

FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FLAX BOURTON
MONDAY 11th June 2018

Meeting Commenced: 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.50pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs Moss, Mrs Ellis (Vice Chair), Mrs Buckley, Higgins, Lillington, Burton and Walker. Clerk: Sarah Jezard.

APOLOGIES: None

IN ATTENDANCE: 15-20 members of the public present.

30 minutes were open to the public.

Councillor Higgins provided an update on the JSP and Local Plan 2016-2036. He stated the JSP sits above the Local Plan and includes the 4 local authorities that form the West of England. The four strategic development locations identified in the JSP are Banwell, Churchill, Backwell and Nailsea and the target number of developments is 105,000 (could be up to 140,000). 25,000 of these are allocated to North Somerset Council.

The JSP consultation closed in January 2018. Flax Bourton Parish Council submitted comments and is currently analysing the responses. The Local Plan 2036 has to support the JSP and planning is underway on the expectation the JSP will be approved.

The issue of settlement hierarchies was discussed. In terms of residential development, the top priority is Weston, then Nailsea, Clevedon and Portishead. The service villages follow e.g Backwell, Long Ashton, Banwell etc. The lowest tier is the infill villages such as Flax Bourton.

One person commented that the large development in Backwell will have a significant impact on transport and wanted to know what is being done about this? Councillor Higgins stated this is dependent on the results of the route options assessment due for consultation in the Autumn.

The question was asked about the area between Farleigh Green and the main part of Flax Bourton. If boundaries were changed, greater services would be required which could result in Flax Bourton becoming a larger village. There was a concern that a lot of agricultural land owned by the Trustees of the Wraxall Estate is being promoted by the Trustees for development and could join us with Backwell. Such land in Flax Bourton is all within the green belt.

One resident stated we are short of houses. However, if we are to accept the local plan, where are the houses going to go? Settlement boundaries were set 60 years ago and they restrict development. Another resident raised a concern about the right type of houses

being built but there was a feeling that it could be better to do controlled development. It was also stated there are no shops in Flax Bourton and it would be nice to have more of a village and not to have to drive to a service village. There is some appetite for this.

If the route options assessment means there will be a link to the M5 and a new road will come out at Cambridge Batch, concerns were raised about the impact of the traffic at Long Ashton. However, it was stated that while the line had been drawn on the map, it was by no means set in stone.

The general feeling however was that it is difficult to comment on the settlement boundaries and greenbelt as it is not yet known where the transport links are going to be which automatically forces you into a defensive position. Without the infrastructure, no decision can be made.

Other issues raised by residents included;

- There are piles of waste tar macadam in Flax Bourton near the railway line that have been raised as a concern. Councillor Moss stated that she had asked for these to be removed repeatedly. It was agreed that FBPC will raise this again with the Trustees of the Wraxall Estate.
- One resident suggested we should take a combined effort to the JSP and Local Plan response with Wraxall and Failand Parish Council.
- The recent Dig for Victory Festival was raised by several residents as having been very loud and disruptive late into the evening. Residents were concerned how much the noise travels and affects residents. The loud gun that went off late frightened residents with children and animals. Some stated they thought it was a bomb and the ground was shaking. FBPC agreed to pass these concerns to the North Somerset Agricultural Society who let the ground out. Councillor Mrs Buckley also stated she would speak to NSC about the noise pollution and restrictions on such land.
- Concerns were raised about the speed of traffic on the A370 and subsequent accidents near Charlton Nursery. Councillor Mrs Moss communicated the outcome of a recent meeting with the Highways Department at North Somerset Consultant and the planned speed and pedestrian check on the A370. Consideration will be given to better signage of the speed limit and possible crossing points, but this is dependent on the results of the speed check and pedestrian usage. Full support was given by residents for 30mph markings on the road if that is a possibility.
- A question was asked about the operational hours of the quarry. A resident was concerned about hearing lorries very early in the morning. Councillor Moss stated the only thing that should happen at night is the production of asphalt. The resident was asked to record times and dates of any night time activity and report back to the Parish Council if the problem persists.
- Concerns were raised about the visibility at the top of Post Office Lane when pulling out onto the A370. The overgrown hedges do not help.
- The grass verges need to be cut on the footpath from Church Lane. Clerk to raise with Glendale.

1. To note any apologies for absence.

None noted.

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

Councillor Walker declared an interest in planning application 18/P/3013/FUH.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council held on Monday 14th May 2018.

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council held on Monday 14th May 2018. Proposed by Councillor Moss and seconded by Councillor Walker. Vote taken and all in favour.

4. Planning, Licensing and Development

a. Joint Spatial Study update.

Councillor Higgins provided an update on the JSP and stated it has been submitted to the Secretary of State and a decision is expected in Spring 2019.

b. Local Development Plan (Core Strategy).

It was agreed that Councillor Higgins will draft a statement stating that while there is some small enthusiasm for development in the village, this could not be decided upon until the transport links and route options are better understood.

c. Neighbourhood Plan – do we need one? Councillors Higgins and Mrs Moss stated they went to see Celia Dring in the NSC Planning Department re: a Neighbourhood plan. It was noted that a neighbourhood plan must include development in the area and given there are no current plans to offer development, the recommendation to the council is that a neighbourhood plan is not appropriate at this time. However, it was stated that this could be reviewed when more is known about the new infrastructure development and JSP. When it comes to this stage, it was suggested a questionnaire to all residents may be appropriate to gauge residents' views.

d. Bristol Airport Consultation – It was felt the latest consultation did not address any of the previous comments made by Flax Bourton Parish Council. It was resolved to repeat the comments made previously to Bristol Airport. Proposed by Councillor Moss; seconded by Councillor Higgins. Vote taken and all in favour.

e. To agree the appointment of a Transport Adviser to advise on the upcoming 'Route Options Assessment' Consultation. Actual route assessment to be in September 2018 but emerging findings should be out soon, over the next week. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for July.

f. To discuss any issues raised on the following applications:

App no	Address	Request	Parish Council Comments
18/P/3131/LBC	Farleigh Church Old Weston Road Flax Bourton	Redesign of internal configuration of chapel & addition of internal glazed screens	Unable to comment as this is a listed building.
18/P/3013/FUH	2 Post Office Lane Flax Bourton Bristol BS48 3PZ	Alterations to existing garage/store/office to create annex accommodation	Support - no objections.

5. 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 and budgetary control reports for June 2018 and the bank reconciliation reports for May. Expenditure of £1,702.99 for June was approved, detailed below.

Flax Bourton Youth Group June	568.75	0.00	568.75
GBSport and Leisure	96.00	16.00	80.00
NSC Training - GDPR Briefing	19.20	3.20	16.00
Clerk reimbursement - printing	12.40	2.07	10.33
Clerk reimbursement - printing	2.40	0.40	2.00
Clerk reimbursement - postage	6.50	0.00	6.50
Clerk reimbursement - postage	6.50	0.00	6.50
Clerk reimbursement - Stationary	5.50	0.00	5.50
Clerk reimbursement - printing	30.00	5.01	24.99
Clerk reimbursement - printing	44.98	7.50	37.48
Clerk reimbursement - printing	18.00	3.00	15.00
Staff salaries	892.76	0.00	892.76

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

6. To formally approve the cost of living salary increases for the Clerk and Village Orderly, backdated to April 2018.

Cost of living increases for Clerk and Village Orderly approved. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss and seconded by Councillor Mrs Ellis. Vote taken and all in favour.

7. To re-adopt the Financial Regulations.

It was resolved to re-adopt the financial regulations from 10th January 2017. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss and seconded by Councillor Mrs Ellis. Vote take and all in favour.

8. To adopt the new Complaints Policy June 2018.

It was resolved to adopt the new complaints policy. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss and seconded by Councillor Walker. Vote taken and all in favour.

9. GDPR

a. Update

The Clerk stated that as of 25th May 2018, positive consent had been obtained by c. 80% of residents on the email list and that a new list for marketing has now been created along with a spreadsheet to monitor positive consent. A plan is in place now to fully audit all documentation. The issue of individual Councillor registration with the ICO was raised. Clerk to confirm with ALCA if this is required for all Councillors.

b. To adopt the new GDPR General Privacy Policy and Councillors Privacy Policy. It was resolved to adopt the Councillors Policy. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss and seconded by Councillor Walker. Vote taken and all in favour. A concern was raised about a section in the General Privacy Policy. This will be raised with ALCA and be brought back to the July meeting for approval.

c. Next steps – Full audit of all Parish Council files held in the Parish Hall.

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

- The lease is still being finalised and is back with North Somerset Council.
- A plan for the DCL needs to be drawn up as a priority in order that the working group can define a proposed specification for the land to send to North Somerset Council. This needs to be done prior to the lease being signed. Clerk to speak to Surveyors about drawing up a map/plan of the land to help the working group define this specification.
- The water supply on the old Youth Club site is to be closed off and NSC will pay for this. FBPC no longer require this water supply.

11. To update the Council on the meeting with the Highways Department.

As per attached meeting note. (See Below)

12. To agree the quote to replace the noticeboard on Station Road.

It was resolved to accept the quote from Earth Anchors for a colour coated notice board for Station Road. Proposed by Councillor Moss and seconded by Councillor Walker. Vote taken and all in favour.

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

- Meeting held with the Highways Department to discuss traffic issues in the village – see minute 11 and associated meeting note.
- GDPR data audit in progress.

14. Open forum.

An opportunity to propose any items for the next agenda including any relevant issues raised by the public.

Councillor Burton reported a hole in the football pitch with a spike sticking out which he said is dangerous. Clerk to find out the details of the Long Ashton Football Club so that Councillor Walker can get this sorted out.

Flowers in the village will now be done by two local parishioners. The Parish Council is very thankful of their offer of help and offered their thanks to Councillor George Phillips and his wife who have kindly done the flowers in the village for many years.

The hedge at the cricket club needs to be cut and is encroaching on the pathway on the A370. Councillor Walker will speak to the cricket club and FBPC will write to the Wraxall Trustees re: getting the hedge cut.

15. The next meeting of Flax Bourton Parish Council is on Monday 9th July 2018 at 7.30pm at Flax Bourton Village Hall.

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

Signed Dated

DRAFT

Meeting with Highways Department, NSC – Monday 11th June, 2018

Attendees: Rob Thomson (Highways Dept. NSC)
Councillor Mrs Moss
Clerk, Sarah Jezard

Meeting called at the request of Councillor Moss to consider the speed limit and traffic issues affecting certain parts of Flax Bourton.

1. Speed limit on Station Road

Following the speed check conducted on Station Road at the end of 2017, the results were as follows;

At Festival Way the results were...
7-day average speed: 28.6 mph
7-day 85th %ile speed: 30.9 mph

At Mill Cottage the results were...
7-day average speed: 20.8 mph
7-day 85th %ile speed: 22.3 mph

Despite the results of the speed check, the Highways Department recommended the speed limit is reduced to 40mph from 60mph for this part of the road. The meeting today was to challenge that decision. Councillor Moss expressed concern that the results on part of the road near Mill Cottage were c. 20mph so couldn't understand why the limit was to be set at 40mph rather than 30mph. Rob Thomson stated that a 40mph limit was most appropriate for this part of the road and is in keeping with the nature of the road. Roads that generally have lots of residential properties and are built up tend to have a 30mph but country/rural roads tend to be set at 60mph. Our request for 30mph has also been put to Councillor Ap Rees (the North Somerset Councillor in charge) and he has requested it not be reduced below 40mph. The principal for setting limits are 1. They aim to be set at 85% of the speed of users; 2. Set at a level more likely to be respected; 3. Dependent on how built up the area is. If we are still unhappy with this, we can address this directly with Councillor Ap Rees. We will also have the opportunity to comment when this traffic proposal is advertised shortly.

2. Traffic speed on the A370

Concerns were raised about the speed of the traffic along the A370 and throughout the village. As you enter the village from Bristol along the A370, the speed limit goes very quickly from 50mph to 30mph and the signage is poor. FBPC has been informed of some accidents in the vicinity of Charlton nursery.

It was also noted that the 'slow down' signs do not seem to be operating at either end of the village. Rob Thomson to refer this to signage repair at NSC.

Rob Thomson agreed to make an assessment of the road in terms of traffic speed and pedestrian traffic with consideration to a zebra crossing or refuge crossing/central crossing point. However, he stated that if there are insufficient pedestrians, drivers can become blind to a crossing and don't stop. This assessment will be conducted over the next month or so at school times to ensure maximum pedestrian traffic. This will monitor speed as well.

If residents wish to monitor the speed of the traffic more thoroughly, it will cost c. £400 to place 2 radar traffic guns at the beginning and end of the village for a few days. Rob Thomson will provide a quote.

It was asked if signage could be improved on the A370. Rob Thomson stated that this would be looked as part of the assessment. While it is not possible to place traffic signs on street lights, or other sites on the edge of the road, he said he would consider if street markings would be worthwhile. Councillor Moss pointed out there was only one 30mph sign at the start of the village which was difficult to see due to overgrown hedges. Anyone joining the road at Station Road would not see a 30mph sign. Road markings need to be clearer.

The accidents that have happened recently near Charlton were also flagged to Rob Thomson. Rob had a full list of accidents as notified by the Police. Not all accidents reported to the Police go to NSC and the recent ones at Charlton were not on the list suggesting they were minor bumps and no casualties. The only accidents that are flagged are those where someone had a minor injury and were taken to outpatients or A&E (marked with a green star) and three where there was a serious injury (yellow star). There were none with a fatality (red star).

3. School Frontage

It is proposed the section of Station Road near the school will continue to be 20mph following the school expansion. A full proposal including road markings and signage, will be developed over the next month and will go to consultation. NSC will inform us when this will be.

4. Additional note

Accident reports revealed that 3 accidents were due to a failure of drivers realising cars ahead were at a standstill or careless, attempted overtaking.