

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

Meeting Commenced: 8.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.10 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Barnes (Chairman), Higgins (Vice Chairman), Rutherford & Mrs Moss

IN ATTENDANCE: 6 members of the public

Prior to the meeting 15 minutes was given for public questions / observations:

- 1. Mary Johnson gave a comprehensive presentation on the excellent work of the voluntary team behind the Flax Bourton Orchid Bank on the A370 slip road, the benefits of which will be seen in Spring. This was another example of certain people from the village pulling together for the benefit of all.*
- 2. Rob Welman & David Luff from the Youth Group outlined the good work the club did with up to 21 youngsters attending each Wednesday and others during the extra Summer 08 Club nights. Fund raising remains a problem but they are most appreciative of the substantial monies (£5,300) currently provided by the Parish Council.*

56) Apologies for Absence

Councillor Windo, District Councillor Mrs Barclay and the Clerk.

57) Declarations of Interests

Councillor Barnes re Agenda Item No.9 - CIC Annual Accounts.

58) To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th October as a true and correct record.

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

59) Financial Reports

To approve the monthly expenditure of £2409.18

To approve the Budget Control Report

To approve the Bank Reconciliation

To agree final budget proposals for the financial year 09/10.

To formally approve that Mr Peter Bruce be assigned the Internal Auditor and to agree suitable remuneration.

RESOLVED: Monthly expenditure, bank reconciliation, and budget control report were all approved. Proposed Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Higgins. A vote was taken. All in favour. The appointment of an Internal Auditor was deferred pending information from the Clerk as to remuneration.

Budget proposals 09/10 were discussed:
Budget Draft 2:

Youth Group - The PC should anticipate an increased request prior to a formal approach, say 15%.

Village Enhancement - £600 dog bins, this should be deleted as Quarry monies received.

Reserve for Village Hall maintenance - £3,000, this should be drawn down this year 08/09 and placed in reserves now with a further £3,000 put in Budget for 09/10 to build up a continued reserve fund.

Professional Fees - £5,000 probably no draw down 08/09 but to be in Budget for 09/10 re Fuel Depot.

Precept – anticipated at £23,000 (£21,000)
Proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded Councillor Higgins. All in agreement.

60) Former Fuel Depot

Councillor Higgins updated members and confirmed that no further Hazardous Substances Application had been submitted for Flax Bourton
Close monitoring remains essential in knowledge that fuel stored at Redcliffe Bay is for civil use. There are significant implications for Flax Bourton as the only pipeline feed is from Redcliffe Bay.
Bristol International Airport has announced their revised expansion plans which include additional on site fuel storage. Officials have acknowledged that they are aware of a disused fuel pipeline close by.
Redcliffe Bay action group continue to challenge the Deemed Consent Application made in December 2006 and are awaiting the outcome of fresh counsel opinion being obtained by North Somerset Council
The action group continue to seek evidence from the Oil and Pipeline Agency of information submitted in the Deemed Consent Application
Flax Bourton Working Group continues to meet regularly – including liaison with the Redcliffe Bay action group in view of the potential “knock on” effect for Flax Bourton.

Noted.

61) South West Bristol Urban Extension

Councillor Higgins attended the third “Planning Together” workshop on 26.11.08
The final report on the Core Strategy proposals will be submitted to North Somerset Council in February/March 09.
The Regional Spatial Plan is to be signed off by Government April 09.
Some further consultation will take on place on “the shape of the development” and it is possible that policy could be by-passed by developers with prompt submission of outline planning applications from March 09 onwards. Discussions will include S.106 agreements.
Land area – current estimates for the required housing, infrastructure, schools, open spaces etc show a need in excess of 400 hectares and there is doubt that the land identified will be adequate.

1500 units of the required 10,500 are earmarked for the existing Bristol City area but there are doubts that Bristol has enough land to achieve this.

Roads – development of the South Bristol Link Road and a Rapid Transit route are included. The SBL would be a single road (not a dual carriageway extension of Hartcliffe Way etc) and the RT route a bus lane to Temple Meads crossing the existing Cumberland Basis bridge. Details are subject to ongoing discussion and timing is at best RT by 2011/13 and SBL by 2013/2015. Extending the RT up to the A38 (close to the Barrow Hospital site) would be a further aspiration.

Much was said that the development will be an extension of the existing urban area, not “new part of Bristol”.

New Football Stadium – presentation outlined this scheme at Ashton Vale. This would be an enabling development with a total site of 42 acres with the stadium needing 18 acres. Enabling proposals include 180 residential units, shops and hotel. A significant flood management scheme would be needed

University Land at Long Ashton – local Land Agents promoted 70 acres of land between Long Ashton and the A370 for residential development but this is not identified in North Somerset Council’s Core Strategy which supports the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Noted.

62) Development and Planning Control Workshop

Councillor Higgins attended a Planning Development and Control workshop at North Somerset Council on 27.11.08

Conservation – A new conservation officer has been appointed. There are 35 conservation areas in North Somerset. Details are on the North Somerset Council website and will be updated.

Listed buildings – are listed on www.english-heritage.org.uk . 8 in Flax Bourton.

Home extensions – rules have changed for permitted development. Now based more on size of extension rather than volume increase. e.g. single story extensions must not project more than 3m from rear of house (different for side extensions) and be more than 4m high. Good government website at www.planningportal.gov.uk

Noted.

63) North Somerset Showground

District Councillor Karen Barclay has, on behalf of the Parish Council, remained in close contact with Louise Grover (North Somerset Council Planning) who has advised that no application is to be heard by North Somerset Council planners this month nor in January. Miss Grover has urged NSAS to review their application and resubmit a fresh one with all the information that has been required by various parties since the earlier one was submitted. It was hoped that the concerns raised by the Parish Council/residents will be addressed in any revised Application.

The Accounts of the NSAS at 31 August 08 show substantial profits adequately supporting the debt on the showground loan.

Noted.

64) CIC Annual Accounts and details of hall lettings

Due to having a prejudicial interest in the agenda item, Councillor Barnes handed over the Chairmanship to Councillor Higgins because of his directorship of the CIC.

Rob Waycott (Chairman) and Helen Walder (Director/ Booking Sec.) gave a very good and full report on the financial and usage position of the Hall CIC.

In summary, trading for the year end May 08 has been excellent with income £8,995 and net profit £3,617 and Corporation Tax having reluctantly to be paid for the second year of operation. The bank balance is healthy and the directors plan continued improvements to the Hall e.g. carpeting in the Small Hall and dismountable staging so as to encourage drama etc. All such items would continue to remain with the Hall although funding would come from the CIC reserves.

The extensive range of users of the Hall was detailed, from the Coroner's Court (now ceased) through to the Blood Service, weddings, yoga and children's parties. Much private usage came from the Flax Burton and Long Ashton areas and is increasing in popularity.

The Councillors congratulated the CIC for the excellent performance and thanked the directors for their continued voluntary support in providing such a major facility for the village. They noted that previous serious concerns from some residents over unprofitability and a drain on Parish Council reserves had been unwarranted.

Noted.

65) Bristol Airport Open Evening

Councillors Barnes and Moss attended the open evening on 2nd December 2008 on behalf of the Parish Council. The key points were-

Passengers anticipated increasing from 6.3 million (now) to 10 million in 2016.

Terminal to be extended.

Hotel and multi-storage car park to be built.

Fuel Farm to be built underground.

No new roads planned but junctions e.g. Barrow Street to be 'improved'.

A Planning Application is likely in March 09.

One key element for Flax Bourton was the fuel farm. Currently their storage tanks are supplied daily by tankers from Avonmouth. They are aware of the storage/pipeline at Redcliffe Bay and the disused facility at Flax Bourton.

Under questioning we ascertained that they did not see the present tanker system to change before 2016. A local expert has suggested that a pipeline from Flax Bourton to the airport would be very costly bearing in mind the regular quarry extraction blasting, the sub-soil and the uphill direction of any pipeline. However, the Parish Council Working Group would remain vigilant should any Planning Application be made especially as the MOD/OPA might have other plans for the Flax Bourton site.

Noted.

66) Footpaths

The poor state of some of our footpaths/stiles has been raised by our local expert Hamish Batten and Councillor Rutherford agreed to act as the Parish Council's representative and meet with him to establish the way forward in the 'apparent' unwillingness of NSC to assist.

Noted.

67) Open Forum

Dog bins/benches – number/location, with funding now provided from the Tarmac donation, which must be gratefully acknowledged formally.

Parking on Old Weston Road outside Farleigh Court now that the Coroner’s Court major improvements have been completed next door.

Road surface refurbishments on the Old Weston Road following the Coroner’s Court work and general disrepair of the road with increased usage.

Sustrans Cycle Path. It was noted that the Chairman has been invited to a local meeting on 14 January when there will be an opportunity to raise any concerns over our part of the route.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13 January at 8.00 pm

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

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