

FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FLAX BOURTON
MONDAY 14th January 2019

Meeting Commenced: 7.30pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.50pm

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

APOLOGIES: None.

IN ATTENDANCE: There were 2 members of the public present.

1. To note any apologies for absence.

None.

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 10th December 2018.

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th December 2018. Proposed by Councillor Moss and seconded by Councillor Higgins. Vote taken and all in favour.

4. Planning, Licencing and Development

North Somerset Local Plan 2036

Councillor Higgins has been reviewing the responses from the Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation. Councillor Walker to review the comments from Taylor Wimpey and report back to the Council.

West of England Spatial Plan – Technical Evidence Work Consultation November 2018

- **To discuss the output from Key Transport Consultants and retrospectively approve the Parish Council's response from the 7th January 2019.**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss, seconded by Councillor Walker. Vote taken and all in favour.

- **To discuss the next steps in the Consultation process.**

It was noted JLTP4, the latest Transport Paper, is due for consultation in February 2019. Clerk has requested a quote for this work from Key Transport Consultants to advise on this. Clerk to confirm exact timings of the consultation.

- **To discuss the Parish Council's response, and retrospectively approve where applicable, to the following planning applications;**

18/P/5118/ OUT	Bristol Airport	See planning application online at North Somerset Council Planning Applications.
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This consultation runs to 26th January 2019. It was noted there are 4 design and access statements which need to be reviewed. Councillor Mrs Buckley agreed to review and feedback to Councillor Higgins.

Councillor Higgins to draft a response to the consultation, for approval by the Council.

18/P/4925/FUL	Bathing Pond Field, Bristol Road, Wraxall	Improvements to existing access from block of land to Bristol Road, B3031 including removal of 40m of hedge and replanting of new hedge
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Flax Bourton Parish Council supports this planning application on the basis that North Somerset Council applies the same visibility splay that has been applied to other applications along that stretch of road, as well as ensuring that all replanting is carried out before the entrance is used.

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

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 January 2019 and the bank reconciliation reports for December. Expenditure of £1,913.72 for January was approved, detailed below.

Flax Bourton Youth Group January	568.75	0.00	568.75
Staff salaries	869.68	0.00	869.68
Bin it Dog Waste Solutions	126.43	21.07	105.36
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G.B. Sport and Leisure	96.00	16.00	80.00
TOTAL	1,913.72	79.21	1,834.51

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

To finalise the decision on the grant applications for 2019/2020.

The Council agreed to grant the Youth Club a grant of £6,825, to be paid

monthly.

With regret, the Council declined applications for the Cricket Club and Lifeskills Charity due to limited funds and extensive commitments for the coming year. The Council felt it would struggle to make a meaningful contribution to these causes but acknowledged the great work both causes do.

- **To approve the budget and proposed precept for 2019/2020.**

It was recommended by the Clerk and RFO that based on the budget for 2019/2020, the precept is set at £26,500.

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

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

Following further discussion about the condition of the land, it was confirmed the Council would like give NSC the opportunity to resolve this issue and not involve the Environmental Agency. Councillor Mrs Buckley strongly put forward her preference to involve the Environmental Agency.

It was agreed the Council would stick with its previous decision to go back to NSC first to ask them to resolve all the defects and safety issues raised in the email to them following the site inspection in October. It was stressed that the Council is asking NSC to pay for an environmental assessment of the land.

The agreed actions remain as per the December meeting.

- In conjunction with NSC, FBPC would like to jointly instruct an environmental assessment of the land. Clerk to ask if NSC would pay for this.
- To consider an indemnity in the lease to protect the Council against any waste material accidentally left on the land.
- To speak to NSC as the fencing around the deep culvert is still incomplete.
- To speak to NSC about the ongoing concerns about drainage and flooding.

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

The speed assessment NSC conducted indicates good compliance with the 30 limit at Post Office Lane, with all four readings taken being around the 30mph mark, as is expected for a 30 limit. However, at the other end of the village, we do not have compliance with the 30 limit which is as expected.

It was acknowledged speed calming measures are required and the possibility of changing the environment to make it appear more of a village was discussed. NSC estimates these measures could cost in the region of £20 – 30,000, maybe more. They are suggesting an investigation of the road between Station Road and the layby is carried out to get levels, road widths, drainage details etc which would then be able to produce a formal recommendation and a preliminary design. However, this would require the allocation of staff and there would be a cost, budget for which North Somerset Council unfortunately does not currently have. FBPC has been told this cost would have to sit with Flax Bourton Parish Council but the estimate for this work has doubled in a few months and is beyond our budget too. The latest estimate is more than double our annual income.

Further investigation is required into speed monitoring and enforcement as we think the most effective enforcement of speed is speed monitoring and enforcement by fines/penalty points. We know that technology now allows variable speed cameras to operate on A&B roads and there is no limitation on the type of road as proven by experience in Cornwall, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire to name just three. Although the management of speed cameras is with the speed camera Partnership local and central government can make it happen. We would like NSC to embrace VAR technology and allow VAR cameras to be placed on their highways and work with the speed camera partnership. We would also like Central government to change how revenues from speeding fines are used. If they allowed Highway Authorities such as NSC to recover the cost of VARs from the revenues then they could afford to set up and spread the use of the equipment. Profit above set up costs could then go to central government as before.

A resident who arranged a petition has a meeting with Liam Fox on Friday 18th January 2019 to discuss the above and next steps.

It was agreed to set up a working group as there are now so many different options to assess in terms of delivering the cost effective speed reduction. This is due to the fact the VAR option cost is becoming closer to the rapidly increasing cost of signage and road markings etc.

Clerk to go back to David Bailey to ask why the additional £2,000 assessment has suddenly come into play. We had been told that the speed assessment at £420 which we went ahead with was all he needed to come up with a costed plan for us to take further. Clerk to also ask why the cost estimate for the proposed speed calming measures has doubled.

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

To discuss next steps re: the removal of the stone pile by the Trustees of the Wraxall Estate and the issues raised with regards to the footpath.

Clerk to check the Trustees of the Wraxall Estate have the relevant licences in place to store the stone pile on the land.

Clerk to speak to NSC re: the state of the footpath since the stone has been laid on it. This follows resident complaints about the condition of the footpath including health and safety concerns caused by its current state.

9. Open forum.

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

None noted.

10. The next meeting of Flax Bourton Parish Council will be 7.30pm on Monday 11th February 2019 at Flax Bourton Village Hall.

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

Signed Dated