

Flax Bourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 13th December 2021 commencing at **7.30pm** at the Flax Bourton Hub (formerly known as the Village Hall).

Those present were noted as Councillors: Geoff Coombs (Chair), Alison Crawford, Jane Moss, Chris Walker and Mrs Clare Melton, Parish Clerk, and 1 member of the public.

060⁽²¹⁾ Apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Claire Merrick (work).

061⁽²¹⁾ Declarations of interests from members regarding the agenda

Declaration of non-pecuniary interest as Trustee of the Flax Bourton Hub Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) by Cllr Coombs.

062⁽²¹⁾ Public Forum Session

A resident raised concerns regarding a strip of land from Station Yard to Station Road. The resident is very concerned about what the site will be used for. Cllr Coombs advised that he has contacted Mr Chris Nolan, Head of Enforcement, today and Mr Nolan has opened a case file. Cllr Moss suggested keeping a diary and taking photos to add to the case file. Cllr Coombs thanked the resident for raising this issue with the Parish Council, advised that the Parish Council will assist where we can but have no official role to influence outcome. The resident thanked the Parish Council and left the meeting.

063⁽²¹⁾ Minutes of previous meeting

It was **resolved to approve** the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8th November 2021 with minor amendment to Parish Clerk's surname.

064⁽²¹⁾ Finance and Personnel

- a) Cllr Coombs welcomed the new Parish Clerk and **it was resolved** to ratify the Clerk's job description and Contract of Employment. It was noted that, as the Parish Clerk has only just taken up the post, Cllr Crawford would provide a draft budget to be discussed at the January meeting
- b) No payments were made. Cllr Crawford raised that Flax Bourton Hub insurance renewal is due. **It was agreed** to pay this
- c) Dog bins are leaking and need replacing. Cllr Coombs reported that the current contractor, Greenways, have provided a quote of £595.00 including VAT for two bins. Discussed whether quotes were needed but agreed that it is an exceptional circumstance as bins urgently need replacing and the quote is from an engaged contractor. **It was resolved to accept** the quote
- d) Cllr Crawford circulated report. Parish Clerk raised that one invoice was missing, for SLCC ILCA New Clerk Course totalling £144.00. Cllr Crawford will amend. Cllr Crawford reported that The countryside charity (CPRE) have requested a £100.00 donation. After discussion, **it was resolved to decline**. It was **resolved to approve** the remaining monthly accounts & budget statements and new invoices once amendment is made, totalling £1097.75 for online payment
- e) Flax Bourton School would like to consider plant pots and seeds to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. No cost has been considered. **It was resolved** that the Parish Clerk will contact the School to find out the cost.

065⁽²¹⁾ **Planning**

It was resolved to respond as follows:

- a) 21/P/3254/FUH- The Old Rectory- The Old Rectory, BS48 3QX - **Neutral**
- b) 21/P/3282/FUH- 6 Bourton Mead, BS48 1UB - **Defer comment until further responses by email.**

066⁽²¹⁾ **North Somerset Council Local Plan 2038**

Cllr J Moss gave an update following a Zoom workshop on **2nd December 2021**. Extensive discussions took place on the Council's responses to proposed development, the preservation of the green belt, transport corridors and infrastructure. Further update from North Somerset Council, including possible sites for housing development, expected Spring 2022. Cllr Walker noted that a message on the Parish Council website to inform residents that we are aware and attending meetings relating to the Local Plan would be useful.

067⁽²¹⁾ **Flax Bourton Hub**

- a) Cllr Merrick sent apologies (work). Cllr Moss provided an update following the recent meeting
- b) After extensive discussions, **it was resolved** that without prejudice the Parish Council would pay for the Buildings Insurance as it is due for renewal before the next Parish Council Meeting. Background discussion to be **deferred to next meeting** when Cllr Merrick is present
- c) Lottery Grant was awarded to the Parish Council for use by Flax Bourton Hub. Following discussions **it was resolved** that Parish Council rules should be followed when allocating these funds
- d) Cllr J Moss reported that discussions on the proposed lease are ongoing.

068⁽²¹⁾ **Highways**

- a) **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)** - Cllr Coombs reported that he has spoken with the police and is **awaiting their advice**
- b) **Flooding** - Cllr Coombs reported that he had a productive meeting with residents of Bourton Combe and NSC Highways regarding blocked ditches. **NSC agreed** to clear and extend the culvert to protect the wall of a property at The Grange
- c) **Other Highways matters** – A resident has raised concerns about lorries from the quarry speeding through the village but no registration numbers or photos provided.

Cllr Coombs noted that there is a new Quarry Manager and, as there is no information to confirm that the speeding lorries are from the quarry, it would be sensible to make introductions first. **It was resolved** that Cllr Coombs would contact the new Quarry Manager. Cllr Moss noted that the route to school footpath is still overgrown. Cllr Coombs reported that work to clear the footpath is scheduled. Hedges by the Cricket Club have been cut back by NSC but the footpath is a different contractor.

069⁽²¹⁾ **Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next **Parish Council Meeting** was noted as **Monday 10th January 2022** at the Flax Bourton Hub (formerly known as the Village Hall) at **7.30pm**.

Meeting ended 21:20

Chair **Date**.....