you tell us/residents when BPC decided to take it on?

298.25 Related to 299.18 & 299.23 above: "*To receive a report from the Management Working Group Cllr Dobson had a meeting with the North Somerset Planning Policy Officer to discuss the Neighbourhood Development Plan initiative. He informed the council that grants are available to assist with professional services eg planning policy specialist, transport specialist etc Estimated two years to complete the full plan, however highlighted that if there is an emerging plan it is something that will be considered in local planning decisions. Cllr Dobson to prepare and provide more information at the September meeting including the programme of activities, objectives and relevant information for setting up the necessary steering group.*"

Kind regards,

Chris Butler & Jo Gower-Crane

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latest news: <http://www.bleadon.org.uk/news.html>