

**FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FLAX BOURTON
TUESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2008**

Meeting Commenced: 8.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.35 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Barnes (Chairman), Mrs Moss, Colbourne-Brown, Rutherford and Windo.

IN ATTENDANCE: Parish Liaison Officer Mr Paul Overton and 3 members of the public

11) Apologies for Absence

District Councillors Mrs Barclay and Collinson and Councillor Higgins

12) Declarations of Interests

None

13) To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th August as a true and correct record.

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

14) Financial Reports

To approve the monthly expenditure of £2435.49

To approve the Budget Control Report

To approve the Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Mrs Moss and agreed that the monthly reports be taken on block and approved. A vote was taken. All in favour.

15) Former Fuel Depot Update

Councillor Mrs Moss updated members on the current situation.

There had been no further developments and the Working Group were regularly meeting checking the North Somerset Council website and local press for information. Councillor Mrs Moss had been invited to attend a meeting with the Redcliffe Bay action group and their lawyers and will report on this meeting at a later date.

Noted.

16) North Somerset Housing Core Strategy / Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

A meeting is scheduled for September 26th 2008 and Councillor Higgins will be in attendance and will report on this at a future meeting.

Noted.

17) Planning

To discuss any issues raised by the following application:

08/P/1687/LDE 1 The Cottage Clevedon Road – Certificate of lawful use as a dwelling.

RESOLVED: No objections were raised on the application.

18) Housing in Defined Villages Consultation

North Somerset Council published for comment a consultation on new housing in villages with settlement boundaries.

Unfortunately, due to a problem with North Somerset Council website, the document could not be viewed by members and therefore the item was deferred until the next meeting whereby the Clerk would arrange for paper copies to be issued.

Noted.

19) Parish Boundaries

North Somerset Council published a consultation document on Parish Boundaries, Parish Warding and Parish Council Membership.

8.20pm meeting adjourned for public participation

8.30pm meeting reconvened.

Two members of the public advised members that a few of the houses along the B3130 are currently in the Parish of Long Ashton but have a Flax Bourton postal address. It was the view of the Council that those houses on the south side of the B3130 from The Batch to Station Road should fall into Flax Bourton Parish boundary, with the houses on the north side of the road remaining in Long Ashton.

The feeling was that the road should be the boundary between Flax Bourton and Long Ashton.

It was recommended that this should happen with the proviso that those residents involved are notified by North Somerset Council before any change is made.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk send this response to North Somerset Council along with any further recommendations received by members and / or the public.

20) North Somerset Showground

Following the meeting held on July 8th 2008, it was noted that further enquiries were still being made by North Somerset Council and that a fresh application was likely to follow.

Noted.

22) Brockley Combe Composting Site

This item was deferred until a formal planning application had been received.

23) Cigarette Bins – Village Hall

Councillor Windo advised members of the need for cigarette bins outside the Village Hall. It was noted that the Hall was regularly used by the public and a bin was necessary to avoid the litter of cigarette ends being left outside on the paths etc. The Clerk had provided a report giving three examples of bins.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Windo, seconded by Councillor Colbourne – Brown and agreed that a bin be installed. A vote was taken. 3 in favour, 2 abstentions. The vote was carried.

24) Telephone Kiosk at Post Office Lane.

Councillor Barnes updated members on the “Adopt a Kiosk” opportunity offered by British Telecom whereby Parish Councils could take over the ownership and upkeep of a kiosk without retaining the telephony service. It was noted that as the kiosk in Post Office Lane was not the traditional “red box”, it had no heritable value to the Village and was rarely used by the public.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Colbourne – Brown and agreed that the Council do not adopt the kiosk. A vote was taken. All in favour.

25) Village Hall Boundary Fencing

Councillor Barnes advised members that following the removal of some hedgerow a length of post and rail fencing was in need of replacement. Councillor Barnes had acquired a quote for approximately 100 ft of fencing from a local contractor for the sum of £500.00. The Clerk advised members that two further quotes would be required before a decision could be made.

9.00pm meeting adjourned in order for members to see the fence. It was noted that lighting was also an issue for the area around the car-park.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Windo and agreed that subject to sensible quotes being sought, the replacement fencing be approved. A vote was taken. All in favour.

26) Local Bus Service Review

North Somerset Council sought the Council’s views on bus routes currently funded in the Flax Bourton area.

It was noted that the 362 service, Clevedon – Bristol was due to expire in March 2009. Councillors were unaware that this service even stopped in Flax Bourton however residents had previously complained that the fast route between Weston-super-Mare and Bristol had ceased to stop yet was a service that would be welcomed.

RESOLVED: That Councillor seek the views of residents and report back to the Clerk in order that any requests / comments be conveyed to North Somerset Council.

27) A370 Bus Stop Improvements

North Somerset Council sought the views of the Council with regards to proposals for the remarking and kerb lowering of the bus stops along the A370.

RESOLVED: No objections / comments.

28) Local Aggregate Sustainable Levy Grants

The Clerk advised members of the availability of this grant and asked for suggestions for projects that could benefit from receiving such funding.

Members discussed the possibility of obtaining a grant for sustainable lighting at the Village Hall and the need for a “toddler” cradle swing at the play area.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Colbourne-Brown, seconded by Councillor Windo and agreed that the Clerk would look in to the criteria for obtaining such a grant. A vote was taken. All in favour

29) External Audit Report for 2007 / 2008-10-06

The Clerk advised members that the External Audit had been completed and confirmed that the Accounts for financial year ending 31st March 2008 complied with the requirements of the Audit Commission and had been signed off by the Auditors.

Noted

30) To receive quotes for Play Area Signage

Item deferred as not quote had been received.

31) To note complaints received re a notice to remove homemade goal posts on Farleigh Green

Complaints from residents had been received via email and personally to Councillors following a notice that was signed on behalf of the Council, being attached to a homemade goal post requesting its removal from the Farleigh Green playing fields.

Councillor Barnes advised members that he had received complaints about the construction of the goal and it giving rise to a safety hazard. It was following these complaints that Councillor Barnes attached the notice on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Windo accepted that the health and safety of users of the area was paramount however advised Councillor Barnes that it was wrong to request the removal of the item under the name of the Council without it having been formally approved by members.

Councillor Barnes conceded that he should not have signed the notice on behalf of the Council.

It was agreed that the Council did not want to deter anyone from bringing along their own equipment to the playing fields, but it was also agreed that the public should not leave these items in the area and are requested to take them back home with them.

Finally it was agreed that a letter be drafted confirming that area is open to everyone, that the Council actively encourage sports in the area and to apologise for the notice.

32) Clarification of the role of Councillor and Clerk

Following on from the above mentioned complaint and other situations that had occurred recently, the Clerk reminded Councillors of their role. They were advised that it was prohibited for any Councillor to act on his / her own on behalf of the Council where a formal Council decision had not been made. Members were also reminded that the role of the Clerk was to carry out the administration of the Council which included appointing contractors that had been previously approved.

Noted.

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

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