

**FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT**  
**FLAX BOURTON VILLAGE HALL MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011**

Meeting commenced 7.30pm

Meeting concluded 9.00pm

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Roger Higgins opened the meeting, introducing himself, the Clerk and other members of the Council who were present.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Chairman Flax Bourton PC (Cllr Higgins) District Councillors Collinson & Mrs Barclay, Parish Liaison Officer Mr Peter Rooney and approximately 30 residents of Flax Bourton.

- 1) To Approve the Minutes of the APM of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010: RESOLVED:** A copy of the minutes had been provided for all those in attendance. **RESOLVED:** Proposed by Mr Phil Moss, seconded by Mrs Liddy Hill and agreed that the minutes be approved. A vote was taken. All in favour.
- 2) Chairman's Report:** Cllr Higgins gave a review of the last year's events. A copy of the report was provided for all those in attendance and the report can be found as an appendix to these minutes.
- 3) School Report:** Councillor Windo, who is the appointed School Governor on behalf of the Parish Council, provided a report on how well the Primary School had been performing. A copy of the report can be found as an appendix to these minutes.
- 4) Youth Group:** Nick Gardiner, Leader in Charge and Rob Wellman then spoke about the Youth Group.  
Nick Gardiner explained that the Youth Group ran every Wednesday evening and activities included things such as, cooking, board games, Wii games, table tennis and pool. Also the leaders were a "listening ear" for the young people, who felt it easier to come to them for advice, as perhaps not be so keen to speak to their parents about certain issues. The Youth Group are also very keen to get involved in the community and have gone around offering residents mince pies at Christmas & Easter biscuits at Easter. They also engage in activities outside of the Youth Hut, such as woodland walks, ice skating, bowling & bell ringing. The school also uses the youth club to encourage new members to join when they are old enough. The group are hoping to be able to develop the outside space next to the youth hut and are very keen to maintain positive links with the community.  
Rob Wellman then thanked everybody for their support. He confirmed that without the £6500.00 grant they receive from the Parish Council and £2000.00 they managed to acquire through their own fundraising efforts, the Youth Club would simply not be able to open. The income last year was £8500.00 against expenditure of £8871.00, so money was tight and without the support of the Parish Council the club would have to close. He too confirmed that the club was an excellent place for the young people to share a problem. The building itself is in desperate need of costly repairs and ideally a permanent building is the long-term plan. A resident then commented on how polite the young people were. The group gets between 6 – 15 young people attend per night and these are mainly residents of Flax Bourton, Barrow Gurney, Backwell & Long Ashton. The age limit is school year 7 upwards and many older members return for visits. The question as to why the Village Hall was not used was asked and Nick Gardiner, explain how the youth hut belonged to the young people and therefore they could do as this wish it. I.E., they have a graffiti area; the chairs and games all stay on site and it would be inappropriate to use the hall. It was confirmed that Tarmac had donated £1000.00 and that they would be applying for a further grant this coming year.

- 5) **Footpaths:** Hamish Batten gave a presentation on the local footpaths and walks. He also provided maps and locations of all the footpaths in the surrounding area.
- 6) **Cycle Track / Sustrans:** Rupert Crosbee gave a presentation on the work that Sustrans are involved with, I.E Sustainable Transport. They have managed a very successful project providing 13000 miles of cycle track all around the UK. They are also working on “motivational” projects such as “bike it” a project run via the schools to encourage children to use safe cycle routes to get to their school. Sustrans also part funded the Flax Bourton Greenway and are currently working on a link from Nailsea to Bristol, called Festival Way which is lottery funded and they are hopeful this should be completed by the end of next year. They are keen to reduce pollution and encourage more active lifestyles. Residents brought up their concerns about cyclists riding too fast on the tracks and the lack of courtesy from some cyclists when they ride very fast past people walking on the track, without any warning, I. E not ringing a bell or slowing down to pass. Sustrans confirmed that they always promote courtesy and have published The Good Cyclists Guide. They have agreed to look into the possibility of erecting extra signage in the hope that this may improve things. Residents also asked if Sustrans could put pressure on North Somerset Council to provide footpath / cycle access to the Tyntesfield Estate. Rupert Crosbee agreed that this was a good idea and would look into it. A new idea that Sustrans are looking into is an Apple Orchard. They have acquired some land from Wessex Water, which historically was used as orchard land and they are keen to re-establish this use of the land. They have already run an apple-grafting workshop, which was well attended. They are keen for this to be a community orchard and would also like it to include a nature reserve and are hopeful that the community will get involved.
- 7) **Parish Liaison Officer Peter Rooney:** Peter explained his role as the PLO and was keen to take questions from the audience. Refuse collection & the new recycling scheme was a hot topic with most residents praising the new arrangements. They were a few issues where some residents were only provided with sacks, as they did not have the room for a wheelie bin, and using the sacks encouraged rats in the area. Peter agreed that he would look into the possibility of that particular street perhaps being able to have access to a shared bin.
- 8) **Village Hall update:** Michael Barnes, one of the Directors of the Community Interest Company who manage the hall and sports field gave a presentation on the use of the hall and its facilities. He explained that the hall had been built for 11 years, following a section 106 agreement from Persimmon Homes when building houses in Farleigh Green. A debate that lasted for years on who would take ownership of the hall meant that the hall stood empty for many years until 5 residents came forward and offered to set up the CIC. He confirmed that the hall had now been open for 5 years and that in its first year they made a small loss, but in the following years a profit had been made. All profits are reinvested for the upkeep, maintenance and improvement of the facilities. None of the Directors take a salary. The hall is used for many different activities, such as:
- Junior Ballet
  - Children’s Parties
  - Junior Football
  - Actors Workshops
  - Slimming World
  - Dance Classes
  - Blood Service
  - Weddings
  - Parish Council meetings

9) **Orchid Bank:** Mary Johnson is involved in the Orchid Bank and thanked all those that had carried out all the hard physical work. She explained how getting funding for capital expenditure was relatively easy, however maintenance funding was far more difficult and thanked the Parish Council, North Somerset Council and Tarmac for their kind donations to the project. She finished by asking for volunteers to help count the cowslip flowers & orchids.

Prior to closing the meeting, the Chairman advised residents on how desperate the Parish Council were to find a Village Orderly and 3 new Councillors and that if anyone were interested to contact the Clerk.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting and guests enjoyed chatting and the cheese and wine provided.

Signed..... Chairman

Dated .....