

**FLAX BOURTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, FLAX BOURTON
TUESDAY 12th MAY 2009**

Meeting Commenced: 8.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.10 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Barnes (Chairman), Higgins (Vice Chairman), Rutherford, Windo and Councillor Mrs Moss. Councillor Colbourne Brown arrived at 8.12 pm.

IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of the public and District Councillor Mrs Barclay.

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

A resident advised the Council the lane between Church Lane and Bourton Mead was very overgrown. The Clerk would ask North Somerset Council to cut the area back.

A resident asked the Council about the possibility of putting a memorial plaque on one of the newly installed benches.

1) Election of Chairman

Councillor Barnes was happy to stand for Chairman for the coming year.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Higgins, seconded by Councillor Mrs Moss and agreed that Councillor Barnes be elected as Parish Council Chairman. A vote was taken. All in favour. Councillor Barnes signed the Declaration of Acceptance to Office.

2) Election of Vice Chairman

Councillor Higgins was happy to stand for Vice Chairman for the coming year.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Moss and agreed that Councillor Higgins be elected as Parish Council Vice Chairman. A vote was taken. All in favour. Councillor Higgins signed the Declaration of Acceptance to Office.

3) Apologies for Absence

Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven

4) Declarations of Interests

Councillor Barnes declared a personal in relation to agenda item number 9 – Village Hall Alterations.

5) To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th April 2009 as a true and correct record.

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

6) **Financial Reports.**

Councillors received copies of the monthly reports and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2009.

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

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Higgins, seconded by Councillor Windo and agreed that the Annual Financial Accounts be approved. A vote was taken. All in favour.

The Chairman proposed to move Agenda Item 8 to next business. A vote was taken. All in favour. 8.10 pm, Meeting adjourned for public participation.

7) **Memorial Plaque on Parish Council Bench**

A resident asked the Council for permission to place a memorial plaque on one of the new benches.

Members were concerned that this would risk setting a precedent and that in time all benches could be covered in plaques. The Council confirmed that they are unable to sell the bench.

Other suggestions were put forward to the resident, such as them buying a new Village Notice Board, placing the plaque on the Church Wall or moving the new bench to the play area and the resident then purchasing their own bench to replace the one that was moved.

The resident was happy to defer this item and do some further research. They later returned to the meeting to advise members that they had found the solution and would purchase their own bench.

8.25 pm Meeting reconvened.

Noted.

8) **Former Fuel Depot**

Councillor Higgins confirmed that there had been no further developments.

Noted,

Housing Development - Regional Spatial Plan

Councillor Higgins updated members after attending a workshop on April 24th 2009.

The Regional Development Agency formally acknowledged that it will be June (was due in April) before there is approval of a Regional Spatial Plan and there is speculation that it may well be later than this.

North Somerset Council maintain they have submitted strong objections to key parts of the proposed Bristol Urban Extension.

However we also need to focus on the RSS proposal for a further 5750 units in North Somerset outside of the proposed Bristol Urban and Weston extensions.

North Somerset Council have proposed that development should be focused on the "Market and Coastal" towns of Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea AND 12 "Small Towns

and Villages” – the list of these villages does NOT include Flax Bourton or Barrow Gurney. (Backwell and Long Ashton are included).

Elsewhere, settlement boundaries will be removed (that includes Flax Bourton) because new housing will only be permitted for essential rural workers or replacement dwellings – all subject to publication of the Regional Spatial Plan.

Noted.

9) North Somerset Showground – Volksfest 2009

The Volksfest event was discussed at length due to the noise and disturbance the residents were subjected to last year.. Questions on the suitability of the event being held under a Temporary Events Notice were raised and members agreed that North Somerset Council should make far more rigorous checks on this type of event. Councillor Windo advised the meeting that there was now case law where residents could bring a case of public nuisance and asked whether the Parish Council could investigate this.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Mrs Moss, seconded by Councillor Higgins and agreed that the Volksfest license application and North Somerset Council’s policy on licensing be checked and where any breach was found to contact the relevant authorities. A vote was taken. All in favour.

10) Village Hall Alterations

Councillor Barnes showed members that changing room and explained the proposed alterations prior to leaving the meeting.

Councillor Higgins took the Chair for this item.

The CIC proposed to change one of the unused changing rooms onto a small meeting room by blocking up one doorway and removing the benches and coat pegs.

This item was discussed at the length by members.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Windo, seconded by Councillor Higgins and agreed that the work can go ahead on the following provisos:

- That the Council receive a clear and accurate schedule of works.
- That the Council receive confirmation that the room will be changed back when the lease to the CIC expires.
- That the Council receive confirmation that the insurance company are happy with the proposed works.
- That the work is carried out to a satisfactory standard.
- That the Council receive a floor plan for information.
- That the Council can review the workable layout in 12 months.
- That the timescale for completion of the works be no more than 3 months and the CIC advise the Council of the start date.

9.15 pm - Councillor Barnes returned to the meeting and took the chair.

11) Planning

To agree on any comments to be made on the following application:

- 09/P/0701/F – Applegarth, Station Rd. Erection of two storey rear extension & demolition of existing front porch and erection of new porch. – No comments / objections.

12) Location of 3rd Dog Bin

Following numerous issue with installing a dog bin on land managed by Savills and leased by Sustrans it was agreed that the location of the bin be moved.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Barnes, seconded by Councillor Moss and agreed that the bin be installed at the top of Bourton Coombe Lane. A vote was taken. All in favour.

13) Play Area Improvements

This item was deferred until Councillor Mrs Hore-Ruthven was able to update members.

14) Open Forum

No items.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9th June 2009 at 8.00 pm

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

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