Flax Bourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on **Monday 17th October 2022** commencing at **7.30pm** at the Flax Bourton Hub (formerly known as the Village Hall).

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

074(22) **Apologies and reasons for absence**
Apologies were received Cllr Andersson (holiday) and Cllr Walker (work).

075(22) **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.

076(22) **Public Forum Session**
No members of the public were present.

077(22) **Minutes of previous meeting**
It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 28th September 2022.

078(22) **Finance and Personnel**

a) **It was agreed** that the Clerk would clarify the payments made since the last meeting (*subsequently, payments totalling **£157.34** were confirmed via email to all Councillors*)
b) **The Playing Field Section 106 reserve fund-** Cllr Coombs reported that there has been no further contact from North Somerset Council. Cllr Coombs reinitiate contact
c) **Working from home allowance for the Clerk-** Following discussion, **it was agreed** that the Clerk would look at the wording of the contract and also check if this is a new directive. Cllr Coombs will also check with ALCA
d) **Draft budget - It was agreed** that everyone would look at the draft budget before the next meeting when it will be discussed further
e) **It was resolved** to approve the monthly accounts statement. **It was further agreed** that the Clerk would clarify the new invoices for online payment (*subsequently, new invoices totalling **£1,611.94** were confirmed via email to all Councillors*).

079(22) **Policies and Procedures**
After discussion, **it was resolved** to approve the updated Communications Policy and Complaints Procedure subject to amendments as follows:

Communications Policy:

a) Introduction paragraph 2 amended to: *Social media is a collective term for the ways to create and publish information via the internet*
b) Add Page numbers into footer (format Page 1 of 3)
c) Add page break (bottom of page 2).

080(22) **Planning**
A new application (080 b))was received this afternoon and after discussion **it was agreed** to consider the application at this meeting. **It was resolved** to respond as follows:

a) **22/P/1911/FUL** Land At Watercress Farm, BS48 1LH – Support with the following comment: Would like to support but there needs to be a heritage statement, in particular it should include the mapping of the drainage channels
b) **22/P/2373/FUH** The Old Stables, BS48 3QQ – **It was agreed** that more time was needed to consider this application. Response by email to the Clerk before the consultation deadline of 2nd November.

081(22) **North Somerset Local Plan 2038**
Cllr Moss provided an update. A Meeting of the Executive is due to take place this week so, after discussion, **it was agreed** that it was appropriate to defer further discussions to the next meeting when updated information may be available.

082(22) **North Somerset Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan**
After discussion, **it was agreed** that there are no further comments at this time.

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083(22) **Flax Bourton Hub**

a) Cllr Coombs provided an update. Operationally, the Hub is doing very well. Numbers on the committee are low. New Trustee member will be officially joining at the next meeting
b) **Fire Risk Assessment**- After discussion, **it was agreed in principle** that the Parish Council would pay for the upgrading of the Fire Alarm System subject to reviewing the quotes which have been obtained by the Hub. The Clerk will request the quotes from J.Merrick.

084(22) **Improving Play Spaces Fund**

The Clerk reported that GB Sport have given an estimated delivery date for the new basket swing of week commencing 12th December. They hope to install the swing by Christmas but this may be subject to delays.

085(22) **Highways**

a) **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)** – Cllr Coombs raised whether allocated funding should instead be used for a 30mph flashing reinforcement sign. After discussion, **it was agreed** that this should be discussed further when all Councillors are present
b) **Possible Permissive path** – Cllr Moss stated that there is nothing new to report
c) **Pavements and Footpaths** – Cllr Crawford stated that a request for help to manage the footpath will be put in December's Parish Magazine. The Clerk reported that there has been no response yet to the email sent to P.Bush at North Somerset Council raising again the ongoing issue of obstruction of the footpath. After discussion, **it was agreed** that the Clerk would email Cllr Petty stating that the safe route to school is continuing to be a problem as conditions are deteriorating and the footpath is becoming obstructed again
d) **Public Rights of Way** – **It was agreed** to defer this until Cllr Andersson is present
e) **Relocation of 30mph signs at Bristol end of village** – Previously covered (085 a)).

086(22) **Bus Service Improvement Plan** – After discussion, **it was agreed** to raise the following questions with North Somerset:

a) Has the modelling included the effect of closures of the M5? Whenever there is a problem on the motorway, the A370 is seriously affected so changing to single lane traffic could cause further problems
b) Can a timed morning rush hour restriction on the proposed bus lane (Bristol bound) be imposed?

Action: Clerk to write to North Somerset Council.

087(22) **Tree planting** – Defer until Cllr Andersson is back.

088(22) **Remembrance Day** – After discussion, **it was agreed** that no action was needed.

089(22) **Low Noise Fireworks** – After discussion, **it was agreed** that the Parish Council found the information interesting and would be happy to engage with North Somerset Council should a consultation process take place. Clerk to draft an email response.

090(22) **Meeting Dates**

It was agreed to approve the proposed Meeting Dates. The Clerk will circulate and publish on the website and Facebook.

091(22) **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's Report was received and **noted**.

092(22) **Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next **Parish Council Meeting** was noted as **Monday 14th November 2022** at the Flax Bourton Hub (formerly known as the Village Hall) at **7.30pm.**

Meeting ended 20:55

Chair …… **Date**……

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Clare Mellor

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