**BLAISDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk to the Council: Jonathan Martin, Whitecliff House, Newland Street, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 8NB, Tel. 01594 834345 E-mail: blaisdonclerk@gmail.com**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish General Assembly held at Blaisdon Village Hall.**

**Tuesday 1st June 2021 @ 6.30pm**

In attendance:

Cllr. Richard Boyle (Chairman)

Cllr. Stuart Gent

Cllr. Sue Foster

County Cllr. Philip Robinson

Note taker: Zoe Boyles.

No members of the Public were in attendance.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr. .

**204. Health and Safety Procedure.**

The locations of the fire exists were reiterated.

**205. Declarations of Interest & Public Forum.**

None.

**206. Chairman’s report.**

It has been a difficult year with all meetings having to be online, but the clerk Anna Rich set up all of the online meetings and supported councillors in getting connected.  I would like to put on record my thanks to the out-going clerk Anna Rich for all of the work she did for the council in bringing in the online banking and online payment systems.

Councillor training has taken place over the last 12 months for new councillors.  Cllr Steve Foster has represented the council with neighbouring councils on the new Churcham housing development of 5,000 homes.  No further updates available on this at this time, but there is now talk of proposals coming forward for relocating the plans to Redmarley near the M50.  In the public consultation that recently took place via the FODDC only 30% positive feedback was received in the consultation to build a new forest town. FODDC is able to apply for £20 million of government grant in the levelling up scheme.  Work has been done by FODDC with Hartpury College and other partners to develop the big package and submissions.

The Northern Quarter development in Cinderford is currently stalled and awaiting a task group recommendation from FODDC councillors.

**207. Financial report.**

It was explained that the finances for the Parish Council are in good order and will shortly be sent for external audit. In the last 12 months the total Income was £3765.00 and total Expenditure amounted to £4213.79. Balances totalled £6678.09.

The Chariman said that the Clerk had done a good job on the accounts.

**208. District and County Councillor’s report.**

Cllr Robinson stated that he was honoured to have been elected as councillor and thanked those who voted for him and looked forward to representing all residents.  He paid tribute to the previous Cllr Brian Robinson.

He had had his induction and training sessions with 19th May being his first full council meeting and he was asked to serve in the cabinet as cabinet member for economy and education and skills.

He mentioned his aim in increasing the spending on highways by £100 million, with a particular focus on resurfacing in addition to the £150 million already spent.  He has a local reserve to spend on local priorities.  It would be useful for him to have a schedule of our highways and scheme of works so he can liaise with highways on this matter.

Schools continued to provide free school meal vouchers during half-term under the ‘no child goes hungry’ scheme.  People can apply even at this late stage; link on website.  The new PCC is Chris Nelson and he thinks the council and police will work well together. Cllr Robinson believes that its going to be a steep learning curve and he will endeavour to turn up to as many of our meetings as possible.  The Council should not hesitate to make contact with him if we need to.

Thank you from the Chairman.

**209. Question & Answer.**

The chairman asked if anyone present had any questions. No questions were asked, and the meeting closed at 18:52hrs.

Meeting commenced: 6.30 p.m. Meeting finished: 6.52 p.m.

Signed: .............................................. Date: .....................................2021

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