

BLAISDON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Anthony Hughes, 4 Mountain View, Ruardean, Gloucestershire, GL17 9YT
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Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Blaisdon Village Hall, Blaisdon 20th January 2016

In attendance:	Councillor Stuart Gent	Chair
	Councillor Kevin Baker	Vice Chair
	Councillor Richard Boyles	
	Councillor Eve Tonks	
	Mr Anthony Hughes	Clerk
Apologies:	Councillor Sam Spencer, District Councillor Dave East (observer)	
Also present	County Councillor Brian Robinson (observer)	

62. Health and Safety Procedure

The Chair drew attention to the procedures for evacuation of the premises in the event of an emergency.

63. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

64. Minutes – Meeting 17 November 2015

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th November 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matter arising

Surface Water and Drainage (previous Minute 39 refers)

The Chair informed Members that the survey report was still awaited.

65. Reports from District Councillor David East and County Councillor Brian Robinson

(a) County Councillor Brian Robinson

Councillor Robinson reported that the County Council Community Charge was likely to rise by 1.9%. He also referred to the discretionary option that was available to County Councils to raise Community Charge by up to 2% to cover the costs of localised adult care as announced in the recent Government budget review.

Councillor Robertson drew attention to the issue of licenses in the Forest of Dean area to explore the potential for the extraction of gas through the process of fracking and a seminar organised by the British Geographical Survey Team.

Councillor Robinson also drew attention to a number of consultations that were currently taking place namely; buses services and subsidisation; and the provision of Health Services in the Forest of Dean area which would include the provision of doctor's practices.

(b) District Councillor Dave East

No report on this occasion.

66. Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk had no correspondence to report on this occasion.

67. Finance

(a) Financial Report for period November and December 2015

Members noted the current financial position but also that the Financial Report needed adjustment.

(b) Invoice for Payment

The Clerk presented an invoice for £20.00 for the hire of Blaisdon Village Hall August and September 2015. The following Cheque in payment was authorised

Cheque No.	Amount	Drawn to	Purpose	Authorisation
000448	£20.00	Blaisdon Village Hall	Hire of small room	Parish Council Meeting , Minute 67 (b)

(c) Outstanding Payments

A payment from the Salesians was still awaited in the sum of £331.06 plus VAT for the organisation's contribution towards the cost of work to Blaisdon Village War Memorial.

68. Budget and Precept

The Clerk presented a second draft of the budget for the financial year 2016/2017 which showed an estimated budget of £2,705 for that year compared to £2,524 for the current financial year. The increases reflected new budgetary provision for web site maintenance, Open Spaces Society Subscription and other increases of individual items.

It was noted that the Parish Council had adequate reserves and there was likely to be an under spend again in respect of the Clerk's salary at the current financial year out turn.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Baker and supported by Members that the total of Precept and Council Tax Support Grant remain the same as last year (i.e. £2,630) with no increase, drawing upon surpluses and reserves, and it was therefore –

RESOLVED

That the Forest of Dean District Council be advised that the recommended precept of Blaisdon Parish Council for the Financial Year 2016/2017 is £2,530 in addition to which the Council Tax Support Grant of £100 will be added.

69. Audit Arrangements

(a) Appointment of Independent Auditor – Financial Year Ending 31 March 2016

RESOLVED

That Mrs S Fowler be re-appointed to undertake the Parish Council's independent audit of accounts for the year ending 31 March 2016, a provision of £50.00 having been provided in the 2016/2017 budget for the fee.

(b) Audit arrangements – Financial Year ending 31 March 2017 and future years

The Clerk reported on new audit arrangements which would come into effect for the audit of accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2017 and the options available to the Council namely to procure an auditor or to remain part of the Sector Led Body established by the National Association of Local Councils in conjunction with a number of other public bodies.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council remain part of the Sector-Led Body (SLB) established by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA).

70. Planning Applications for consultation

(a) Removal of 1 Ash Tree at Spring Cottage, Blaisdon Lane (P0003/16/TCA)

The Parish Council raised no objections

(b) The Mount, Nottwood Hill (P0024/16/LBC)

The application had been received after publication of the agenda and the Chair, with the support of Members, agreed to consider the application as a matter of urgent business in view of the deadline for comments.

The Parish Council raised no objections. Members supported the proposal to bring this important property back into beneficial use.

71. Transparency Code and Web Site Development

The Clerk reported a number of options available in relation to the setting up of a Parish Council web site to comply with the new transparency code which included (a) the engagement of a company to assist in the development of a web site which would amount to several hundreds of pounds for which there was currently no budget (b) the use of a web site such as Word Press which would involve time to establish and subject to the necessary skills and time to operate or (c) j becoming partners to GL17 which was a community hub available to parish and organisations in the GL17 postcode area.

County Councillor Brian Robinson was invited to introduce the concept of the GL17 hub and the background to the organisation that operated it. Initially there would be no cost to the Parish Council if it wished to join in with the arrangement.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council use the GL17 Hub as the mechanism for publishing Agenda, minutes, reports and accounts.

72. Any Other Business – Broadband

The Chair advised that he was consulting the community with a view to sending a joint letter to the Area Manager of BT from the Clerk of the Council seeking an upgrade to the Broadband provision in the Village.

73. Date and Time of next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday 17th February 2016 at 7.30 pm in Blaisdon Village Hall

Meeting commenced: 7.30 pm

Meeting finished: 8.48 p.m.

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