**BLAISDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Acting 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 14 August 2019**

In attendance: Cllr. Richard Boyles (Chair)

Cllr. Stuart Gent

Cllr. Stephen Foster

Mr. Tony Hughes Acting Clerk

Apologies: Cllr. Sue Foster

Cllr. Simon Phelps (District Councillor – observer)

**34. 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.

**35. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**36. Public Forum - Members of the Public**

No members of the public present.

**37.** **Minutes - 10th July 2019**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 10 July 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**38. Membership of the Parish Council- Vacancy**

The Clerk reported that following the statutory period of Notice of Casual Vacancy, no request had been received for the filling of the vacancy by election. The Parish Council was therefore entitled to fill the vacancy by co-option.

On the motion of Councillor Boyles, seconded by Councillor Gent, it was

**RESOLVED**

(1) That the Parish Council agree to the co-option of Sam Spencer on the Council and that he be invited to the next meeting to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office.

(2) That the Forest of Dean Council Returning officer be informed of the co-option.

**39. Planning Application** **P1068/19/FUL – 1 Oak Tree Cottages, Flaxley**

The Parish Council considered the proposals set out in Planning Application P1068/19/FULnamely the construction of vehicular access, parking and turning; Replacement boundary fence and erection of new gate entrance.

**RESOLVED**

That the Parish Council raise no objection to the proposals submitted but wish to convey the observation that the applicant should effectively consider the design and construction of the visibility splays to the satisfaction of the Highways Authority

**40. BT Consultation – Removal of Telephone Box located in Blaisdon Lane**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council and residents had until the 18th September to make any comments or objections, including reasons for objections, to the Planning Department of the Forest of Dean District Council. Having considered the proposal it was -

**RESOLVED**

That the Planning Department of the Forest of Dean District Council be informed that the Parish Council strongly **object** to the proposal to remove the Telephone Box on the following grounds:

1. The Telephone Box is located within the Conservation area and its removal would have a detrimental impact to the surrounding environment and is a focal part of the ‘street furniture’.
2. It plays an important part in the northerly approach to Blaisdon. The telephone box, the view of the war memorial and the gate house forms a very “British” feel and as it is so visually important it should be conserved as part of the village’s history.

1. Mobile signals are almost non-existent in this area and the kiosk is a useful alternative in the case of emergency. Whilst a de fib is located at the Village Hall, the possibility of poor signal would be a hinderance and access to a public land line is still an important back-up.

4. The Parish Council therefore consider that the Telephone Box including the equipment in it should be preserved as an amenity within the village.

5. The Parish Council wish to be informed further on the actual process on how a decision will be made and what part the Parish Council can play.

**41. Clerk’ Report and Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

**42. Financial Report – July 2019**

The Clerk presented a Financial report for the month of July 2019 which showed a balance of 9732.09 as at 31 July comprised as follows:

Treasurer’s Account £ 8020.91

Business Account £ 1771.18

Total £ 9792.09

Less unpresented cheques: £ 60.00

Operating Balance as at 1 August 2019: £ 9732.09

**43. Invoices and Payments**

The following cheque was authorised and issued

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque No.** | **Amount** | **Drawn To** | **Purpose** | **Authorisation** |
| 000493 | £45.00 | Open Spaces Society | Annual Subscription | Parish Council Meeting 14 August 2019 Minute 43 |

**44. AOB**

Later in the year Gigaclear would be approaching the Village Hall committee to arrange for a presentation to be made in the Village Hall regarding the Broadband rollout programme.

**45. Date of next meeting.**

Wednesday 11 September 2019 7.30 pm

Meeting commenced: 7.30 p.m. Meeting finished: 8.00 p.m.

Signed: .............................................. Date: .....................................2019