

FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FLAX BOURTON
MONDAY 26th November 2018

Meeting Commenced: 7.36pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.10pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: There were 3 members of the public present.

1. To note any apologies for absence.

Councillor Walker could not attend due to work commitments.

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

None declared.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th October 2018.

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th October 2018. Proposed by Councillor Moss and seconded by Councillor Higgins. Vote taken and all in favour.

4. Guest speaker – Jason Pearce, Gigaclear.

Jason Pearce sent his apologies and advised an update would be more appropriate in the Spring.

5. To discuss the following grant applications;

Clerk stated the purpose of the grant application discussion was to allow Councillors the opportunity to ask questions about the grant applications submitted. Clerk stated all applications would be considered as part of the budget process throughout December and January with a final decision being made on the 14th January 2019 when the budget and precept are finalised.

a. Youth Club

The Youth Club has been in existence for 30 years and provides a range of Youth Work Opportunities to young people in the area. The grant from the Parish Council is needed to keep the Youth Club going as it costs £189 per session (i.e. per week) to run. This cost is for a company called Foreal which provides the youth services. The Youth Club stated the Senior Youth Club session hasn't evolved as expected and has remained at a maximum of

3 attendees. The anticipated movement up of junior members to this section did not materialise after the summer. In summary, overall numbers were down.

The Council asked the following questions;

- Are the subs paid to the Youth Club sufficient to pay for the services provided and could the Youth Club consider charging more?
- Can the Parish Council have greater clarity over the subscription money and separate this from the tuck shop money?
- Have the subs ever increased from £1? Could this be considered at the AGM in January?
- Could fees be paid termly rather than weekly/on an attendance basis?
- Could the Youth Club be marketed/promoted better?
- What other fundraising activities are planned for next year?

The Parish Council thanked representatives for their work in helping to run the club and expressed their appreciation of the work of the volunteers. The Council also welcomed the inventive fund raising by the Youth Club this year.

b. Cricket Club

Backwell and Flax Bourton Cricket Club has been in existence for 140 years. The club is seeking £30k altogether to fund the purchase of new nets for the club. Specifically, the cricket club has applied for a grant of £8k from Flax Bourton Parish Council as well as funds from Backwell Parish Council, the Stancombe Quarry Fund and possibly Cricket Somerset. The club suggested that if the Parish Council could not afford £8k in a lump sum, would they consider £8k over 4 years if they were take a loan out from Sport England?

Councillors raised the following questions;

- Is the current level of membership fees to the club sufficient? The Council questioned the membership fee income in the 2017 accounts as it did not appear to reflect the stated membership numbers and hoped that the 2018 accounts would clarify this.
- How much is currently held in reserves? Councillors asked to see the full set of accounts, due 29th November 2018 following the Cricket Club AGM.
- How desperate are the club for the money? The Council was told the nets could possibly last for another year but not long after that.
- Are there are any other plans for further fundraising?

The Parish Council thanked representatives for their work in helping to run the club and expressed their appreciation of the work of the volunteers.

c. Lifeskills Charity

Application not yet received.

6. Planning, Licencing and Development

a. West of England Joint Spatial Plan – Technical Evidence Work Consultation.

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The proposed new road is a link from the station at Backwell to Farleigh, Flax Bourton. It is no longer a proposed link to the end of the Long Ashton bypass. The JSP states that more efficient routes have now been looked at. The timescale for the new infrastructure to support the JSP is 2024 – 2032 with an estimated cost of £296 – £328 million.

Roger Key of Key Transport Consultants has been commissioned to review the November 2018 JSP Transport Documents referenced WED 002, 004D, 004G, 007 and 008 to identify and report the transport issues of significance for Flax Bourton Parish Council. A meeting with Roger Key is planned for Tuesday 4th December, 2018.

Given a cost of up to £3k had previously been agreed for transport or planning consultancy, this work has already been commissioned.

However, the Council were asked to formally and retrospectively approve the cost of £2,450 plus VAT for stage 1 of the work, as well as approve a cost of £1,850 if required for stage 2. This would be dependent on the results of stage 2 and will be discussed at the next meeting on the 10th December 2018.

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

The final date for responses to this consultation is the 7th January 2018.

b. North Somerset Local Plan 2036 – Issues and Options Consultation.

Councillor Higgins has circulated a revised version of the Parish Council's response to the Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation. Key changes to note are as follows;

Qu4 – Information about the long awaited Portishead connection has been added. Should this be put in place, it would open up opportunity for further development, would be cheaper to implement and provide a direct line into Bristol.

Qu5 – Greenbelt. Flax Bourton Parish Council is happy for some consideration and review of the greenbelt in the village. It also supports a full review of the greenbelt in North Somerset, not just in specific sections such as The Vale. This review is encouraged as currently all new development in Backwell and Nailsea, will result in increased traffic into Bristol, all of which will be directed through Flax Bourton. This could result in an additional 2,000 cars per hour. While this traffic may head in different directions, it would still have a massive impact on the village.

Councillor Mrs Moss stated that if we review the greenbelt, there is a danger that this may negatively impact Flax Bourton but the biggest concern is the infrastructure across Backwell Common into Flax Bourton at present. The other three unitary councils in the JSP process are recommending a review of the greenbelt. North Somerset Council is the only Council not recommending a review.

Qu 19 – moving traffic congestion from traffic lights at Backwell to Flax Bourton. An alternative connection to the B3128 shown in the Issues and Options consultation doesn't appear to be in the JSP at present.

Qu 20 – concern expressed about the increased traffic per hour. The proposal to funnel all traffic through Flax Bourton prompts the strategic question of whether the proposed Strategic Development Locations are in the right place given the sheer impact of the traffic.

Councillors are all in agreement on the draft of the Local Plan – Issues and Options response. Comments from Roger Key will be included after the meeting on the 4th December.

Next steps and dates:

- 4th December 2018 – Meet with Roger Key and input comments into Local Plan response.
- 5th December 2018 – Circulate final response to Councillors for comment and sign off.
- 10th December 2018 – Submit final Local Plan response to North Somerset Council.
- 10th December 2018 - Retrospectively approve the final response to the Issues and Options Consultation at the Parish Council meeting.
- 10th December 2018 to early January 2019 - Finalise JSP Transport Response.
- 7th January 2019 – Submit JSP Transport response.
- 14th January 2019 – Retrospectively approve the final response to the JSP Transport Consultation at the Parish Council meeting.

c. Nailsea Corridor Improvements.

Already discussed in previous agenda item.

d. To ratify the decisions made on the following planning applications.

18/P/4291/FUH - Bay House, Main Road, Flax Bourton BS48 3QQ.

Flax Bourton Parish Council supports the application.

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

18/P/4407/FUL – Land adjacent to Sumachs and Peel House, Old Weston Road, Flax Bourton.

Flax Bourton Parish Council objects to the application.

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

7. 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 November 2018 and the bank reconciliation reports for September. Expenditure of £3,179.31 for November was approved, detailed below.

	Gross	VAT	Net
Flax Bourton Youth Group June	568.75	0.00	568.75
Glendale Grounds Management Ltd	1,156.00	186.00	970.00
Councillor reimbursement	37.08	6.18	30.90
Siserone Ltd	252.00	42.00	210.00
G.B. Sport and Leisure	120.00	20.00	100.00
Staff salaries	869.68	0.00	869.68
PAYE	175.80	0.00	175.80
TOTAL	3179.31	254.18	2925.13

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss and seconded by Councillor Mrs Buckley; Vote taken and all in favour. Two speed assessments – total cost £420. These had been agreed by all Councillors by email and were formally ratified in the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss and seconded by Councillor Mrs Ellis; vote taken and all in favour.

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

Agreed to ask North Somerset Council (NSC) to ensure the environmental search of the land is conducted, at a cost to NSC. Clerk to check with Thrings the exact wording that needs to be stated on an indemnity in the lease.

Culvert – The fencing has gone up around the culvert. Clerk to ask NSC for an onsite meeting to discuss drainage.

9. To report on progress with the speed limit and traffic calming measures on the A370.

Clerk reported that speed assessments have been requested. Clerk to follow up to see if the assessment is in progress.

10. North Somerset Parking Review

A parking review is underway and Flax Bourton Parish Council has been asked for comments on any matters of concern.

It was reported that some residents have mentioned cars parked for periods of time in certain areas of the village which could be airport parking. The following question was raised ‘Is it the cost of airport parking that is making people park here and get a taxi to the airport?’. It was also reported that white lines in the village are ineffective e.g. at the top of Post Office Lane.

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

It was reported that 2 of the new football post fittings have gone missing and the groundsman at Backwell School hasn’t yet been paid by Long Ashton Football Club. Councillor Burton to follow this up.

The tarmacadam between Post Office Lane and the cycle path has still not been removed. Clerk to report to NSC. Residents have also questioned the high level of the repaired track against the access gates. Clerk to refer the question to the NSC.

12. Open forum.

The pathway at Farleigh Green was raised as a concern as it is overgrown. Clerk to alert NSC and ask residents to also inform NSC online.

13. Parish Council Succession Planning

This will be discussed before the Parish Council meeting on 14th January 2018. The Succession planning meeting will be at 6.30pm and the Council meeting will be at 7.30pm.

The next meeting of Flax Bourton Parish Council will be 7.30pm on Monday 10th December 2018 at Flax Bourton Village Hall.

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

Signed Dated

DRAFT