

**FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FLAX BOURTON
TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2011**

Meeting Commenced: 8.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.10 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Higgins (Chairman), Windo (Vice Chairman), Mrs Moss, Phillips & Lillington.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillors Coombs and Mrs Barclay.

78) **Apologies for absence.** None

79) **Declarations of Interest.** None

80) **To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th October 2011.**

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Lillington, seconded by Councillor Mrs Moss and agreed the minutes be approved. A vote was taken. All in favour.

81) **Financial Reports**

To approve the monthly expenditure

To approve the Bank Reconciliation.

To approve the Budgetary Control Report

RESOLVED: That the three regular monthly reports be taken en bloc and it was proposed by Councillor Higgins, seconded by Councillor Phillips and agreed that the reports be approved. A vote was taken. All in favour.

82) **Planning & Development –**

8.19pm Meeting adjourned for public participation

8.20pm Meeting reconvened.

Councillor Higgins updated members on the core strategy and advised that he would be attending a hearing on 23 November 2011 and that the Government Planning Inspector will make his recommendations to the Secretary of State. Noted

83) **North Somerset Showground.**

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the society's secretary Mr Tim Ledbury and invite both him and the committee members to the January Council meeting.

84) **Resident Issues**

- The Clerk had received a complaint about a loose manhole cover on the A370. The matter has been resolved by North Somerset Council.

85) Flax Bourton Primary School - School crossing safety.

It was noted that the 20mph signs had been installed but were awaiting the electric hook-up. The Council wished to thank District Councillor Mrs Karen Barclay, Parish Councillor Mrs Moss and head teacher Mrs Jane Bennett for all their hard work. It was agreed that Councillor Mrs Moss would write to Mrs Jane Bennett asking that she monitor the situation and provide feedback to the Parish Council. Noted.

86) Hinkley Point Pylons

It was noted that at a Parish Council briefing held on 19 October 2011 that National Grid have stated that they would consider other certain areas and that underground maybe be a possibility although no costings had been done on this. There is a proposal on the way forward due in the new year.

87) Parish Council Notice Boards

It was agreed that Councillor Higgins would speak to James Tonkin to discuss the price of refurbishment and that the matter would be revisited in the spring of 2012.

88) Footpaths

Permissive Path – It was agreed that Councillor Higgins along with Hamish Batten would liaise with North Somerset Council re the establishment of permissive paths subject to any costs being approved by the Council. Noted.

The Council had been advised about a damaged stile. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss, seconded by Councillor Windo and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to North Somerset Council in support of it's replacement. A vote was taken. All in favour.

89) Cycle path

Sustrans had requested the support of the Council to ask North Somerset Council to cut back the hedgerow to improve visibility. It was agreed that the Clerk would write in support of this. The Clerk would also write and chase up North Somerset Council on the replacement of bollards on the cycle path which had yet to be done.

90) Debrief from meeting with Village Hall Directors

Councillors Higgins and Mrs Moss met with the directors of the CIC on 19 October 2011. The key points that come from the meeting were:

Bookings

The trend continues upwards with fixed bookings on Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs evenings and increasing bookings for parties, wedding receptions at weekends. Daytime capacity remains and there is potential for business/conference use. Following some difficulties earlier in the year, good booking arrangements are now in place with Clara Marullo. The small kitchen occasionally can be an issue for some hirers. The licensing is arranged by hirers where appropriate. Directors will consider use of a feedback arrangement by hirers.

Sports Field

There is regular Saturday/Sunday morning use by Long Ashton Junior Football club. Players arrive already kitted and village hall is kept closed. Some issues with new grass cutting contractor and CIC will liase with the Clerk if these continue.

Finances

Draft Income/expenditure account for year to 31.5.2011 shows letting income of £13,525 compared to approximately £11,500 in year to 31.5.2010 and £17,566 in year to 31.5.09 which included significant income from use by coroner’s court. Income for the first 4 months of the current financial year shows a continuing upward trend at £6300.

Surplus in year to 31.5.2011 is £3382 after hall improvements of £2327. There are cash reserves of £15,803. Some £2000 remains earmarked for a PA system including hearing loop facilities. (See also maintenance/improvements below)

Use of Surplus Funds

The Directors are continuing to review a donation for the installation of a baby swing at the Farleigh Green playground area. They are happy to consider other ideas relating to both the village hall - and the wider village community subject to retention of a sufficient surplus for maintenance and improvement of the VH.

Maintenance/Improvements

In addition to installation of PA system other potential work in the next 12 months includes

- External decoration of hall
- Canopy trimming of trees facing car park area for security/light purposes
- CCTV system (subject to discussion with Parish Council)
- Up grade of staging equipment

Councillor Higgins suggested consideration be given to installation of projection facilities for connection to laptops.

91) Open Forum - An opportunity to propose any items for the next agenda, including any relevant issues raised by the public.

The Clerk raised the issue of someone other than the approved contractor cutting the football pitch at Farleigh Green. The Clerk would contact Mr Michael Barnes to ensure that this stopped due to the risks involved. A site meeting with contractor can be arranged if there are problems with the current cutting schedule.

The Council to consider updating the parish / neighbourhood plan.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 13th December 2011

The Clerk gave her apologies for this meeting, as she will be hospital.

There, being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed.....

Dated.....