

BLAISDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Those attending: Cllr. Richard Boyles (Vice Chair in the Chair)
Cllr. Kevin Baker
Cllr. Eve Tonks
Cllr. Sam Spencer

Mr. Tony Hughes Clerk

Also present: County Councillor Brian Robinson (Observer)

Apologies for Absence Cllr. Stuart Gent (Chair)
Cllr. Dave East (Observer)

39. 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.

40. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

41. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

42. Minutes – 14th September 2016

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th September 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chair.

Matters arising

Defibrillator – proposal for outside Village Hall

Further discussion deferred until the next meeting.

43. Reports from County Council and District Councillors

(i) County Councillor Brian Robertson

Councillor Robinson reported the following and also comments of Members were made

- A Scrutiny Task group had been set up to examine especially the delivery of secondary school provision in the Forest as a number of schools had been placed under special measures.

- Councillor Eve Tonks drew attention to a planning requirement for a footpath diversion order as part of development at Chestnuts Wood and that the land owner had appealed which would result in a Public Inquiry.
- Councillor Sam Spencer drew attention to complaints received from residents of Nottswood Hill concerning the surface condition of Chapel Lane and also over hanging hedges. The condition of the lane had been the subject of previous concerns. He had been informed that one vehicle had been damaged driving along the lane. There was also no pavement or footpath. In response Councillor Robinson commented that some potholes had been filled last summer although he appreciated that there may have been some confusion as to the correct location. Since then potholes had been marked in Chapel Lane to identify remedial works which would be taking place mid November. The issue of over hanging bushes was the responsibility of the landowner. It was appreciated that use of the lane had increased with additional properties.
- Councillor Sam Spencer also referred to the opening up of an access to Common Land through a hedge from land that had recently been acquired off Chapel Lane. The Vice Chair undertook to make enquiries with the District Council Solicitor to clarify issues of ownership and control of the common land including permanent access.
- Councillor Kevin Baker referred to the poor ambulance response times in rural areas such as the Forest of Dean and referred to a particular incidence in the Village where it had taken 1.5 hours to reach the patient. Councillor Robinson commented that one of the roles of the Health Scrutiny Committee was to examine the delivery of the ambulance service in the area and generally the target for blue light response ambulances to reach their destination within 8 minutes was an expectation beyond resources. There were ways of assisting the ambulance crew at night to identify a location e.g. by leaving hazard warning lights on a vehicle where the patient was located.

(ii) District Councillor Dave East

Councillor David East, having presented his apologies for the meeting, there was nothing to report on this occasion.

44. Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk reported the following correspondence:

Telephone Kiosk in the Parish

An e mail had been received from a local resident who, through the Forest of Dean Historic Society, had become aware of BT's proposal to remove telephone kiosks located in Blaisdon Lane and Flaxley. The resident wished to support the retention of the kiosks in situ or re located to a more suitable location for posterity. The resident also drew attention to the option for the Council to purchase such Kiosks. Members were reminded of their previous decision to object to the removal of the Kiosk in Blaisdon Lane which had been submitted to the Local Planning Authority as part of the consultation process.

45. Finance

(a) Financial Report for period September 2016

The Clerk presented a financial report for the month of September 2016 which showed an operating balance of £4701.21 as at 30 September 2016

(b) Invoices for payment and cheques for issue

There were no cheques for issue on this occasion.

(c) Accounts and Annual Return for Year Ended 31 March 2016 – Results of External Audit

The Clerk reported the results of the external audit of accounts by Grant Thornton and that a fee of £30.00 had been incurred in respect of enquiries and accounting adjustments that they made during their audit. Members agreed to the payment of this fee once an invoice had been received.

46. Web Site Development

The Clerk drew attention to a company based in Stroud that was offering to set up a basic web site for the Council which would meet the Council's legal requirements. Links to some of the Parish Council web sites that were using the company had been e mailed to Members in order for them to judge suitability.

Having consulted the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils the Clerk had been advised to approach Parish Councils of similar size to ascertain their experiences in order that comparators can be made. Members accepted that the Parish Council would wish to set up a web site that met the basic requirements of the Transparency Regulations i.e. publication of agendas, minutes, financial information including accounts but also with the opportunity to post other community information and provide links to other sites.

The Clerk also advised that grant funding to assist in the development of the Web Site including purchase of equipment (e.g. dedicated lap top which was recommended) was available in the current financial year and an application for funding would be prepared.

A further report would be submitted to the next meeting.

47. Date of Next Meeting – Wed.16 November 2016 at 7.45 pm (Budget 2017/18)

Meeting commenced: 7.45 p.m.

Meeting finished: 8.45 p.m.

Signed:.....Chairman.

Date:.....2016