

FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FLAX BOURTON
MONDAY 9th October 2017

Meeting Commenced: 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.45pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs Moss (Chair), Mrs Ellis, Lillington, Higgins and Phillips. Clerk: Sarah Jezard.

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 member of the public present.

1. To note any apologies for absence

Councillor Mrs Buckley (Arrived 7.40pm).

2. To receive Councillors' declarations of interest in items on the agenda and to consider any written applications for dispensations.

None declared.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11th September 2017.

It was resolved to approve and sign the minutes of Monday 11th September 2017. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Buckley and seconded by Councillor Lillington; vote taken and all in favour.

4. Financial reports

To approve the monthly expenditure, budgetary control and bank reconciliation reports.

All three reports were taken en bloc and it was resolved to approve the cashbook, budgetary control and bank reconciliation reports for September. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Ellis and seconded by Councillor Higgins; vote taken and all in favour.

Councillors reviewed the planned monthly expenditure for October 2017, detailed as follows;

Flax Bourton Youth Group July	568.75	0.00	568.75
Staff salaries	844.42	0.00	844.42
August playground inspection	24.00	4.00	20.00
September playground inspection	96.00	16.00	80.00
Bin-it Dog Bins	105.82	17.64	88.18

Councillor reimbursement	33.70	0.00	33.70
Clerk reimbursement - New Laptop Charger	30.00	5.00	25.00
Clerk reimbursement - lever arch files	6.99	0.00	6.99
Clerk reimbursement - Postage	7.80	0.00	7.80
Clerk reimbursement	44.98	0.00	44.98
HMRC PAYE Quarterly Payment - Sept	127.96	0.00	127.96
TOTAL	£1,890.42	£42.64	£1,847.78

It was resolved to approve expenditure £1,890.42 for October 2017. Proposed by Councillor Higgins and seconded by Councillor Lillington; vote taken and all in favour.

5. To sign NatWest Bank forms and resolve to make Councillor Mrs Ellis a signatory on the account and remove Councillor Windo.

It was resolved that 'the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 2, be changed in accordance with sections 5 and 6 and current mandate will continue as amended.'

The NatWest bank forms were subsequently signed.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss and seconded by Councillor Phillips; vote taken and all in favour.

6. To provide an update on Councillor recruitment.

Clerk advised that following the resignation of Councillor Windo, the Returning Officer at North Somerset Council had been notified of the vacancy and the Notice of Vacancy has been posted on the website and noticeboards.

If by 19 October, 2017 (14 working days after the date of the notice) a request for an election to fill the vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer at Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ by TEN electors for the Parish (or parish ward if warded) an election will be held to fill the vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

If the vacancy is to be filled by co-option, the vacancy will be advertised for a further 14 days.

Councillor Phillips also tendered his resignation after a number of years' service to the Parish Council. Councillor Mrs Moss thanked Councillor Phillips for his support and commitment to the Parish Council. The above process regarding the Notice of Vacancy will now be followed for this additional vacancy.

Councillor Mrs Ellis requested specific email addresses for Councillors and the Clerk suggested this could be incorporated into the online strategy and website redesign project.

7. Planning, Licensing and Development:

- Local Development (Core Strategy) - No update.
- Settlement profile has been submitted.
- Still awaiting an update on the Morgan Place appeal.
- 17/P/1745/F - Land adjacent to The Sumachs and Peels House, Flax Bourton - Applicant has withdrawn the application for two new dwellings.

8. To discuss progress with the Parish Council's lease of Designated Community Land (DCL) adjoining the school from North Somerset Council.

Work is due to start on 23rd October 2017 on the school expansion. Councillor Mrs Moss expressed a concern about the work starting given so many outstanding issues. She also asked if the school will be notifying the parents of this development in light of children's safety and traffic.

With the work planned for 23rd October, the proposal is to open up the entrance to the school which will be over the Designated Community Land. However, the purchase of this land by North Somerset Council hasn't taken place yet. The following points were noted;

- FBPC has been told it is NSC's intention to purchase the freehold but until this happens, there can be no further progress on the lease to FBPC.
- Despite chasing, FBPC has not yet heard back from the Trustees of the Wraxall Estate on the lease of the additional land but it is assumed this will progress once the purchase of the freehold takes place.
- The Youth Club will need to surrender their lease of the land but they can't do this to NSC as the land is still owned by the Trustees of the Wraxall Estate.
- An email and letter about the water supply to the Youth Club has been received stating that the water supply needs to go back to the mains on the main road now that the Youth Club has been demolished. The Youth Club has been quoted £3,000 to do this. However, if FBPC can get this to be a lockable tap on site that could be used for the expansion works and the DCL, the price for this would be £39 per year. There will be additional work required to do this and this needs to be fully costed.
- Councillor Mrs Moss asked if the Parish Council would consider taking on the responsibility of the pipe and water supply. Councillor Mrs Buckley said she would be happy to look into how this could be done and come back to the council with a proposal and quotes/costs of implementation and maintenance.
- Clerk agreed to email Rob Wellman from the Youth Club and arrange a meeting with Rob and Carol onsite at the Youth Club.
- It was agreed that consideration also needs to be given to the electricity supply and whether or not this needs to be maintained.
- Finally, FBPC needs to understand what the responsibilities are as leaseholder and make sure the freeholder is also happy with our proposal. FBPC needs to ensure these responsibilities are written into the lease.
- Clerk also needs to speak to Rob Wellman to ensure he has settled final bills on the electricity and water.

9. To update on progress with speed limits on Station Road, Flax Bourton.

Councillor Mrs Moss provided an update on a meeting with Rob Thompson of the Highways Department at NSC, attended by Councillor Mrs Moss, Councillor Higgins and Sarah Jezard, Clerk.

She stated that the existing proposal is for the existing 60mph speed limit from the school to Clevedon Road to be reduced to 40mph. Councillor Mrs Moss and Councillor Higgins suggested this should actually be 30mph rather than 40mph given it is a small, country road and school traffic will be increased.

However, Rob Thompson said that this road had been assessed and felt that a 40mph was appropriate for this stretch of road and was consistent with other highways of this nature. He stated that regulations were being stretched to reduce the limit from 60 to 40 and that research showed drivers drove to the conditions anyway and not the speed limit.

He suggested a speed survey could be conducted by NSC to ensure the proposal of a 40mph speed limit is correct. If the average speed is closer to 30mph, this would be taken into account. He said he will advise FBPC when setting up speed monitors and results and this is expected in November. Councillors Higgins and Mrs Moss agreed with this proposal and also mentioned that a survey had already been conducted by Cambria and that this had concluded an average speed of 32mph.

Rob Thompson advised that following this, NSC would propose a full end-to-end plan for the whole of Station Road which would include proposals for signage alerting drivers to the school, clear notification of speed limits, rumble strips on approach to the school and the weight limit for lorries. It was suggested that the flashing lights for 20mph by the school would remain in place.

10. To discuss playground repair quotes and agree required repairs.

Three quotes for playground repairs were presented by the Clerk. It was decided that G.B.Sport was the preferred provider to complete the works given their competitive quote, professionalism and knowledge of the playground.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss and seconded by Councillor Higgins; vote taken and all in favour.

11. Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute.

Councillor Buckley has mentioned the planned commemoration of the end of the war to the school. However, confirmation is still required of their involvement and Councillor Buckley is going to progress discussions with them in order that we can have a decision before the end of the year.

12. To receive an update on the progress of actions from previous meetings.

- As detailed above, Notice of Vacancy issued to NSC for position of Councillor
- NatWest forms submitted to bank to remove previous Clerk as signatory and add new Clerk.
- NSC Council have been informed that FBPC no longer require play inspections through their existing provider and these will now be done by GB Sport.

13. Open forum.

Stancombe Quarry Fund

Councillor Mrs Moss provided an update on the Stancombe Quarry Fund meeting and stated the following;

- Tarmac is now quarrying in the Spinney area. They have plans to build a public viewing area and environmental country walk along the edge of the site.
- Tarmac expect to submit an application for the variation of their licence to operate the asphalt plant at night as they are needing to respond quickly to requests for asphalt for night road repairs.
- The road sweeper has been in operation in the village w/c 2nd October.
- Councillor Mrs Moss stated that the Village Orderly had reported anti-social behaviour in the lay by at the end of Stancombe Lane which was suspected to be related to drivers staying overnight before the quarry opens. Tarmac will investigate.

Quarry Fund Grants

Seven applications were considered – 4 from Flax Bourton, 2 from Backwell and 1 from Barrow Gurney.

St Michael's Church Flax Bourton was awarded £510 for Spring bulbs for the Cemetery. Flax Bourton PTA was awarded £5,000 for outside furniture and gardening equipment. Flax Bourton Youth Club were awarded £905.66 for new play/activity equipment. An application from the Flax Bourton Village Fete Committee was considered and they have been asked to submit an amended application for March.

Increase in traffic because of the new link road.

An increase in traffic due to the new link road was noted. The question was asked if we could lobby the council to phase the traffic better through the Backwell Village traffic lights as it is especially bad from 4pm onwards during the week.

Clerk will speak to Jane Stone, Clerk at Backwell Parish Council and Councillor Lillington will speak to Bob Taylor.

Walking bus at the school

Councillor Mrs Buckley highlighted the need for a lollipop lady by the school and a walking bus to take children to school. She stated that funding is not available to do this from the school. Councillor Mrs Moss asked Councillor Mrs Buckley to come back to the council with details of the required funding and actions required to implement the walking bus. Councillor Lillington also suggested he may be able to advise who could assist with the funding of this.

Cycle path

New signs on the cycle path are due to go up alerting cyclists that the path is a shared pathway for cyclists and walkers.

Defibrillator

Given a recent email from Siston Parish Council about the failure of the defibrillator process, it was suggested holding another public event about the defibrillator. Clerk to speak to AED to find out how much it would cost for them to host this event. Consider holding at the school.

Budget for next year

Sarah Jezard to start considering the 2018/2019 budget, include DCL etc.

14. The next meeting of Flax Bourton Parish Council is on Monday 13th November 2017 at 7.30pm at Flax Bourton Village Hall

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed

Dated