

**FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FLAX BOURTON  
TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2009**

Meeting Commenced: 8.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.10 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Barnes (Chairman), Higgins (Vice Chairman), Rutherford and Colbourne-Brown. Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven arrived at 8.10 pm

**IN ATTENDANCE:** David Luff of the Youth Group, Tim Ledbury, Secretary and Martin Ford Chairman of North Somerset Agricultural Society, Adrian Ashby from the Volkswagen Festival and two members of the public.

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

*Mr & Mrs James addressed the Council and explained how they wished to plant an Aspen tree near the play area at Farleigh Green in memory of their baby son who sadly died in April of last year. They confirmed that the tree would be unmarked.*

**111) Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Windo and Mrs Moss

**112) Declarations of Interests**

Councillor Higgins declared a personal interest with reference to agenda item number 9, planning application 09/P/0528/F.

Councillor Colbourne-Brown declared a personal interest with reference to agenda item number 9, planning application 09/P/0530/F.

**113) To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 as a true and correct record.**

**RESOLVED:** Minute Number 106, Councillor Barnes asked when the schedule of proposed use of profits for the CIC lease was required by and was advised June 2009. Proposed by Councillor Higgins, seconded Councillor Barnes and agreed that the minutes be approved. A vote was taken. All in favour.

*The Chairman proposed to move agenda item 10 to next business.. A vote was taken. All in favour.*

**114) Increase of Youth Group Grant to £6500.00 per annum.**

Mr David Luff addressed the Council and explained how the Council's grant was crucial to the Youth Group remaining open.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed by Councillor Higgins, seconded by Councillor Barnes as agreed to formally increase the annual grant to £6500.00 for the year 2009/2010. Councillor Barnes advised Mr Luff that the Council are happy to support the Youth Group but could not guarantee any further increases. A vote was taken. All in favour.

*The Chairman proposed to move Agenda Item 11 to next business. A vote was taken. All in favour.*

**115) Planting of a Memorial Tree near Farleigh Green Play Area**

Mr & Mrs James addressed the Council and explained how they wished to plant an Aspen tree near the play area at Farleigh Green in memory of their baby son who sadly died in April of last year. They confirmed that the tree would be unmarked.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Colbourne – Brown and agreed to approve the planting of an unmarked Memorial Aspen tree near the play area. A vote was taken. All in favour.

*The Chairman proposed to move Agenda Item 7 to next business. A vote was taken. All in favour.*

**116) North Somerset Showground – To receive any updates from NSAS on the progress of the current planning application and the forthcoming Volkswagen Festival in order to decide on what action needs to be taken if and when necessary.**

Mr Ford from NSAS confirmed that the current planning application was “in limbo” due to all the various conditions and reports required from North Somerset Council Planning Officers. Reports such as the flood impact survey, contamination survey and environmental studies had been delayed due to the costs involved. Mr Ford confirmed that it was still their intention to increase the number of days allowed for non agricultural events.

Mr Ford then went on to update members on the 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Show due to take place on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2009. There will be a main ring with new rural themed attractions for this year such as fishing, shooting and gundogs. The NSAS are hopeful to get the Polo event back at the showground in September of this year.

Councillor Barnes asked what measures had been taken re traffic control and was advised that traffic coming in from Weston-super-Mare would be redirected via Station Road which would be made one way and cars would enter the showground through the smallest gate. Mr Ford confirmed that this was a decision taken based on the advice of North Somerset Council officers, Don Jess and Mike James. The Clerk was asked to clarify this.

When it was suggested that this entrance was too small to use, Mr Ford confirmed that it would be widened. Mr Ford then went on to say that planning permission to widen the entrance was not required as it was on an unclassified road. The Clerk was asked to clarify this. Finally Mr Ford confirmed that the tractor pulling event was to be retained. The Council advised NSAS that they should make the local residents aware of these proposals for the forthcoming show.

Discussions moved on to the Volkswagen Festival due to be held at the showground on 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

Mr Adrian Ashby of Bristol Volkswagen Festival addressed the Council after the Chairman raised concerns about the party nights and cheap beer being advertised on flyers.

Mr Ashby confirmed that the live music would finish at 11.30 pm when the bar closes. A noise curfew would be out on campers at 12.00 am and this would be policed by security.

The campsite has been moved to behind the woods in an attempt to reduce the noise heard by residents. Mr Ashby was happy to pass on all the contact details to the Council who will ensure that residents can get in touch if they experience any noise / disturbance during the event.

Councillors asked about traffic management for the event and Mr Ashby confirmed that they had been in touch with Police and the proposal is to have traffic enter the ground through the middle gate via Station Road using manned traffic lights. 6 x PCSO's would be on site until 6.00 pm each evening and a director of the NSAS would be on site and available all weekend.

Mr Ashby also confirmed that the PA system had been changed and hoped this would reduce the noise impact and confirmed that the showground has levied a large deposit on them and should any complaints be received, the Volkswagen Festival stands to lose this deposit.

Mr Ford I of NSAS confirmed that they did intend to continue holding the Volkswagen Festival at the showground in the coming years despite them moving away from non agricultural events.

Noted,

**117) Financial Reports**

To approve the monthly expenditure of £4688.95

To approve the Budget Control Report

To approve the Bank Reconciliation

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

**118) Former Fuel Depot**

Councillor Higgins confirmed that there had been no further developments.

Noted.

**119) South West Bristol Urban Extension**

Councillor Higgins confirmed that there had been no further developments however the situation was still being monitored.

Noted.

**120) Grant Funding for toddler swings – Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven**

Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven had been looking into the types of funding available to Parish Councils. Yansec seemed the most obvious organisation to approach and claims can be put in for up to £25000. Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven asked the Clerk to get a further two quotes for toddler swings and frames and agreed to forward the funding details to members. It was also noted that if funding was available the roundabout could also do with being replaced.

Noted.

121) **Planning** - To agree on any comments to be made on the following planning applications:

- 09/P/0528/F – Cleeve Cottage, Church Lane – Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey side extension. No comments / objections.
- 09/P/0530/F – Land at Eastfield – Erection of an extension to agricultural building.– No comments / objections

122) **Communication**

Councillor Rutherford wished to explore ways in which the Council could better communicate with the residents. Currently the Parish Council gets very few residents attend the Council meetings despite details of the being advertised regularly in the Parish Magazine.

It was agreed that as there are those who do not receive the Parish Magazine, the Council should promote it on the Council website, notice boards and at the Annual Meeting due to be held in May. Noted.

123) **Village Hall Parking.**

Councillor Rutherford raised the issue of vans and lorries parking on the bend of Rosemount Road when using the Village Hall.

It was agreed that whilst every effort is made to prevent this from happening, there was very little that could be done. Councillor Barnes who is also a Director of the Village Hall CIC agreed to keep an eye on things.

124) **Potholes / Highways**

Councillor Rutherford complained about the current state of our roads and in particular potholes that have recently worsened due the snow earlier in the year.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed that whilst the Council has no powers to deal with Highways directly, the Clerk would write to North Somerset Council and ask to see a schedule of proposed works for roads within the District.

Noted.

125) **Open Forum**

Annual Parish Meeting. – Members to provide the Clerk with suitable dates and ideas for the agenda.

Councillor Higgins advised members that Mr Brian Mayled had finished his booklet on the history of Flax Bourton. It was agreed to invite Mr Mayled to speak at the Parish Meeting.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 8.00 pm

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

Signed.....Chair      Dated.....