Flax Bourton Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on **Monday 13th March 2023** commencing at **7.30pm** at the Flax Bourton Hub (formerly known as the Village Hall).

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

157(22) **Apologies and Reasons for Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Crawford (holiday).

158(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.

159(22) **Public Forum Session**
No members of the public were present.

160(22) **Minutes for Approval**
It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th February 2023.

161(22) **Finance and Personnel**

a) **It was resolved** to ratify the payments made since last meeting totalling **£7.70**
b) **Playing Field maintenance contract** – After extensive discussion, **it was agreed** to accept the quote from CPS Grounds
c) **Wet pour surface quotes** – After extensive discussion, **it was agreed** that further information was needed from Contractor B before a final decision can be made. The Clerk will follow up with Contractor B
d) **Lengthsman/verge maintenance quotes** – After extensive discussion, **it was agreed** that further information was needed from Contractor A before a final decision can be made. The Clerk will follow up with Contractor A. The quote from Contractor B was too prohibitively high to be an option
e) **Extension of contract with GB Sport** – **It was resolved** to extend the contract with GB Sport for the quarterly and Annual Play Inspections of Farleigh Green Play Area for another year
f) **Deferment of the Parish Council's Stancombe Quarry Grant application for entryways** – Noted
g) **It was resolved** to approve the monthly accounts statement and new invoices totalling **£1783.78** for online payment.

162(22) **Policies and Procedures**
After extensive discussion, **it was agreed** to sign the Civility and Respect Pledge. **It was further agreed** not to 'tick to agree' the following statements on the Pledge due to these points not being relevant to a Parish Council of this size:

1. Our Council has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
2. Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise
3. Our Council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate

It was resolved to approve the Dignity at Work Policy subject to the Clerk checking disciplinary references in the Standing Orders.

163(22) **Planning**
Prior to the meeting, there was one planning application (163 a)). However, a new application (163 b)) was received today and after discussion **it was agreed** to also consider 163 b) at this meeting.

a) **23/P/0330/LBC – The Old Stable, BS48 3QQ** – **It was resolved** to respond as follows: Neutral with comment – the new gated entrance should be in keeping with the setting of a listed building
b) **23/P/0463/FUL – HM Coroner Public Mortuary Court House, BS48 1UL** – Single

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storey side extension to existing mortuary facility to replace/remove the temporary containerised accommodation and canopies – After discussion, **it was agreed** to defer this item to allow the Councillors time to consider the plans. The Clerk will request an extension until after the next meeting.

164(22) **North Somerset Council Local Plan 2038**

Prior to the meeting, Cllr Moss circulated notes from a meeting with Backwell Parish Council and Nailsea Town Council. Cllr Moss explained that an update from the Government to National Development Policies is expected for consultation in June so there is still a lot of uncertainty. The North Somerset Council Local Plan is now on hold until after the local Elections in May. Cllr Moss flagged that as soon as the new District Councillor is elected, a meeting is arranged with them urgently to discuss the Local Plan.

165(22) **Flooding**

Cllr Coombs provided an update. The Parish Council is waiting for confirmation from North Somerset Highways for when the collapsed culvert will be repaired. Stancombe Quarry are considering our request to add gully emptying twice a year to their regular highway cleaning schedule. Cllr Coombs has arranged to meet the Flood Control Officer, along with a resident of Church Lane, to discuss flood risks in the village and the proposed Network Rail holding ponds. There appears to be a mains water leak in the carriageway of the A370 at the junction of Post Office Lane; this has been reported to North Somerset Council.

166(22) **Place & Movement Framework plus Active Travel Action Plans**

Cllr Coombs reported that a response from Flax Bourton was submitted. ALCA have written to the Council Leader to raise concerns that shutting local roads will particularly impact older people.

167(22) **Communications**

Cllr Andersson provided an update. Councillors then tested the 'how to join' instructions and guidelines for use. **It was agreed** to proceed with A5 flyers (1000 copies) and A3 posters.

168(22) **Flax Bourton Hub**

a) Cllr Coombs provided an update. The Hub has taken a regular booking for Monday evenings so the Parish Council needs to find an alternative venue. The Clerk has been in contact with Flax Bourton Primary School as the only suitable alternative space. After discussion, **it was agreed** to move the meetings to the school hall effective from the next meeting, 17th April. **It was further agreed** that it was appropriate to request reimbursement from the Hub as this expenditure was not anticipated and therefore not budgeted for. Clerk to draft. It was noted that the Memorandum of Understanding should be looked at again. Cllr Coombs suggested that a feasibility study could be carried out on the redundant parts of the building in order to best make decisions on the long term future of the building. Grants are being offered from North Somerset Council which could be applied for to cover the cost of a feasibility study. **It was agreed** to action this

b) Cllr Coombs updated that the Clerk contacted the Lottery regarding the proposed Acoustics Project. The Lottery have agreed that the remaining **£3759.71**, held by the Parish Council on behalf of the Hub, can be used to part fund the Acoustics Project. The Clerk has notified the Hub. **It was agreed** to ratify the part funding of the Acoustics Project.

169(22) **Highways**

a) **Proposed revision of 30mph limit** – Cllr Coombs reported that progress is positive following an email from highways with draft proposals (received by all prior to the meeting). The proposals would work with the entryways which the Parish Council would like to install

b) **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)** – Cllr Coombs reported that Highways have confirmed that they should be able to give a decision by the end of this month. Cllr Coombs raised that it is possible to remotely programme the signs. Although expensive, it would mean that the signs could be programmed to comply with

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North Somerset Council's policy. After discussion, **it was agreed** to ask for a quote for this from the supplier

c) **Pavements and Footpaths** – It was noted that the pavements are still in a bad condition following the recent flooding. The Clerk has reported this to North Somerset Council. Cllr Andersson and Moss raised that there are potholes which need reporting (junction of Station Road/A370 and by the Village Hall). Clerk to report

d) **Public Rights of Way** – Cllr Andersson reported that she will be attending Health Walk Leader training shortly

e) **Stancombe Lane waste bin** – The Clerk has reported the overflowing waste bin to North Somerset Council. Status is currently "work instructed"

f) **Long Ashton bypass bus lane** – The Parish Council's response to the Long Ashton bypass traffic order was noted. The new bus lane appears to be being installed due to the new demand responsive buses. Work is beginning today so it seems that there would not have been time for the Parish Council's response, and those from others, to be considered. The Council expressed their disappointment with the process. Cllr Coombs raised concerns that the changes will potentially result in accidents.

170(22) **Quarry (Tarmac)**
No update.

171(22) **Meeting dates and possible change of venue**
Already discussed under item 168 a).

172(22) **Local Council Elections**
The schedule for the Local Elections was noted. After discussion, **it was agreed** that a Councillor recruitment leaflet drop was not needed as a number of residents have already expressed interest.

173(22) **Annual Parish Meeting of Residents**
Cllr Coombs raised that the Church have advertised their Annual Parish Meeting which may cause confusion. **It was agreed** to be clear that the Annual Parish Meeting of Residents is a separate event which is not linked to the Church meeting.

174(22) **Noticeboards**
After discussion, **it was agreed** that the two noticeboards outside the village hall need to be replaced and the design should be one board with two sections. The Clerk will look in the archives for previous orders. Cllr Andersson has volunteered to refurbish the Post Office Lane notice board as this design is in keeping with the setting.

175(22) **Coronation**
After discussion, **it was resolved** to allocate £500.00 set aside in the Budget for the Coronation, to Flax Bourton Primary School. This will be used for a solar water feature/fountain in their reflection garden area. The School will work with the landscaper who designed the garden to create something with longevity and that enhances this quiet space. The Clerk will liaise with the School.

176(22) **Clerk's Report**
Noted.

177(22) **Date of the Next Meeting**
To note the date of the next **Parish Council Meeting** as **Monday 17th April 2023** (in the **School Hall** at **Flax Bourton Primary School**) at 7.30pm.

Meeting ended 21:50

Chair …… **Date**……..

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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