Flax Bourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 28th September 2022** commencing at **7.30pm** at the Flax Bourton Hub (formerly known as the Village Hall).

Those present were noted as Councillors: Coombs, Crawford, Andersson and Moss. Also present Mrs Clare Melton, Parish Clerk.

054(22) **Apologies and reasons for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Walker (prior commitment).

055(22) **Declarations of interests from members regarding the agenda**
Declarations of non-pecuniary interests by Cllr Coombs (as Trustee of the Flax Bourton Hub Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and relating to item 066 h)), Cllr Andersson (related to item 060 b)) and Cllr Crawford (relating to item 066 h)).

056(22) **Public Forum Session**
One member of the public present. Read a statement relating to planning application (item 060 b)) and answered questions relating to the application from Councillors. Resident left the meeting at the end of the Public Forum Session.

060(22) **Planning b) 22 P 1829 FUH Yew Cottage, BS48 3QE — Agenda item brought forward**
Following discussion, and considering both the information provided during the Public Forum Session and concerns sent directly to the Parish Council by residents, **it was resolved** to respond as: neutral with concerns over the impact due to the overall volume and height of the building.

057(22) **Minutes of previous meeting**
It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 11th July 2022.

058(22) **Finance and Personnel**

a) **It was resolved** to ratify the payments made since last meeting totalling **£2,571.24**
b) **The Playing Field Section 106 reserve fund-** Cllr Coombs reported that there has been no further contact from North Somerset Council. Cllr Coombs will follow up
c) **Software Subscriptions- It was agreed** to proceed with Google Drive. Clerk will implement this
d) **SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements - It was resolved** not to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements
e) **It was resolved** to approve the monthly accounts statement and new invoices totalling **£1,113.47** for online payment. **It was further agreed** to pay the invoice for **£7,000.00** to The Property Service Ltd for the new boiler once all certificates/warrenty have been received.

059(22) **Policies and Procedures**
After discussion, **it was resolved** to approve the updated Information & Data Protection Policy and Risk Assessment Policy subject to including the following in both: *The policy will be reviewed every three years unless there is a change in the law*.

060(22) **Planning**
It was resolved to respond as follows:

a) **22 P 1729 FUH** 3 Church Lane End, BS48 3QG – Already approved by North Somerset Council Planning
b) **22 P 1829 FUH** Yew Cottage, BS48 3QE – Discussed earlier in the meeting
c) **22 P 1843 FUH** 7 The Grange, BS48 3QH – Already approved by North Somerset Council Planning
d) **22 P 2087** FUH Wayside, BS48 3QQ – Support.

061(22) **North Somerset Local Plan 2038**
Cllr Moss provided an update following North Somerset Council's publishing the results of the consultation process. Pre-submission plan is still due by the end of the year. Cllr Moss raised how the Parish Council should act next. After extensive discussion, **it was agreed** that all Councillors would give some thoughts to next steps before the next meeting.

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062(22) **North Somerset Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

Cllr Moss raised concerns that the plan would encourage cyclists which could prove dangerous for pedestrians. Cllr Andersson suggested several sites around the village where gates could replace stiles. Cllr Andersson will take the lead.

063(22) **Flax Bourton Hub**

a) Cllr Coombs reported that the Chairman of Flax Bourton Hub has stepped down although is considering staying on as a Trustee. More volunteers are needed to share the load. The boiler has been replaced and this should have a positive impact on gas bills
b) **Memorandum of Understanding**- After discussion, **it was decided** that the addition to the Memorandum of Understanding drafted by the Clerk will be discussed with the Hub once a new Chair person has been appointed
c) **Fire Risk Assessment**- Cllr Andersson provided an update. Cllr Andersson is continuing to liaise with J.Merrick. Cllr Andersson will continue to take the lead on this matter.

064(22) **Improving Play Spaces Fund**

Cllr Coombs reported that a meeting had taken place with GB Sport and it was agreed that the new basket swing would be placed near the swings. GB Sport raised at the meeting and in their Annual Inspection (Agenda item 065) that the wetpour around all the items in the play area has shrunk and therefore poses a trip risk. GB Sport have provided a quote of £5,724.00 plus VAT. After discussion, **it was resolved** to proceed with this work and use the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to fund it. The Clerk will source two further quotes.

065(22) **Annual Playground Inspection**

Partly discussed under item 064. GB Sport have flagged a medium risk to the Balance Trail-log. After discussion, **it was resolved** that the Clerk will contact the Supplier Playdale to check if the Balance Trail-log is still under warranty.

066(22) **Highways**

a) **New Speed Limit Proposals** – Cllr Coombs reported that he and Cllr Andersson had recently met with David Murphy from Highways and discussed a better more detailed proposal. Mr Murphy was supportive of changes to speed limits through the village. It was also agreed that new floral entryways could be sourced, to be paid for by the Parish Council. Cllr Andersson will look into possible grants for this
b) **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)** – Cllr Coombs reported there is no update, this matter is still ongoing
c) **Possible Permissive path** – Cllr Moss and Cllr Andersson stated that there is nothing new to report
d) **Pavements and Footpaths** – Cllr Crawford stated that there is nothing new to report although pavements are becoming overgrown and therefore obstructed again. Cllr Andersson raised whether it could be an option to employ/contract a lengthsman to maintain the pavements. After discussion, **it was agreed** that the Clerk would speak to other Clerks for advise on this matter. **It was further agreed** that the Clerk will write to Phil Bush as it is the responsibility of North Somerset Council to main footpaths to ensure that residents can safely use them. This is particularly important for children in the village to be able to walk safely to school.
Cllr Andersson met with the Stancombe Quarry Manager recently and discussed the dust on the footpaths caused by Quarry lorries. The Manager suggested that he may be able to arrange a contractor to clean the pavements monthly. This hasn't happened yet so Cllr Andersson will follow up
e) **Public Rights of Way** – After discussion, **it was agreed** to review the previous Public Rights of Way improvement submission
f) **Disabled Parking Bay application** – After discussion, and following consultation with Flax Bourton Primary School, **it was agreed** to support this application
g) **Street Trading Application** – After discussion, **it was agreed** that there is no objection however, there are concerns about the signage being used along the road
h) **Parking Restrictions Review** – After discussion, **it was resolved** to request to North Somerset Highways that yellow lines at Parsons Mead be added to the traffic order already in place for

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yellow lines at Castle Close.

067(22) **Climate Emergency New Build Planning Requirements** – Cllr Moss raised whether adequate parking at any new developments should be included. Following discussion, **it was agreed** to write a letter of support and include the suggestion for parking to be included.

068(22) **Tree planting** – Trees are due to arrive after 30th October. A date for planting was discussed and Saturday 12th November was proposed. Cllr Andersson suggested that a request for volunteers be circulated on the WhatsApp group and **this was agreed**. Cllr Andersson will carry out a risk assessment.

069(22) **Google Group** – Cllr Andersson has spoken with a Barrow Gurney resident who is involved with their Google group to arrange a Zoom meeting. Cllr Andersson will continue to follow this up

070(22) **Quarry (Tarmac)** – Covered under item 066 d).

071(22) **Low Noise Fireworks** – After discussion, **it was agreed** that the Clerk would speak with the Clerk at Backwell in the first instance. **It was agreed, in principle,** to support.

072(22) **Clerk's Report**
The Clerk's Report was received and **noted**.

073(22) **Date of the next meeting**
The date of the next **Parish Council Meeting** was noted as **Monday 17th October 2022** at the Flax Bourton Hub (formerly known as the Village Hall) at **7.30pm.**

Meeting ended 22:15

Chair …… **Date**……..

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Clare Melton

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