Flax Bourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on **Monday 12th December 2022** commencing at **7.30pm** at the Flax Bourton Hub (formerly known as the Village Hall).

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

The Parish Council expressed sadness at the passing of Mike Windo. Mike was a Councillor for many years and was involved in many activities in the village. The Parish Council send their condolences to Mike's wife Val and family.

107(22) **Apologies and reasons for absence**
No apologies were received, all present.

108(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.

109(22) **Public Forum Session**
One member of the public present. Concerns about traffic and asked for an update on the Parish Council's efforts in this regard.

118(22) **Highways – Agenda item brought forward due to member of the public's concerns**

a) **Proposed revision of 30mph limit** – Cllr Coombs outlined all the Parish Council's efforts in recent years. Cllr Coombs also confirmed that the Executive Member for Highways will be visiting in January to review. Cllr Walker suggested contacting Sustrans as the current entrance/exit of the cyclepath (on the bend, still in the 50mph zone) is very dangerous. Cllr Coombs also reported that Flax Bourton Primary School has written to parents following a near miss at Parsons Mead/Station Road. As a request for yellow lines at this location had been recently made by the Parish Council and turned down by Highways, the Clerk has been in contact with Cllr Petty to raise the safe route to school concerns. The Executive Member for Highways has confirmed that he will also look at this during his visit in January
b) **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)** – Cllr Coombs reported that there is no update but this will also be discussed during the Executive Member for Highway's visit in January.

117(22) **Village survey report – Agenda item brought forward as relevant to Highways**
The main points of interest to come out of the Village survey were: concerns about the road, road crossings, communications and lack of facilities for young people. A café was also mentioned and Cllr Crawford that the new Warm Spaces café at the Church seems to be well attended so far. Improving communications and road issues are both already underway/being pursued by the Parish Council. The one point not currently being addressed is the lack of facilities for young people. The Youth Club which was previously available shut due to lack of numbers. Cllr Crawford raised that volunteers would be needed to set up and mange a new youth club. Cllr Moss noted that there may still be funds held by the previous youth club management which could be returned. **It was agreed** that Cllr Walker would investigate. Outdoor table tennis tables were also discussed. **It was resolved** to come back to this discussion at the next meeting. **It was also noted** that there are currently vacancies for Councillors on the Parish Council. The Clerk will update vacancy posters and circulate via the website, Facebook and noticeboards.

118(22) **Highways – Agenda item brought forward due to member of the public's concerns**

c) **Pavements and Footpaths** – Cllr Crawford reported that the village clear up took place recently. Significant progress was made but still areas in the village would need to be covered. Another clean up will be needed in the new year. No sign yet of help from Stancombe Quarry despite frequent attempts from Cllr Andersson to contact the Quarry Manager following her meeting with them
d) **Public Rights of Way (PROW)** – Cllr Andersson reported on a recent PROW meeting which she attended with other local councils. Cllr Andersson had a useful discussion with Wraxall regarding their lengthsman and a discussion followed as to whether this should be an option or

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whether it should remain with North Somerset Council as it is their responsibility. Safe route to school continues to be an issue so **it was agreed** that the Clerk would continue to contact other Clerks regarding the role of Lengthsman.

Cllr Andersson also reported that she had a useful discussion with a local resident who is an author of a local walks book. The resident mentioned that there should be suggestions for improving footpaths in the records from previous discussions. **It was agreed** that the Clerk would look into this and send on to Cllr Andersson.

110(22) **Minutes of previous meeting**

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 14th November 2022.

111(22) **Finance and Personnel**

a) **It was resolved** to ratify the payments made since last meeting totalling **£1603.38**
b) **The Playing Field Section 106 reserve fund-** Cllr Coombs reported that there has been no further contact from North Somerset Council. **Deferred to next meeting**
c) **Draft budget –** After discussion, **it was agreed** to approve the Budget (v.3) for 2023-24 and set the Precept at **£26,500** for 2023-24. **It was noted** that this was a reduction from the previous year's Precept
d) **It was resolved** to approve the monthly accounts statement and new invoices totalling **£1539.54** for online payment. The Clerk reported that the invoice from Laser Alarms, for the upgrade to the Fire Alarm system at the Hub, would be paid once the work has been carried out. The Hub are contacting Laser Alarms directly to arrange a date for installation.

112(22) **Policies and Procedures**

After discussion, **it was resolved** to approve the updated Publication Scheme.

113(22) **Planning**

No planning applications to discuss.

114(22) **North Somerset Local Plan 2023-2038**

Cllr Moss provided an update. Timetable for pre-submission has been delayed to Spring 2023, this will be followed by a consultation process then the final plan in Summer 2023. North Somerset Council are still planning to adopt the Local Plan in Spring 2024. Settlement boundaries and Greenbelt are being looked at as is the infrastructure plan. Cllr Moss suggested meeting with Backwell Parish Council to discuss the latest information. **It was agreed** that Cllrs Moss and Andersson would meet with Backwell Parish Council.

Member of the Public left the meeting-9.09pm

115(22) **Communications**

First draft graphics have been received from Breakthrough Communications. The overall view was disappointment with the process so far. Cllr Andersson will follow up.

116(22) **Flax Bourton Hub**

a) Cllr Coombs provided an update. More volunteers are needed to help run the Hub
b) **Fire Alarm System**- Previously covered (111 d)).

119(22) **Quarry –** Previously covered (118 c)).

120(22) **Clerk's Report**

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

121(22) **Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next **Parish Council Meeting** was noted as **Monday 9th January 2023** at the Flax Bourton Hub (formerly known as the Village Hall) at **7.30pm.**

Meeting ended 21:22

Chair ……..…….…….…….. **Date**…….....

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Clare Melton

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