

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Parish Council

Marian Barber

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Minutes of a Meeting of Bleadon Parish Council held in the Coronation Hall, Bleadon at 7.00 pm on Monday, 12th February, 2018 when the following business was transacted.

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

Clerk: Marian Barber

Interim Clerk: Kevin Barrett

Six members of the public were present.

305.1 To Receive any Apologies for Non-Attendance.

Apologies received from Cllr Terry Porter, Cllr Richard Dobson

305.2 To Receive any Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items.

No declarations were received.

305.3 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 January 2018.

The minutes were approved.

305.4 Public Participation.

Members of the Public

A parishioner explained that the bus service had improved somewhat with the introduction by First of the 5A which ran two-hourly, including Saturdays. It ran via Uphill rather than the longer route through Hutton.

A parishioner asked for information regarding the Ranger, stating that parishioners did not know who he was or when he worked. A photo in the next newsletter would be welcomed. There was concern that he could be seen checking the children's playground but not be recognised. The parishioner asked if the Council received a monthly report from him and whether that could be published. The Chairman confirmed that the Ranger has a current and satisfactory DBS check.

A parishioner asked why there was no list of correspondence received available at the Parish Council meeting. The parishioner also asked why there was no equal opportunity statement on the summons, and why we have no police, Parish Liaison Officer or Weston Mercury representative attending.

A parishioner stated that the bench and noticeboard by the junction of Celtic Way and Roman Road were in a poor state. A person who used to catch the bus there would often keep it clean but that person no longer catches the bus. Also, four of the five noticeboards in the village were virtually unreadable due to condensation, mould or opaque Perspex. Toughened glass would be a better option. The Chairman agreed that the Ranger would be asked to clean them regularly and to ensure old notices were removed. However, the Finance Committee had determined at their last meeting that there was no budget provision for upgrading noticeboards.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that members of the public should notify the Clerk by the Friday

before the meeting of any item they wish to raise. This may enable answers to be provided at the meeting.

District Councillor (no report)

Police

A Police report was provided indicating that Bleadon Parish residents made 19 calls during the period.

305.5 To Confirm the Appointment of Marian Barber as Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

The appointment was confirmed and the Chairman thanked Kevin Barrett for his interim services. Mr Barrett will continue to assist the new Clerk during February 2018.

305.6 To receive the Clerk's Report.

The Interim Clerk reported that a road closure for Chestnut Lane was required for water supply works. Residents had been advised.

The Youth Club lease is due for renewal in November 2018 and there is a request to remove or revise some wording. The Parish Council had suggested a three-way meeting with Parish Council, Hall Management Committee and Youth Club. However, the Hall Management Committee feel it is between the Parish Council and the Youth Club only.

The Clerk had received notification from North Somerset Council of highway closures and amendments for a half-marathon race on 18th March 2018. The restrictions are expected to be from 0630hrs to 1330hrs. Some roads and footpaths in Bleadon Parish are affected.

The May Day Fayre committee had asked the Council to close the car park and play area from 1900hrs on Sunday 6th May to 1900hrs on Monday 7th May. The Council is supportive of the Fayre but discussed the problems arising from the 2017 Fayre which included rubbish not being removed in a timely manner, car parking problems throughout the village and refuse vehicles unable to make residential collections. The Hall Committee has already agreed to buy more traffic cones and it was suggested that a deposit be sought to cover the cost of rubbish removal if not completed by the Wednesday following. Regarding Health & Safety requirements, a Risk Assessment for the event to be sent to the Clerk when available. The YMCA provide a bouncy castle and climbing wall and the Risk Assessments for these to be sent to the Clerk.

It was agreed that the Council would close the car park and play area as requested subject to the May Fayre Committee being required to remove all refuse from the site by no later than Wednesday 9th May.

305.7 Exchange of Information between Councillors.

A Councillor gave thanks to the House family for providing a site for the BROW container, to the Ranger for preparing the new site, to Marshalls for providing materials and to Councillor Dobson for his input.

NSC has received a request to call in the planning application for masts considered at the last meeting. Parishioners had reported that a roadway was being built. A Councillor stated that this was not a roadway but was hardcore to enable machinery to be driven in.

The Chairman advised the meeting that whilst it was reasonable for the Council to be held to account and challenged on any topic within its remit it was not acceptable for people to subject Councillors to personal abuse either verbally or via social media. Councillors are volunteers whose aim is to serve the parishioners to the best of their ability. In the past Councillors have resigned and no-one has come forward to be co-opted. The Council needs more parishioners to volunteer their time and skills. In view of this, the Parish Meeting in April will be asked whether or not they support the Parish Council.

305.8 To Note Planning Decisions.

17/P/0302/MOD - Weston Wake Park, Accommodation Road. Modification of Section 106

legal agreement on application 14/P/0746/F2 (Large scale major application for leisure complex and associated works) to amend clause 6.1.3 to alter the trigger date for payment of the highway contribution to the date the development is open to the public. **GRANTED**

17/P/2556/F - Land Off Bridgwater Road. Erection of a replacement workshop/ store building (retrospective). **REFUSED**

A Councillor asked whether the building would now be deleted.

305.9 To Consider Planning Applications Received

17/P/5633/FUL – Slade Barns, Shiplate Road. Councillors had visited the site with the applicant and reported that it is barely visible from the road, not easily overlooked and there are similar holiday lets on/near the site. Environmental considerations seem appropriate, including retaining the hedges. No water courses are affected. A good quality exterior construction is planned to blend with existing constructions on site.

Agreed - no objection.

18/P/2057/FUH – Shiplett House Farm Cottage. Councillors had visited the site with the applicant and reported that this was proposed as elderly relative accommodation but circumstances changed and they were going to withdraw. They decided to continue as it will improve the family home. There appears to be no local objection and the semi-detached neighbour is also extending their home.

Agreed – no objection.

305.10 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan Process.

The Chairman read a report from Councillor Dobson explaining that there had been a positive reaction during preliminary consultation with residents. People could see that moving from a Parish Plan to a Neighbourhood Plan would have many benefits. However, recently there has been a concerted wave of negativity from some individuals which was very de-motivating. The initial urgency was due to grant funding ending in March 2018 but funding has now been made available until 2022. There is time to continue if parishioners desire it but the opportunity to limit current over-development has been lost. There has been no cost to the Parish Council so far as Councillor Dobson has funded the work himself. However, he will not continue with the process. If, at the Parish Meeting in April, parishioners indicate their desire to continue then it can be re-started. The Chairman thanked Councillors Dobson and Chinn for their hard work to date.

Agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan Process be suspended.

305.11 To Consider a Proposal by the Hall Management Committee to Provide a Hardstanding for Bins/Removal of Rockery from Land Adjacent to the Jubilee Room.

This proposal is to ensure that the emergency exit route from the Jubilee Room is not obstructed. The Hall Management Committee have agreed to fund this but need Parish Council permission. The Chairman thanked the Hall Management Committee for raising this and offering to fund it.

Agreed that permission be granted.

305.12 To Consider Options for Ensuring that the Proposed NSC A370/Bridge Road Junction Improvement Scheme is Included in the 2019/20 Works Programme.

The Chairman read a report from Councillor Dobson. A meeting with David Bailey (NSC Senior Highway Engineer) and the liaison group at Marshalls had reviewed the scheme and discussed white lines hatching, speed limits and signage. The early estimate of cost is over £21,000. Mr Bailey explained that NSC funds are restricted and a contribution from Bleadon PC and Marshalls would help to raise the priority of the scheme. We need to have further discussion with NSC and reach agreement by November 2018 to ensure the scheme goes into the 2019/2020 programme. Marshall's site manager is checking the materials schedule to identify items that Marshalls could provide. An overall 50% contribution would give the scheme a good chance. Councillors noted that there had been two fatal accidents there recently.

Agreed that Councillor Dobson has authority to continue to facilitate progress.

305.13 To Consider NSC Highways' Estimates for Progressing Design Work on Horse Riding Signage and One way Working at the Coronation Hall.

Horse Riding Signage:

Councillor Chinn reported that NSC had explained the parameters for installing horse riding signage:

“The Council [NSC] has developed a process for the installation of Horse Warning signs, being a rural Authority we are mindful that a proliferation of Horse Warning signs on the Districts roads will lead to the message being ignored by the travelling public.

Therefore the Council has developed a process for the implementation of these signs the details of which are included in this email:

These signs are not intended to warn of ridden horses that form part of the general traffic where they may be reasonably expected, such as country roads. Overuse of these signs on rural roads may lead motorists to assume that horses will only be encountered where these signs are present, which is incorrect.

Consideration will only be given to providing these signs where the following criteria are met:

- 1. traffic volumes exceed 500 vehicles per day (□ 40 to 50 vehicles per hour);***
- 2. the location is adjacent to either a stables, paddock or bridleway;***
- 3. the number of riders averages five or more a day, taking into account both regular daily use and higher volumes during weekends and holidays.***

The only Bridleways within the Parish are where Roman Road meets Canada Coombe and at the end of Mearcombe Lane, also to the west is the Bridleway off of Accommodation Road and Toll Road, I understand there is a Stables on Wayacre Drove and therefore there would be justification for erecting Warning Signage on Accommodation Road prior to Wayacre and also where the bridleway emerges. Unfortunately I do not hold information regarding any Stables or Paddocks in the East of the Parish.

Therefore if you are able to identify the Stables or Paddock where horse riders are travelling to and from in order to access the above Bridleways on Roman Road and Mearcombe Lane we can then potentially identify a location which the signs could cover this location as well.

I have to ask if the PC would be willing to contribute the costs two signs would be approximately £500

Unfortunately there is no signage within the Traffic Signs Regulations which advise cyclists to slow down, the same rules apply to them as do all other road users, and any signage would apply to all road users, I have discussed this with my colleagues in Sustainable Transport and they have advise that there is a perception that cyclist are riding fast when in fact there are generally well below the speed limit.

We have not experienced any personal injury accidents involving either cyclists or horse riders within the Parish which would add weight to the erection of signage outside of the normal parameters. Therefore I do not have any other signage which I could suggest, if the PC would like to investigate erecting signage on private land that would be permissible for instance attached to a private building or wall or in a garden overhanging the garden boundary. If you would like further advice regarding this I would be happy to help where I can.”

The Council concluded that the benefit for parishioners was minimal and did not warrant spending £500 from the Council budget.

Agreed that the Council will NOT fund the installation of signs. Clerk will write to the parishioner recommending that s/he contact NSC if desired.

One-way Working:

To improve safety for drivers and pedestrians it had been previously agreed that vehicle access to the car park be one way. NSC owns a strip of land outside the wall and are happy for that to be included in the scheme. A new access through the wall for pedestrians would be provided. It was suggested that the Parish Council and Hall Management Committee share the cost 50/50. Marshalls may provide materials.

Agreed to contribute 50% subject to sight of quotes obtained by Hall Management Committee.

305.14 To Consider Holding Informal Discussions with NSC Planners on Recent Planning Decisions.

Agreed that Councillor Dobson will arrange a meeting between Councillors and NSC Planning Officers.

305.15 To Approve Obtaining Quotations from Tree Surgeons to Undertake a Survey of all Trees and Shrubs in the Churchyard.

Agreed that the Clerk will obtain three quotes from qualified Tree Surgeons for survey and subsequent works. It was noted that any required works would most likely be undertaken in Autumn 2018.

305.16 Provision of a Data Protection Officer Service by NSC.

The General Data Protection Regulations cover the gathering, using and retention of personal information. NSC has offered to provide a Service to Parish Councils and have calculated the cost to Bleadon PC at £563 per year.

Agreed to accept the offer from NSC **subject to** confirming the contractual arrangements. Councillor Chinn and Clerk to liaise

305.17 Request from Cross and Compton Bishop Parish Council to Consider Establishing a Local Joint Parish Council Forum to Discuss Matters of Common Concern.

Agreed that there is benefit in liaising with neighbouring parishes on matters of common concern. Clerk will reply to the Cross and Compton Bishop PC accordingly.

305.19 Renewal of Website Domain Name.

The Council's domain name (bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk) is due for renewal in February. The options are :

- 2 years = £15 plus VAT
- 3 years = £22 plus VAT
- 4 years = £28 plus VAT
- 5 years = £34 plus VAT
- 10 years = £64 plus VAT

Agreed to pay £34 plus VAT with an option to cancel if necessary.

305.19 To Review and Approve the Monthly Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation for January.

A Councillor queried the Youth Club payment due in December. The Interim Clerk confirmed that it had been paid and banked; he will ensure the accounts are updated to show the payment.

Agreed to approve the monthly budget report and bank reconciliation for January noting the above amendment required.

[Subsequent to the meeting £50 income was moved from 'miscellaneous' to 'youth club' in the accounts.]

305.20 To Approve Items of Expenditure and Income.

Expenditure

Chq	Payee	Details	Net	VAT
300752	Maria Bird	Council Phone Bill.	£84.76	
300753	Faye Thomas	January public toilet cleaning	£125.00	
300754	GB Sports	Playground inspection	£15	£3
300755	Bin-It	Dog bin emptying	£70.54	£14.11
300756	Alistair Gill	Village Ranger salary	£312	
300756	Alistair Gill	Village Ranger expenses: Mileage £27.90: Refuse sacks	£32.06	£0.83

		£4.99		
300757	Kevin Barrett	Clerk Salary (January)	£765	
300758	HMRC	PAYE and NI	£78	
300759	Structural Solutions	Engineering Design Services re Churchyard Wall (Final Invoice)	£750	£150
300760	Microshade Business Consultants	Annual charge for laptop anti-virus package	£36	£7.20
300761	Webglu	Renewal of Website Domain Name	£34.00	£6.80

A Councillor requested that Bin-it be asked to confirm the number and location of the dog bins they empty and to confirm that they disinfect the bins as stated on their invoice.

Agreed that the Clerk will contact Bin-it.

Income

Chq		Details	Amount
Cheque	Advertiser	Winter Edition of Bleadon News	£95

305.21 To Receive the Following Reports:

- (a) Allotments – Councillor Sheppard reported that one and a half plots were currently vacant and asked that the Ranger advertises them on the noticeboards. Clerk to arrange.
- (b) Churchyard – No report.
- (c) Footpaths & Bridleways – Councillor Sheppard reported that the footpath between Rectory Lane and Bleadon House was very muddy and perhaps Marshals could provide scalplings or similar to infill. Clerk to liaise with Councillor Dobson to discuss with Marshalls.
- (d) Roads & Transport – Potholes in Purn Way have been reported to NSC as have those by the curry house on the A370. Also reported were the faded white lines on the A370 - they are already very faint and presumably not up to standard when painted.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow a parishioner to speak.

A parishioner stated that the pothole on Purn Way by the croquet lawn had been filled, however those where cars turn round at the end are still there. On NSC's website there is an option to report potholes (Road and Pavement Issues <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/do-it-online/connect/>). The Chairman thanked the member of the public for this information.

Standing orders were reinstated.

- (e) Marshalls Liaison – Councillors have received complaints about the lighting and noise from evening and night-time working. The heavy goods vehicle movements were also causing concern as it seemed that sub-contracted lorries were not following the agreed haulage route, namely Bridge Road only. The next Liaison meeting is on 22 March.
- (f) Children's Playground – no report.
- (g) Newsletter – The Chairman will contact the Editor to ensure the Spring edition is prepared soon.
- (h) Website – no report.
- (i) Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety – No report.

305.22 To Receive the Following Brief Holders' Reports:

- 1) Coronation Hall – The Chairman update the meeting regarding the January Hall Committee Meeting.
- 2) Youth Club – 28 young people are registered and around 20 attend regularly. They are from Bleadon, Bleadon Hill and Lympsham. The banner on the Youth Club building will be renewed shortly. Christmas events were over-subscribed, showing the popularity of the Club. It will be open during half-term and Easter school holidays, serving the village. Young people may be involved with village planting displays subject to Risk Assessment and Supervision. The Youth Club and the Hall Committee work together to manage bookings at busy times. The lease is due for renewal and the Chairman confirmed that the Trustees (not the Youth Club Committee) should write to the Parish Council detailing the information they wish to discuss.
- 3) ALCA – No report.
- 4) Chairman – No report.

305.23 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting.

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

305.24 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.

The public left the meeting at 8.46pm.

304.22 To Consider the Recommendations of the Vexatious Persons Sub-Committee Held on 1st February, 2018.

Agreed to confirm the recommendation of the Vexatious Persons Sub-Committee subject to the amendments. Clerk to write to the named parishioners confirming the decision.

Bleadon Parish Council resolves to extend the decision made under its Vexatious Communications Policy not to respond, other than a standard acknowledgement, to any communication from two named parishioners whether jointly, individually or via their social media.

The reasons for this decision are:

1. The time taken by responding to these communications is excessive and distracts from serving the whole parish of Bleadon.
2. The two named parishioners appear to be using their social media continually to attack the Parish Council and Councillors without regard to the positive actions of the Council.
3. Many of the communications received are repetitive.

Bleadon Parish Council consists of parishioners who have been elected as councillors or who have volunteered to serve on the Council. Councillors give of their time, experience, knowledge and effort on behalf of the parishioners of Bleadon, and the Parish Council, as a recognised tier of local government, is legally and constitutionally representative of the residents of Bleadon. The Parish Council acts in accordance with its Standing Orders and according to the law governing local government procedures.

This decision to be reviewed in one year's time.

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

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Chairman