

**FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
HELD AT THE YOUTH HUT, FLAX BOURTON
MONDAY 15th JANUARY 2007**

Meeting Commenced: 8.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 10.55 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs Hore-Ruthven (Chairman), Mrs Crawford and Mrs Johnson, Barnes and Higgins

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, 9 members of the public and Mr John Brentnall of Wards Solicitors.

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

258) Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Peter Burden and District Councillor Mrs Baker

Amendment to Order of Business

Councillor Mrs Crawford proposed that agenda item No.9, Casual Vacancies be moved to next business. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Johnson.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to gather further information and to allow Councillors Barnes and Higgins to sign their declaration to office. The order of business was not changed.

259) Declarations of Interests

Councillor Barnes declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Village Hall and a prejudicial interest in items relating to the CIC.

Councillors Mrs Crawford and Mrs Hore-Ruthven declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Youth Club.

260) To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th October 2006 as a true and correct record.

Councillor Mrs Johnson provided a written note of the alterations she wished to be made.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Crawford, seconded by Councillor Mrs Johnson that the minutes be altered to reflect the changes. A vote was taken, 2 in favour, 1 abstained.

261) Resignation of Chairman

Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven advised the Council that she wished to resign from office as Chairman. She stated that it had been her burning ambition to get the Village Hall up and running and as this had now been successfully achieved she felt it was now time to stand down and allow someone to take the Chair. Councillor Higgins proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Hore-Ruthven .

262) Election of new Chairman

Councillor Mrs Johnson proposed Councillor Mrs Crawford. The proposal was not seconded.

RESOLVED: Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven proposed Councillor Barnes. Seconded by Councillor Higgins. A vote was taken, 3 in favour, 2 abstained.

Councillor Barnes took the Chair.

263) Election of Vice Chairman

Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven proposed Roger Higgins. Seconded by Councillor Barnes and put to the vote. 4 in favour, 1 against.

Proposed by Councillor Higgins, seconded by Councillor Barnes and agreed that agenda item No. 11 be moved to next business.

264) Transfer of ownership of the facilities at Farleigh Green.

Mr John Brentnall advised the Council of the current situation and explained the documentation that was to be signed. It was noted that both the play area and the hall would be transferred by Persimmon simultaneously and the sports pitch would come over at a later date once it was up to standard.

Councillor Higgins suggested that prior to exchange, Persimmon were to provide the Council with copies of the Play Area manufacturers guarantees and warranties.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven, seconded by Councillor Higgins and agreed to sign the documents to enable the transfer of the Village Hall and the Play Area to Flax Bourton Parish Council, subject to receiving the above guarantees. A vote was taken, All in favour.

9.24pm, Councillor Michael Barnes left the room due to him having a prejudicial interest in the CIC. Councillor Higgins took the Chair,

Councillor Higgins explained the conditions of the lease.

Councillor Mrs Crawford enquired about salaries and Councillor Higgins confirmed that no salaries would be drawn by the Directors.

9.30pm, Meeting adjourned to here from Mr Rob Waycott, director of the CIC.

Mr Waycott advised the Council that bookings were very good and no additional monies would be needed from the Parish Council. Councillor Brice confirmed it was the best village hall that he had ever hired.

9.35pm Meeting reconvened.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Higgins, seconded by Councillor Johnson and agreed that the Parish Council write to the CIC asking for 6 monthly Financial Reports to be included as a condition of the lease.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Johnson, seconded by Councillor Crawford that the lease be signed Councillor Higgins and one other member. A vote was taken, all in favour.

9.40p, Councillor Barnes returned to the meeting.

265) Financial Reports

To approve the monthly expenditure of £2126.22 (To note the additional PAYE chq for £158.64 that had been omitted from the report.)

To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for November and December 2006

To approve the budgetary control report for December and January 2007

To approve the budget for 2007/2008 – Precept £19,000

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

266) Casual Vacancy

The Chairman adjourned the meeting and Mr Keith Denning withdrew his application to be co-opted.

Additional applications for co-option on to the Council had been received from Mr Richard Armour and Mr Bryan Brice.

RESOLVED: Mr Bryan Brice was proposed by Councillor Mrs Crawford and seconded by Councillor Higgins. A vote was taken, all in favour. Mr Richard Armour was proposed by Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven and seconded by Councillor Higgins. A vote was taken, 3 in favour, 2 abstained

267) Planning

To discuss any issues raised by the following applications:

06/P/2971/HZ2– Flax Bourton PSD, Receipt, storage and delivery of hazardous substances.

Councillor Higgins provided the Council with background information about the site and that it was an invalid application.

10.10pm, Meeting adjourned for public participation.

10.15pm Meeting reconvened

RESOLVED: That the following comments be sent to North Somerset Council: The application is incorrect in its description of activities carried out during the "establishment period". The activities in the 12 months to 7th December 2006 did not include receipt by road and rail and did not include bulk storage and delivery of gasolines.

The application should be limited to receipt by pipeline only. Rail has never been used in the time that the storage tanks have been in place and nor has road access other than for maintenance.

As far as the Council is aware, only kerosene (aviation fuel) has been stored in the tanks and the application should be limited to this fuel.

There is mention of a "quasi commercial facility". Any commercial activity relating to this fuel storage facility is completely outside of planning guidance and the local plan and the application should be limited to Ministry of Defence requirements only.

06/P/3100/F – Erection of replacement silo, Tarmac Limited.

No objections.

268) Footpath Working Group

Councillor Mrs Johnson had supplied members with a report. The group had had two meetings, November 2006 and January 2007, and explained that it was pushing for the footpath between Farleigh Green and Station Road. Councillor Mrs Johnson requested that the Parish Council write to the group to show it's support and to thank all those involved. It was noted that the name; "Footpath Working Group" had been changed to "Flax Bourton Footpath Users Group."
Noted.

269) Village Orderly

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Johnson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Crawford and agreed that a job description was sought and an advert for role be placed in the Parish Magazine. A vote was taken, All in favour.

270) Council Meeting Dates

It was agreed that future meetings would be held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall.

271) Clerk's Working hours report – report had previously been circulated.

Noted

272) Grant Applications

The following grant requests had been received:

- North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau - £500.00
- Nailsea and District Community Transport - £300.00
- Youth Group refurbishment - £500.00

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Higgins, seconded by Councillor Mrs Johnson and agreed that North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau be granted £100.00, the Nailsea & District Community Transport be granted £300.00 and the request from the Youth Group be deferred until further information had been received.

273) Freedom of Information request

The Clerk advised the Council that a request for information had been received which would entail the Clerks having to search, retrieve and edit over 3000 emails. The Clerk explained the Information Commissioner's office guidelines and that it was felt this request be exempt, as it would exceed the time limit of 18 hours.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Brice and agreed to refuse the request as the work hours required would exceed the maximum allowed. The Clerk would write to the applicant and explain if the request could be more specific, the Council would try to oblige.

274) Open Forum.

- Councillor Mrs Crawford advised the Council that the Slow Down sign on the A370 was still not working. Noted by the Clerk
- Councillor Mrs Johnson advised that the Station Road bus shelter was broken and felt that a metal shelter may be more beneficial. Noted by the Clerk.
- Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven advised that the Grievance panel had to be reconvened and asked that this be placed on next month's agenda.

- Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven requested that the decision to allow Councillor Mrs Johnson to report on Council meetings in the Parish Magazine be reconsidered.
- Councillor Mrs Crawford requested that Correspondence be placed on the agenda.

Date of next meeting: 13th February 2007

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

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