

BLAISDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Blaisdon Village Hall, Blaisdon 18th February 2016

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

74. Health and Safety Procedure

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

75. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

76. Minutes – Meeting 20th January 2016

RESOLVED

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

Matters arising

Chapel Lane – Condition of Surface

Councillor Spencer expressed concern in regard to the surface condition of Chapel Lane, an issue that had been raised at previous meetings in recent months. Whilst patching work had been undertaken, this appeared only to remain good for a temporary period and because of the erosion of the sub base, the Lane's surface would revert to its poor condition within a few weeks. Members supported the view that the condition of the Lane (which was an adopted Highway) required a complete review rather than temporary

solutions and asked that an approach be made to Brian Watkins, County Local Highways Manager seeking long term improvement.

District Councillor David East also offered to contact County Councillor Brian Robinson regarding this issue.

Broadband – Fastershire Project

The Chair presented a draft letter to the Area Manager for BT seeking an up grade to Broadband service for residents in the Parish. A draft table listing people who had requested the Parish Council to use their best endeavours to secure an improvement, (to be appended to the letter), was also tabled.

It was agreed that the content of the draft letter be approved and sent to the Area Manager of BT on completion of the table to be appended.

77. The Forge, Blaisdon – Planning Application (P0057/16/FUL)

Members agreed to vary the order of the Agenda by considering the following item of business.

Members considered the proposals to alter and extend the dwelling named The Forge, to erect a garage and create a hardstanding area.

The applicants, Mr and Mrs Walding, were present at the meeting and invited to comment on their application presented to the Parish Council for consultation.

The Chair drew attention to a concern that had been expressed regarding a footpath that appeared to run through the property and commented that any necessary Footpath Diversion Order would have to be applied for by the applicants through the County Council for which their was legislative procedure. As an observation, the Chair suggested that in the event of a relocation of the footpath, the timber finger post be retained.

Mr Walding drew attention to an e mail that he had received from Mr M Barton, Public Rights of Way Network Manager, Amey indicating agreement to relocate the footpath adjacent to the left hand fence of the property subject to conditions.

In regards to the construction proposals, Councillor Baker suggested that due consideration needed to be given to storm water displacement, something which was a current issue in the village.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Parish Council raises no objection to the Planning Application and supports the proposal to bring back the property into beneficial use;
- (2) That the applicant should satisfy themselves that correct procedures and permission have been sought in relation to the diversion of the footpath.

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

(a) County Councillor Brian Robinson

No report on this occasion

(b) District Councillor David East

A4136

Councillor East reported the contents of an e mail which he had received from Brian Watkins, Local Highways Manager, Gloucestershire County Council, relating to the following issues concerning the A4136:

- (1) The approval of expenditure for additional safety markings and the installation of red studs along the eastbound lane from the crest of Hopes Hill and the erection of a Vehicle activated illuminated speed warning sign on the approach to Hopes Hill in an easterly direction.
- (2) The cost of implementing a change to the speed limit and the necessary Road Traffic Act order would be in the region of £5000 to £10,000 and more if objections were received. Gloucestershire Police roads policing team were willing to support an extension of the 40 mile per hour speed limit from where it starts on the west bound approach to Little London to a point in the vicinity of the Blaisdon turning (exact location to be agreed).
- (3) There were a number of issues which negated the possibility of extending in isolation the 40 mile per hour speed limit from the top of Hopes Hill to a point the Mitcheldean side of Velthouse Lane junction.
- (4) In the light of residents and Parish Council concerns over the access to and regress from Velthouse Lane and following lengthy discussions with Gloucestershire Police, in April 2016 the County's Highways consultants will be asked to carry out some preliminary design work on possible options to improve the junction (subject to budgetary approval).
- (5) With the exception of the lining, reflective studs and vehicle activated signs, all other proposals will be dependent on the setting of the 2016/2017 County Highways budget.
- (6) The introduction of carpeting had resulted in a reduction of speed as evidenced by recent speed surveys.

Residential Development for 28 houses - Longhope

Councillor East reported that the planning application for the development of 28 houses on land at Longhope had been refused permission by the District Council. The Applicants, the Diocese of Gloucester, had appealed against this decision.

Blaisdon Parish Council members had expressed previous concerns in regard to the possible effects on drainage in Blaisdon village resulting in large developments in the neighbouring village of Longhope and asked that the Forest of Dean District Council be reminded of this in support of their decision to refuse planning permission.

79. Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk reported an invitation from the Forest of Dean District Council to nominate a member of the Parish Council to attend a focus group meeting as part of the planning Peer Challenge being run by the Local Government Association and the Planning Advisory Service (PAS).

The Chair offered to attend a focus group meeting to be held on Wednesday 9 March between 16.00 and 17.30 at the FODC offices, Coleford.

80. Finance

(a) Financial Report for period January 2016

The Clerk presented a financial report for the month of January 2016 which showed a balance of £2,737.37 as at 31 January 2016.

RESOLVED

That the Financial Report for the month of January 2016 be noted.

(b) Financial Report for November and December 2015 (corrected)

The Clerk presented an arithmetically corrected report for the period November and December 2015 which showed a balance of £2,757.29 as at 31 December 2015.

RESOLVED

That the corrected Financial Report for the period November and December 2015 be noted.

(c) Invoices for Payment

There were no invoices for payment on this occasion.

81. Any Other Business –

The Chair advised of a telephone call that he had received from the owner of Walnut cottage in response to a letter that had been sent by the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council concerning issues previously discussed relating to the seepage of effluent across the public footpath running adjacent to the boundary of the property. The Chair and Councillor Boyles agreed to take further photographic evidence and then arrange to visit the owner.

82. Date and Time of next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday 16th March 2016 at 7.30 pm in Blaisdon Village Hall

Meeting commenced: 7.30 pm

Meeting finished: 8.24 p.m.

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