

Flax Bourton Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday 18th January 2024 commencing at 7:30pm in the Hall at Flax
Bourton Primary School.

Those present were noted as Councillors: Coombs (Chair), Moss, Walker, Andersson and Crawford.

Minutes taken by Councillor Crawford in the absence of the Parish Clerk.

174⁽²³⁾ **Apologies and reasons for absence**

Mrs C Melton (illness)

175⁽²³⁾ **Declaration of interest from members regarding the Agenda**

Non-pecuniary interest Councillor Geoff Coombs as Trustee of the village Hub.

176⁽²³⁾ **Public Forum session**

No members of the public were present.

177⁽²³⁾ **Minutes for approval**

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th December 2023.

178⁽²³⁾ **Finance and Personnel**

- a) **It was resolved** to ratify the payments made since the last meeting on 11th December 2023 totalling **£2179.16** and the receipt of bank interest of **£95.28**
- b) **It was resolved** to approve next year's Budget and Precept application in the sum of **£27,000**. Proposed Councillor Andersson, seconded Councillor Crawford
- c) **It was resolved** to approve the application for a debit card for the use of the Clerk for sums up to £100
- d) In the absence of the Clerk, **it was agreed** to approve payment of regular invoices. A payment schedule for January will be provided and ratified at the next meeting.

179⁽²³⁾ **Planning**

The planning application for extensions to 11 Clevedon Road was considered and **it was resolved** to note as Neutral, with the proviso that the Planning Officer should be requested to check that the increased area did not exceed the planning limits.

180⁽²³⁾ **North Somerset Local Plan 2039**

There was a lengthy discussion about whether the plan failed because it was not being applied consistently and there was no accompanying Transport Plan. Councillor Moss had researched the response from Backwell (which was not yet finalised) and it was felt that Flax Bourton should limit its comments to the transport implications for the village. There was otherwise acceptance of the plan. It was noted from the consultant's report that public transport played only a limited part in reducing commuter traffic and the number of cars passing through Flax Bourton would be increased by all developments along the A370 corridor and beyond. All previously considered mitigation measures, such as considering other roads, had been dropped from the Plan. As a result, it was felt that the Plan was considered to fail. **It was resolved** that Councillor Moss would draw up the Council's response and circulate it to Councillors.

As regards alterations to the Green Belt, the Parish Council accepted that the village would be inset from the green belt within the settlement boundary rather than remaining washed over by the green belt. Thanks were given to Councillor Moss for her work.

181⁽²³⁾ **Flooding**

Councillor Coombs reported on recent flooding outside the Old Angel and Old Angel Cottage. The storm drain culvert outside Castle Farm had been found to have collapsed and the expedient repairs done in 2023 had diverted the flow into the road drain. Unfortunately, in the recent storm the flow had exceeded the capacity of this drain and the result was a large accumulation on the A370 leading to water damage to the cottages. North Somerset Councillor Waite had intervened and this had resulted in the setting up of traffic lights to prevent further damage. Councillor Coombs reported that he understood that £300,000 had been allocated in the 2024/25 budget by North Somerset Council to rebuild the collapsed drain, and it was hoped that this work would be done during the next financial year. Councillor Moss reported that camera work on the drain in Church Lane had been promised but not yet carried out.

It was noted that the railway cutting had flooded during the recent storms. It is understood that the North Somerset Flood Control Officer has been in contact with Network Rail in connection with their proposed holding ponds on the land next to the school.

Councillor Crawford reported that a contractor had been found to do the necessary work on the drains at the village Hub.

182⁽²³⁾ **Date of the next meeting**

To note that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 12th February 2024** in the Hall at Flax Bourton Primary School.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.