

BLAISDON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Anthony Hughes, 4 Mountain View, Ruardean, Gloucestershire, GL17 9YT
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in Blaisdon Village Hall, Blaisdon Wednesday 19 May 2016

Those attending: Cllr. Stuart Gent
Cllr. Kevin Baker
Cllr. Richard Boyles

Mr. Tony Hughes Clerk

Also present County Councillor Brian Robinson (Observer)

Apologies for Absence Cllr. Sam Spencer
Cllr. Eve Tonks
Cllr. Dave East (Observer)

1. Health and Safety Procedure

The attention of those present was drawn to the procedures for evacuation of the premises in the event of an emergency.

2. Election of Chair for 2016-17

The Clerk invited nominations for Chair of the Parish Council for the year 2016-17.

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Boyles

RESOLVED

That Councillor Stuart Gent be elected Chair of the Parish Council for the year 2016-17 until the next Annual Meeting in May 2017.

3. Election of Vice-Chair

Moved by Councillor Gent, seconded by Councillor Baker

RESOLVED

That Councillor Richard Boyles be elected Vice Chair of the Parish Council for the year 2016-17 until the next Annual Meeting in May 2017.

6. Completion of Statutory Formalities

(a) Declarations of Acceptance of Offices of Chair and Vice Chair by Members elected

Councillor Stuart Gent and Councillor Richard Boyles, having been duly elected, respectively signed their Declarations of Acceptance of office as Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council.

(b) Register of Interests

Members were invited to individually complete their annual Declarations of Interest form.

(c) Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

(d) Responsible Financial Officer

RESOLVED

That Mr A Hughes, Parish Clerk, be re-appointed the Parish Council's Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) pursuant to Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

7. Public Forum

(a) Members of the Public

There were no questions from Members of the Public

(b) County Councillor Brian Robinson

Councillor Robinson reported the following -

- Devolution - Cotswold District Council were no longer seeking to become part of a proposed Oxford Unitary Authority
- Broadband consultation meetings had taken place with communities in the villages of Taynton and Churcham. Smaller communities needed to make representation to secure improved Broadband coverage. At the County Council the leader Mark Hawthorn had been working at a national level through the LGA to improve broadband coverage. As part of this work a new speed test had been developed allowing a picture of local coverage to be developed. He suggested that residents in the parish be encouraged to take the speed test because this would help to provide evidence of areas with poor service. To that end a web site had been produced which had an integrated speed checker accessed by the following link www.lgautospeed.org

- The Chair reported that he had reserved two places for Blaisdon Parish Council representatives to attend the BT *Fastershire* presentation on the 25 May 2016 6.30-7.30 pm at the FODC offices, Coleford.
- Lengthsman Scheme – Each month Lengthsman would be visiting the Parish and members and residents were encouraged to notify the Parish Clerk of any drainage and similar works in need of attention in order that these be forwarded in advance for the Lengthsman to address when visiting the Parish area. The Chair drew attention to particular issues in relation to drainage outside a property in Velthouse Lane and also outside Spring Cottage and agreed to notify the Highways Engineer directly in respect of these matters.
- County Waste Incinerator Plant – This scheme was now fully funded, the County Council also having injected additional funding. The plant was planned to be fully operational by 2018/19 and would result in the closure of County landfill sites including Hempsted, Gloucester.
- Household Waste Collection Service – From the 1 August 2016 a new household collection recycling scheme would be operational in the Forest of Dean area involving the segregation of mixed card and paper from other waste material.
- A40 Condition of Highway near Leeway's entrance – Whilst not a Parish Council matter, Councillor Baker took the opportunity to raise safety concerns regarding the condition of the highway in this location.
- As from 1 June 2016, Mr Rhodri Gray would be replacing Mr Brian Watkins as the Local Highways Manager for the area including Blaisdon Parish. Mr. Watkins would be taking on new responsibilities for the southern area of the Forest of Dean District.
- The Chair, a governor of Westbury on Severn Village School, raised an issue with regard to a depression in the highway on the A48 outside the school which leads to an accumulation of water. Traffic passing through this causes spray onto the highway facing wall of the school which is thought to have contributed to the decay to its flooring requiring replacement at a cost of between £70K and 80K.
- The GL17 page was now operational and County Councillor Robinson also agreed to send a link to a newly established Facebook page.

(c) District Councillor Dave East

Councillor East had submitted his apologies for absence for the meeting but had provided the following information which the Clerk reported:

- A4136 update: The lining and red reflective studs had been installed to show the edge of the carriageway and kerb line in the vicinity of the Dick Whittington centre and also the VAS waiting sign had been be put on a post.

- Velthouse Lane near junction with A4136 - overgrowth had been cut back to improve visibility.

8. Minutes – 20th April 2016

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th April 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matter Arising – Pilate Classes

The Chair reported that the original organiser of the proposed Wednesday Pilate classes had withdrawn from agreed arrangements and a new provider would be sought to deliver the classes within the agreed budget of £750 funded by the Gloucestershire County Council Active Together Grant.

9. Clerk' Report and Correspondence

The Clerk reported that matters had been covered in previous items.

10. Finance

(a) Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March 2016

The Clerk presented the Draft Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2016 for presentation to the appointed independent auditor.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the correction of typographical errors, the Draft Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016 be approved and adopted for presentation to the appointed independent Auditor, Mrs Shirley Fowler.

(b) Financial Report – April 2015

The Clerk presented a financial report for the month of April 2016 which showed a balance of £5012.61 as at 30 April 2016.

(c) Invoices and Payments

The following cheque was authorised and issued

Cheque No.	Amount	Drawn To	Purpose	Authorisation
000451	£150.78	Community First Trading	Insurance Premium for period June 2016 to 31 May 2017	Parish Council Annual Meeting 19 May 2016 Minute 10 (c)

12. Dates of Meetings 2016-2017

A new calendar of Parish Council meeting dates would be submitted to the next meeting taking into account Wednesday Pilate classes in the month of June, July August and September. The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 16th June 2016.

13. Any other urgent business

(a) Verge Cutting Complaints

Complaints had been received that hedge and verge cutting may have commenced too soon in view of vigorous growth due to weather conditions.

(b) Diversion of Footpath, Old Forge

Complaints had been received that a gate had been closed preventing access to a public footpath and that the landowners should be notified of this to seek rectification.

(c) Woodgreen – discharge of water onto highway

The Chair undertook to check out the alleged source of the discharge on to the highway.

Meeting commenced: 7.30 p.m.

Meeting finished: 8.45 p.m.

Signed:.....Chairman. Date:.....2016