

Flax Bourton Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Flax Bourton
Monday 8th April 2019

Meeting commenced: 7.30pm

Meeting concluded: 9pm

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

APOLOGIES: None.

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

Public comments were noted as follows;

- Concerns were raised about the cleanliness of the pavements and bus stop on the A370.
- The drains on the A370 have not been cleared for some time.

A representative from Truespeed provided an update on faster broadband in the area. It was stated that the company is actively working to get as many people as possible signed up over the next month. They have signed 48 properties up so far in Flax Bourton and need to get c. 80 properties signed up to make the build viable. The Truespeed service will come into the village from Barrow Gurney.

Truespeed has achieved success in Chew Magna and the Parish Council has collated information and distributed information to the village in a bid to achieve faster broadband.

Councillor Higgins stated there have been some complaints made on the Truespeed website. The Truespeed representative said it is still a young company and there had possibly been some over promising. More customer service staff and engineers are being recruited.

Flax Bourton Parish Council felt it was not able to promote the service on behalf of Truespeed as there are other providers in the area. However, it advised the representative to door drop residents and place adverts in the Parish magazine.

Councillor Mrs Moss formally thanked Councillor Ellis for her time on the Council. She also expressed her gratitude and thanks to Councillor Higgins for his time, dedication and commitment to the Council over the last 12 years, including 4 years spent as Chairman. A formal thank you will be arranged for May/June.

1. To note any apologies for absence

None noted.

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

None noted.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th March 2019.

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th March 2019. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss and seconded by Councillor Higgins. Vote taken and all in favour.

4. Planning, licensing and development

- **North Somerset Local Plan 2036**

Nothing further was reported this month on the Local Plan 2036.

Councillor Higgins stated there had been very few responses from Developers on the Sustainability Appraisal Report. However, one response to note was from Business West, He said they had been very critical of the approach and stated development should be far closer to the employment opportunities and centre of Bristol.

- **West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) –**

No further news was reported on the JSP and JLTP4. The Emerging Findings Transport consultation had resulted in 1404 respondents (1200 general public, others from developers) and the website had 101,000 hits. The hearing is expected to take place in Spring/Summer 2019. There have been no comments yet from the Inspector.

5. Financial reports and budget

- 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 April 2019 and the bank reconciliation reports for March 2019. Expenditure of £1,813.41 was approved along with an additional staff payment that needed to be calculated for tax. Therefore, the final expenditure is detailed below;

Flax Bourton Youth Group Apr	568.75	0	568.75
GB Sport and Leisure	96	16	80
Greenways Grounds Maintenance	90	0	90
Staff salaries	858.9	0	858.9
HMRC PAYE	40.2	0	40.2
Clerks expenses	14	0	14
Royal Mail POBox Fee	267	44.5	222.5
TOTAL	1934.85	60.5	1874.35

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

Reserves

It was resolved to earmark £4,500 to cover the outstanding DCL costs expected this financial year. 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 adjoining the school from North Somerset Council.

A meeting has taken place with NSC on site at the Designated Community Land. NSC confirmed the rubble on the site has only come from the build, not elsewhere, and a full risk assessment was conducted on the materials at the school before the build took place. NSC will liaise with the contractors and arrange for the specialist removal of the rubble. The aim is to bring the land back to the condition of a recreational field.

Clerk to email NSC to confirm the conversation and get in touch with Thrings to provide an update. Requirement to confirm if an indemnity in the lease is required to cover the condition of the land.

NSC is now of the understanding that the lease will not go any further until this work has been completed.

The culvert on the land is not considered to be a danger by NSC. A safety assessment will be required to ascertain whether fencing should be installed.

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

The report from the Working Party was delivered to the Council.

It was agreed the next stage is to proceed with a further traffic investigation which will result in preliminary designs for traffic calming on the A370. The Council agreed this was an important next step.

The investigation is expected to cost £2k and will focus on speed and traffic markings. It was felt the wider brief i.e. the request to push back/move the pavements should not be part of this investigation as it would slow the progress of the traffic calming measures.

In terms of financing the investigation, the Council will explore grants, and complete applications accordingly, with the Avon and Somerset Road Safety Fund and Bristol Airport. The closing dates of these are the end of May .

Meeting stopped at 8.34pm for a resident comment.

Meeting recommenced at 8.36pm.

It was agreed the Council would use £2k of reserves to support the road investigation if the grant applications are unsuccessful. However, it was stated clearly that this is not preferable given the current level of available reserves.

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

The speed of lorries and buses was also raised as a concern. Councillor Mrs Moss advised that if there are ever any speeding Tarmac lorries, these should be reported. Councillor Cleaver to write to First Bus re: traffic speed.

8. Upcoming Council Elections

Clerk reported on the important dates for the upcoming nominations and Council elections.

9. To receive an update on the actions from previous meetings.

Clerk updated the Council on progress.

- NSC has promised to sweep and clean the pavements on the A370 w/e 12.4.19.
- The trees surrounding the Farleigh Green play area have now been cut back.

- NSC has appointed new contractors and the shrubbery/grass between Church Lane and Parsons Mead will now be cut back 2-3 times a year.
- North Somerset Agricultural Showground (NSAS) – Tthe Council agreed to monitor the number of days the farm was being used.
- Clerk reported the drains at Post Office Lane have been dug and cleared by hand. The drains on the A370 require professional equipment and are part of the annual gully programme. NSC to confirm when they will next be cleared.

10. Open forum

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

- The traffic speed signs need to be cleared as they are not currently visible.
- There are potholes in the road on Cambridge Batch. Councillor Cleaver to report to NSC.

11. The next meeting of Flax Bourton Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council.will be held on Monday 13th May 2019.

