Flax Bourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th January 2026 commencing at 7:30pm in the Hall at Flax Bourton Primary School

Those present were noted as Councillors: Coombs, Crawford, Seaver, District Councillor Annemieke Waite and two members of the public
Also present Mrs H Nelson (Parish Clerk)

7:20pm two members of the public arrived

152(25) **Apologies and Reasons for Absence**
Cllr Apps offered his apologies due to a holiday.

153(25) **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.

154(25) **Public Forum Session**
One member of the public had a housing question regarding a news programme suggesting North Somerset were going to have 25,000 houses built. He produced map showing potential areas for development. The plan had been looked at in the past it was confirmed that the brown areas shown in Flax Bourton are not included in this local plan. In response to a question about infrastructure the Council are waiting for a government decision. Concern was raised that there was no acknowledgement of the impact of the areas other than on Backwell. A meeting with planning team was suggested.

Concern was again raised regarding the speed with which cars travel from Backwell through Flax Bourton. The council will pursue the issue of speed in the village.

155(25) **Councillor Co-option**
The Council discussed attracting new councillors. The council aim to produce a leaflet to encourage people to come forward and inform them of what the council does.

156(25) **Minutes for Approval**
It was resolved to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th December 2025.

157(25) **Finance and Personnel**

a) Payments totalling £7.61 were ratified since the last meeting on 8th December 2025.
b) NSC's email regarding Highway Maintenance offering supplementary paid services from North Somerset Highway's team was discussed. This could be used to cut back verges and dig out gullies. The Councillors thought that it was an interesting concept but lacking detail. The Council were happy to join a trial.

   Action: Clerk to contact NSC saying the Council is happy to join a trial.
c) Next year's precept was set at £33,000 after discussing cut backs in some categories.
d) The reduction in interest on our Lloyds account from 0.6% to 0.5% was acknowledged.
e) **It was resolved** to approve the new invoices totalling £2252.94 for online payment. The Bank Reconciliations, monthly accounts statements, Payments and Receipts Schedules and budget were also **received and authorised**.

158(25) **Planning**
To receive and comment on planning application/s as Support, Object or Neutral:

a) **25/P/2489/S73 - The Retreat, Main Road, Flax Bourton, BS48 3QJ** - Section 73 Application to

Chair …… **Date**……

Vary Condition 2 attached to Planning Permission Ref: 21/P/1631/FUL (Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings, erection of 1no. two storey dwelling etc.
Action: Clerk to comment that the council objects on the basis that: the proposal is so significantly changed it should be submitted as a new proposal, the balcony overlooking the property at the rear and high level window in the west elevation are intrusive to neighbours and lastly the proposal is fundamentally different as being replaced by a kit build.

b) **25/P/1225/FUL - Flax Bourton C Of E Primary, Station Road, Flax Bourton, BS48 1UA** - Provision of a new path around the perimeter of the school field.
Action: Clerk to comment in support

159(25) **North Somerset Council Local Plan 2039/40**

The council submitted their comments in December expressing disappointment. Theres a new NPPF draft that came out just before Christmas. The consultation goes out the beginning of March. North Somerset's planned development will not be measured against the new NPPF.

160(25) **North Somerset Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)**
The council has not received communication from BSIP. There is a new cabinet member for transport (Hugh Malyan). It was suggested the new member should walk through the village possibly together with North Somerset's MP. In this case District Councillor Waite will contact Hugh Malyan.

161(25) **Biodiversity Duty**

a) **River Kenn Survey Project.** The group held a meeting on 9th January at 1pm which was attended by the chairman to understand the implications for the land Yeo that runs through Flax Bourton. They have a grant for £20,000 to improve the condition of river. The issues they are tackling is peripheral but it will be interesting to see how it progresses.

162(25) **Flooding**
The scheme that was carried out last year had a significant improvement regarding Angel cottages. The only outstanding issue is that the road is still flooding at the Stancombe end after storms. This has an impact on the bus stop and people are splashed as cars drive by. The problem has been reported.

There are problems at the bottom by Bourton Coombe. The road gully by the lane and A370 works well until it is covered with leaves and then water goes into the road and the houses opposite. The council have asked highways to improve the gully. It was suggested that a letterbox style entrance could be constructed which leaves could flow into.

Holding ponds were suggested to address the flooding on the A370 in the Station Road area.

Action: Cllr Seaver to give some thought to holding ponds to see if it could be a practical proposition

163(25) **Flax Bourton Hub**
The Council are awaiting plans for the new WC. The Hub has acquired a grant from the National Lottery for the works.

164(25) **Farleigh Green playing fields and playground**
Three quotes were discussed regarding repairs to the wet pour; Quote C was chosen. The clerk has submitted an application to the Stancombe Quarry Fund for the remaining funds for the replacement swings in the playground.
Action: Clerk to question warranty wet pour repairs and for how long this would last. Clerk to notify successful company.

Chair …… **Date**……

165(25) **Highways**

a) **A370 Safety Scheme** – main improvements needed are siding out and improvements to footpaths. There are hedges obstructing footpaths along the A370.
Action: Clerk to log on NSC's portal and report online.
b) **Pavements and Footpaths** – no update
c) **Public Rights of Way** – no update
d) **Alternative path Belmont Estate** – consultation is underway. Losing the diagonal footpath from the railway bridge is more contentious. The council suggested reopening the footpath along the railway that gives an alternative to the cycleway as it is intimidating.
e) **Stancombe Lane waste bin** –the Village Orderly has confirmed the bins are not being emptied.
f) **Safe route to school** – no update.
g) **Community Land –** the council had a conference call with a law firm. The council needs clarification that the car park is not included the transfer but includes the right of way for access. The council wants to retain the option to reinstate the youth club on its original site subject to enthusiasm from the village. The council will pursue the appetite for reinstatement of the youth club. A working group would be a good idea. They could come together to discuss a vision for the community land.
Action: Cllr Seaver to pursue and provide wording to the Clerk to set out basics of community land on website
h) **Parish Boundary sign and gateway signs** – awaiting gateway signs and clerk has requested investigation of a new parish boundary sign
i) **Email from resident with sign proposals** – no update

166(25) **Quarry (Tarmac)**
The quarry has been asked if they will consider funding additional highway works.

167(25) **Defibrillators**
Clerk is awaiting two new defibrillators to replace the ones at the village hall and school. The cabinet at the school needs replacing or refurbishing and is awaiting quotes.

168(25) **Assertion 10 (AGAR 2025/26) Digital and Data Compliance**
The councillors are booked into the relevant training.

169(25) **Clerk's Report**
The Clerk's report was noted.

170(25) **Community Governance Review 2025**

171(25) **Local Devolution Programme**
No update.

172(25) **Policies and Procedures**
The new IT Policy specified in the Practitioners' Guide was approved.

173(25) **Date of the next Meeting**
To note the date of the next **Parish Council Meeting** as to be held on **9th February 2026** in the **Hall** at **Flax Bourton Hub** at **7:30pm**.

Meeting ended at 9:19pm

Two members of the public left 9:20pm

Chair …… **Date**……

FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS FOR JANUARY 2026

Receipts

Name	Receipt no	Details	Date received	Method	Net Amount	VAT	Total	Notes	Minute agreed
Lloyds Bank	25:R21	Interest	9/12/2025	BACS	£26.82	£0.00	£26.82		
Lloyds Bank	25:R23	Interest	9/1/2026	BACS	£28.73	£0.00	£28.73		
The Charity Bank	25:R22	Interest	31/12/2025	BACS	£128.78	£0.00	£128.78		
				TOTAL	**£26.82**	**£0.00**	**£26.82**		

Payments

Name	Invoice no	Details	Payment date	Method	Net Amount	VAT	Total	Notes	Minute agreed
HP Instant Ink	25:135	Printer ink cartridge	11/1/2026	DD	£5.41	£1.08	£6.49		
Google Workspace	25:126	Google Workspace 1-31 Dec 25	5/1/2026	DD	£8.40	£0.00	£8.40		
Tesco Mobile	25:132	Monthly charge for phone	22/1/2026	DD	£7.48	£0.00	£7.48		
Corporate Cleaning Services	25:130	Dog Bin and Farleigh Green Collections Dec 25	13/1/2026	BACS	£185.00	£0.00	£185.00		
CPS Grounds	25:128	Grounds Maintenance-field- Jan 26 (S106)	13/1/2026	BACS	£400.95	£80.19	£481.14		
Helen Nelson	25:134	Clerk's Salary Jan 26	31/1/2026	SO	[redacted]				
VO Salary	25:131	VO's hours Jan 25 (Dec hrs)	13/1/2026	BACS					
One Drive	25:136	Backup storage	15/1/2026	DD	£1.99	£0.00	£1.99		
GB Sport	25:125	Operational playground inspection	13/1/2026	BACS	£37.00	£7.40	£44.40		
HMRC	25:124	Period 6 shortfall	16/12/2025	CARD	£7.61	£0.00	£7.61		
Jason Ball	25:129	Playground slope works	13/1/2026	BACS	£295.00	£0.00	£295.00		
Lloyds Bank plc	25:127	Monthly Service charge	19/1/2026	DD	£4.25	£0.00	£4.25		
				TOTAL	**£2,171.88**	**£88.67**	**£2,260.55**		

Transfers Commercial Instant Access Account to Community Account

Details	Date transferred	Amount	Notes
For bills	12/01/2026	2200	
		TOTAL	**£2,200.00**

Invoices out

Name	Invoice no	Details	Invoice sent	Due date	Net Amount	VAT	Total	Notes