

**FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
HELD AT FLAX BOURTON YOUTH HUT
Monday 10th July 2006**

Meeting commenced 8.05pm

Meeting concluded 10.06pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs Hore-Ruthven (Chairman), Bruce (Vice Chairman), Mrs Johnson, Watts, Dr Ogden and Mrs Crawford.

IN ATTENDANCE: 7 members of the public.

198) Proposed by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven, seconded by Councillor Mrs Crawford at the request of a member of the public to bring agenda item 16 forward to be dealt with after the minutes of the last meeting. A vote was taken. All in favour.

199) Apologies for absence
The Clerk.

200) Declarations of interest
None

201) To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th June 2006

Councillor Watts advised that in minute number 185 the word “increased” should be deleted since there had been no increase in the costs.

Councillors Mrs Johnson and Dr Ogden advised that minute number 187 at item 06/P/1285/F should also include the following: “Concerns were expressed about the hazards attending the crossing of Station Road and using Station Road to reach the school. The PC will discuss their concerns with North Somerset Council.”

Councillor Mrs Crawford pointed out that the word “able” in minute number 188 should read “unable”.

Councillor Mrs Johnson said that in minute number 188 it was Chris Nolan of North Somerset Council whom the Clerk had been asked to contact and not Tarmac.

Under minute number 197 Open Forum, Councillor Mrs Johnson wished it to be recorded that the Parish Council had confirmed with the Chairman that the Clerk should be contacted by telephone on her working days of Thursday and Friday only. Also that the Chairman had been asked to provide (through Siserone) details of the number of hits on the PC website.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven, seconded by Councillor Watts that subject to the fore-going amendments, the minutes of 12th June be approved as a true and correct record. A vote was taken. All in favour.

202) To note a letter received from a Long Ashton resident re the Footpath from Station Road to Gable Farm, Wraxall.

Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven apologised that a previous letter dated 6 January appeared not to have been seen by Councillors and did not receive a reply.

8.32pm The meeting was adjourned to allow Mr Tony Hibbitt (the writer of the letter) to address Councillors. The meeting was re-convened at 8 35pm.

The issue is the blocking and also the possible re-routing of the footpath between the bottom of Belmont Hill and Tynesfield with a view to keeping a network of footpaths open.

RESOLVED Proposed by Councillor Dr Ogden, seconded by Councillor Mrs Johnson that the original working group would be reconstituted to include Councillors Mrs Johnson and Dr Ogden and also Messrs Hibbitt, Scott and Batten. Councillor Mrs Johnson offered to write to neighbouring PCs and arrange a meeting to investigate. All in favour.

203) Financial Reports.

The list of payments for July was the only report available in the absence of the Clerk. Councillors had queries about the nature of the insurance premium tax, whether the payment to Siserone was for a year or quarterly and whether the urgent payment for village hall furniture was part of the £12,000 voted to the CIC.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Bruce, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven that subject to clarification on the Clerk's return, the list be approved for payment. A vote was taken. All in favour.

204) To receive a report from the Village Hall CIC on the progress towards taking over the lease and insurance etc.

A report was to have been circulated but had not been received. However Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven produced copies of the lease and transfer deeds for the hall and play area for inspection by the PC.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Ms Hore-Ruthven, seconded by Councillor Mrs Crawford that:

1. Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven will try to obtain sufficient copies of the Section 106 agreement and leases/transfer deeds so that each Councillor can inspect them.
2. Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven and/or any other Councillor will also find the name of an independent Solicitor to examine the document on behalf of the PC and will obtain a quote for this work.
3. Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven will inform John Brentnall that this is being done.
4. When documents and quotes are available an extraordinary meeting can be called (hopefully to take place on Monday 17th July) to approve expenditure for the Solicitor and to consider the lease etc.

Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven reported that the Clerk had prepared a draft agenda for the extraordinary meeting before leaving for holidays.

A vote was taken. All in favour.

205) A personal statement by Councillor Mrs Johnson.

Councillor Mrs Johnson read out a statement which is attached to these minutes and answered some questions put to her by other Councillors.

206) Casual Vacancy

The Parish Council has a casual vacancy that can be filled by co-option. Members of the public are invited to volunteer to become a member of the Council. Applications should be to the Clerk in writing.

207) Planning Application.

To discuss any issues raised by the following application:

06/P/1534/F – This appears to be a retrospective application to correct a previous error. No comments or issues were raised by Councillors.

208) Charter 88. Sustainable Communities.

This item was deferred to a future meeting as more information was still needed. Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven agreed to circulate a leaflet which she had received.

209) Traffic Calming Working Group.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Dr Ogden, seconded by Councillor Mrs Johnson to reactivate this group in connection with safety issues on Station Road and with the Sustrans cycle path, to liaise with the School and arrange a meeting. Funding may be available from the Safe Routes to School initiative and other grant bodies.

A vote was taken. All in favour.

210) CPRE Report from the AGM.

Councillor Mrs Johnson gave her apologies - she had been unwell and unable to attend the meeting. She pointed out that a CPRE magazine is sent regularly to the Clerk and asked that this be circulated to Councillors.

9.14pm Councillor Dr Ogden was called away and left the meeting.

211) Allocation of property number, Station Road.

North Somerset Council has asked the PC for suggestions for numbering following a request from a resident.

RESOLVED: Proposed Councillor Mrs Johnson, seconded Councillor Mrs Crawford to suggest to North Somerset that the resident be asked to choose a name, since other houses nearby have names only and numbering is a problem. A vote was taken. All in favour.

Proposed Councillor Bruce, seconded Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven that the Clerk should write to North Somerset registering concern at their suggestion that Station Road is likely to be further developed at a future date.

212) To note a complaint received by a resident of an open sewerage drain in Farleigh Green.

The complaint was noted. Councillors assume that the Clerk has passed this complaint on to North Somerset, but will check with her on her return.

213) North Somerset Replacement Local Plan.

Councillors have received copies of a very large book of modifications to the Plan. Although not yet fully inspected, it appears that the only items to affect Flax Bourton are a small area of redesignation within Farleigh Hospital and also the addition of the A38 to A370 Link Road (Red route).

214) Local Aggregate Levy Sustainability Grants.

The PC noted the availability of additional funding, with applications required by 28th July. Any local groups should contact Rachel Lewis at North Somerset Council. Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven is contacting North Somerset to put in a bid for lottery funding for the children's playground.

215) To note North Somerset Roadside Interview Surveys on the A370.

It was agreed to put a copy of this notification on each of the village notice boards to inform residents.

216) Proposed road between M5 and A370.

An item had appeared in the North Somerset Times in connection with the Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study. While this link road has been shelved in the past, it could become an important issue for the village in terms of traffic noise, upheaval and the threat of additional housing. Consultation is until 30th August.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Mrs Johnson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven that Councillor Mrs Johnson will write to North Somerset Council protesting about the short time scale for responses .

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven, seconded by Councillor Mrs Crawford that views need to be heard. Councillor Hore-Ruthven will draft a leaflet for circulation round the village. This can then be voted on at the extraordinary meeting to be held next week.

A vote was taken. All in favour of both proposals.

217) Open Forum.

Councillor Watts drew the Council's attention to the need for dog bins at Farleigh Green. To go on next month's agenda.

Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven pointed out that there is a need for further training, both for new Councillors and on recent developments. Peter Lacey is available for group training.

It was agreed to remind the clerk to circulate the notes taken at the recent communications meeting, as this had not been done yet.

It was agreed to make preliminary enquiries into the arrangements for next year's Council elections.

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

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....