

FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2009

Meeting commenced at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Barnes (Chairman), Higgins (V Chairman), Windo, and Mrs Moss.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor Collinson.

95) Apologies for Absence Councillor Rutherford and The Clerk Mrs McNaught. Mrs McNaught was wished a speedy recovery from her operation that day.

96) Declarations of Interest Councillor Moss re Planning Item **100**).

97) To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held Tues 10 November as a true and correct record It was noticed that the minutes were incorrect at **89**), and needed the inclusion of 'concerning not giving weight to the RSS' at the end of the first sentence.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Councillor Barnes and seconded by Councillor Higgins that subject to the above amendment the minutes be approved. A vote was taken. All in favour.

98) Financial Reports No reports were available because of The Clerks' absence. These will be available at the next meeting.

99) Casual Vacancy It was noted that the Council still has a vacancy and disappointingly has not received any nomination. Noted.

100) Planning To discuss issues raised by the following Application. 09/P/2023/F Westbrook, Main Road, Flax Bourton for a change of usage from residential to a child care nursery, with the creation of a new entrance/car parking. Whilst a child care nursery was welcomed grave concerns were raised on the safety aspect of the numerous vehicles entering/leaving the site (150/200 per day) particularly during busy commuter hours on to a narrow main road already heavily used and considered very dangerous because the volume of traffic and speeding vehicles. The absence of a speed camera and a defective 'Slow Down' sign was mentioned. It was agreed to ask NSC Highways to carry out a thorough safety check and for a site meeting between NSC/the PC before any decision was made. It was considered essential that change of use related to a child care nursery only and for no other purpose without a fresh planning application i.e. restriction of Business Use Class Category D1 (non-residential institutions).

RESOLVED: To advise NSC of the above views.

101) Housing Development – Regional Spatial Plan Councillor Higgins briefed members on the Development and Control workshop held on 26th November. This included a new draft "Core Strategy" – which will form the basis of a replacement of the current Local Development Plan. Key points are, no change to the green belt, strategic growth at Weston, no large scale housing

allocations elsewhere and no development south west of Bristol. But all this assumes that the current Regional Spatial Plan, including the South West Bristol Urban extension, does not get implemented by government. Noted.

102) Professional Advice Re Development Councillor Barnes commented on the information received from Long Ashton PC about the consortium of NS Parish Councils seeking professional help to object to major developments proposed in the area. It was considered that at this stage any commitment from FBPC was premature and more information was needed. It was Agreed that Councillor Barnes seek to join a meeting of those PCs involved to investigate the implications and to report back to Councillors with proposals.

103) North Somerset Showground Councillors Moss and Barnes with District Councillor Mrs Barclay attended a meeting on 12 November to discuss the current Planning Application with Louise Grover, NSC Planning Officer and Mr Barrett Enforcement Officer. The meeting went well with numerous issues of concern raised over the delayed Application e.g. tractor pulling, track, entrance gates, signage and containers left on site. Action was suggested and promised by NSC. The good news was that subsequently the Application was withdrawn. Later Councillors Higgins and Moss with DC Mrs Barclay met with a Licensing Officer and gained a better understanding of the law relating to licensing. Our concerns have been made fully to NSC. The new entrance gate in Station Road is to be investigated by the Enforcement team so as to ensure it complies. Local residents have complained to NSC about the tractor pulling track and we understand this is being investigated. Noted.

104) Bristol International Airport Expansion No further information had been received apart from it being expected that the matter is likely to be considered by NSC South Area Committee in March. Noted.

105) National Grid Proposed Pylons Councillor Higgins had attended a further meeting on 27 November and updated Councillors. There had been extensive media coverage and the group Save Our Valley has professionally led the way. It was agreed to contact Nat Grid with our strong concerns over the proposals with our view that for environmental and health reasons neither of the Corridor Routes 1 & 2 was acceptable and that Nat Grid should consider the underground/sea routes and provide comparative costings so that a realistic decision could be reached. Noted.

106) Digital Switchover Following the meeting 10 November Councillor Barnes contacted Digital UK who have agreed to give a presentation to residents about the changes. A number of dates will be proposed for a January/February meeting in the Village Hall. Noted.

107) Open Forum No items were proposed.

108) Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 12 January 2010 at 8.00pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed Chairman

Dated

