

**FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
HELD AT THE YOUTH HUT, FLAX BOURTON
MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2006**

Meeting Commenced: 8.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 10.00 pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, numerous members of the public

Prior to the meeting, the public in attendance were allowed 15 minutes to discuss items on the agenda with members of the Council.

233) Apologies for Absence

None

234) Declarations of Interests

None

235) To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th August 2006 as a true and correct record.

Councillor Mrs Johnson requested that the words “when funds become available” be inserted into minute no. 230.

It was noted that minute no. 223, be changed and that the word “be” should read, “been”.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven, seconded by Councillor Watts and agreed that subject to the above amendments, the Minutes of the 14th August 2006 be approved as a true and correct record. A vote was taken. 3 in favour. 1 abstained.

236) Financial Reports

As per minute no. 221, Councillors Mrs Hore-Ruthven, Mrs Johnson and Watts attended a training session on the financial reports on Wednesday 6th September 2006.

To approve the monthly expenditure of £987.62

To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for August 2006

To approve the budgetary control report for August 2006

To approve to vire the sum of £500.00 from the Training Budget into the Election Expenditure Budget in order to cover forthcoming election costs.

Councillor Mrs Crawford was concerned that it appeared that the Clerk had already made the budget transfer.

The Clerk confirmed that Councillors had merely received a report indicating the proposed transfer that could be made. The Clerk advised members that transfer had not and would not be made until the Council has approved to do so.

Councillor Mrs Crawford stated that she did not feel the current accounting software made it clear what had or had not been done.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Dr Ogden, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven and agreed that the above financial reports be taken on block and approved. A vote was taken. 4 in favour 1 abstained.

237) 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 made to Clerk in writing.

Noted.

238) Resignation Of Councillor Peter Bruce

The Chairman confirmed that Councillor Bruce had resigned from office. Councillor Mrs Johnson proposed a Vote of thanks to Mr Bruce for all the hard work he had undertaken whilst on office.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Bruce to convey the Council's thanks.

A vote was taken. All in favour.

239) Planning

To discuss any issues raised by the following applications:

- **06/P/2012/PDT** - Erection of 15m Telecommunication Mast

Councillor Mrs Johnson explained that this application would not be able to be discussed at the North Somerset Council Central Area Committee due to time constraints and that it was imperative that the Parish Council passed comments as soon as possible in order for them to be considered by North Somerset Council Officers. Councillor Mrs Johnson advised members and the public in attendance, that the Parish Council were statutory consultees on planning matters and should base any objections on the grounds of Design and Siting. Councillor Mrs Johnson proposed that comments also be copied to Mr Mike Schneider of the North Somerset Council Highways Department and Mr Kevin Carlton the Landscape Officer.

8.35pm Meeting adjourned for public participation.

The public raised many areas of concern about this application.

9.05pm Meeting reconvened.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Mrs Johnson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Crawford and agreed that the Parish Council object to this application on the following grounds:

1. DESIGN. Because of its scale and unsightly appearance the mast and buildings would detract from the appearance of the surroundings of the Community Hall and the listed buildings including the old chapel. At 15m high, it would appear overpowering, especially when the trees are bare.

2. SITING. The siting is as such that;

- (a) The proposed installation would be visually intrusive (see 1)
- (b) There is likely to be a dangerous impingement on the footway
- (c) It would be totally out of keeping with the carefully landscaped areas surrounding the hall and other amenities at Farleigh Green.
- (d) It is within a Grade 2 Listed environment and therefore contrary to the spirit of the Replacement Local Plan

- (e) The perception of the there being a Health & Safety issue with such equipment, whether right or wrong, would cause untold stress and worry to the residents.
- (f) The Stewart Report recommends that the installation must be the minimum type necessary for the need. A 15m Macro Cell is intended for use in dense urban areas, not open rural areas such as Flax Bourton.
- (g) The Stewart Report also recommends that the equipment should not be sited where the maximum intensity (within 127m), falls on areas such as schools and children's playgrounds.
- (h) If fear of the health issues prevents use of the area, i.e. no sports being played, Village Hall, Cycle path and children's play area not being used, the community of Flax Bourton would be damaged.

A vote was taken. All in favour.

The clerk was also asked to investigate why residents of Farleigh Green had not received the Statutory Notices advising them of this application. Noted.

- **To support the Farleigh Green Residents Association in its objections by giving financial assistance towards the printing costs of a Village Flyer.**

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Dr Ogden, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven and agreed that the Parish Council would pay the printing costs, expected to be approximately £45.00, for the Village Flyer.

- **06/P/2042/TPO** – Flat 1, 15 the Grange. Reduce height and fell branches of 1 X magnolia tree. – No objections.

240) To agree a date to meet with Flax Bourton Village Hall CIC in order to make amendments to the draft lease.

9.15pm Meeting adjourned to liase with CIC members.

9.18pm meeting reconvened.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the Council would meet with members of the Flax Bourton Village Hall CIC on 25th September 2006 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

241) To receive a short report on Councillor Mrs Johnson's visit to Stancombe Quarry.

Councillor Watts gave a vote of thanks to Councillor Johnson for producing a good report. Noted.

242) To establish a Village Enhancement Working group and agree on its members and it's Terms of Reference.

Councillor Watts advised the council of his wish to establish a group that could initially concentrate on improvements to the Farleigh Green Children's Play Area.

9.21pm Meeting adjourned for public participation.

9.22pm Meeting reconvened.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven and agreed that the members of the working group be; Councillors Mrs Hore-Ruthven and Watts plus a member of the Farleigh Green Residents Mrs Sampson.

243) To note the report on action taken from previous minutes.

Noted.

It was agreed by members to move agenda item no. 13 to next business.

244) Open Forum.

- Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven advised the Council of her intention to pursue the possibility of lobbying for a pedestrian crossing on the A370. It was agreed that this should be passed to the Traffic Calming Working Group.
- Councillor Mrs Johnson requested that the Village Hall CIC forward a copy of their “Statement of Intent” to the Council.
- Councillor Dr Ogden asked the Clerk to remind Mr Pepe Sanjuro of North Somerset Street and Open Spaces, about contacting both her and Councillor Watts to arrange a “village walkabout”.

Resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to exclude the public and press for the following agenda item by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

245) To establish a Personnel Working Group and decide upon its members and Terms of Reference in order to receive a formal grievance from the Parish Clerk plus any other ad hoc personnel issues.

The Chairman advised the Council that the Parish Clerk had initiated a formal grievance against a member of the Council and explained the procedures that the Council must adhere to under current Employment Legislation.

The Chairman also advised members as to their legal obligations under employment law and that the Council could call upon an independent person to assist with the grievance hearing.

The Chairman confirmed that as per the Council Grievance Procedures, the Council had to ensure that the Grievance Hearing was held within 14 days after receipt of the complaint from the Clerk

The Council was advised that the hearing could not be held within 14 days, as a member would be on holiday.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven and agreed that the whole Council be present at the hearing and would request the attendance of an independent advisor. It was agreed that the grievance hearing meeting be held at 8.00pm on September 26th 2006 in the Youth Hut. A vote was taken. 4 in favour. 1 abstained.

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

Signed.....Chair Dated.....