

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 Parish Annual Assembly held at Blaisdon Village Hall. Wednesday 18th May 2022 @ 7.00 pm

In attendance:

Cllr. Nicola Atkinson

Cllr. Sue Foster

Cllr. Stephen Foster

Cllr. Stuart Gent

County Cllr. Philip Robinson

Clerk. Jonathan Martin.

The meeting is chaired by Councillor Sue Foster as the acting Chairman.

1. Welcome and Health and Safety procedure. Members of the public will be requested to declare if they intend to record the meeting.

This information was administered with attention given to the location of the fire exits.

2. Apologies for absence.

Chairman Richard Boyles sent his apologies for not being able to attend.

3. Declarations of Interest & Public Forum.

No declarations of interest or dispensations were made. There were no members of the public present.

4. Chairman's report.

The acting Chairman read out the Chairman's yearly report on the operations of the Council. This document is available on the Blaisdon Parish Council's website. The key points were:

- Concerns over speeding in the parish have been brought to the attention of the council and in turn, to the highways authority and the police.
- The Churcham development group has been successful in forcing the FODDC to reconsider its plans to build a new settlement in that village.
- Blaisdon Parish council has now set up a new grants scheme open to locals for applications. Details are on the website.

- The council has updated and continued to update its policies and the website.
- The Parish council's use of local notice boards has returned to use.
- The Parish has been working with the Village Hall Committee to enable the continued operation of the defibrillator service.

Regarding the Council's Nottswood Hill notice board, the Chairman raised the issue that although it is now usable, the cabinet remains locked and the whereabouts of the key are unknown. Councillor Gent informed the Council that the keys, as of last report, were being held by a local resident adjacent to the notice board.

Councillor Atkinson volunteered to retrieve this key and undertake a cleaning of the inside of the notice board. Once achieved the notice board would be put back into council use.

5. Financial report.

The yearly statement of the Council was described and explained by the Clerk. This statement will be made available for public viewing after the completion of the Council's yearly audit.

Councillors made the request for the Clerk to investigate the procedures for increasing the s.137 monies in the current budget beyond the current limit of £1,000. The Clerk would report back on this and include this increase as an item in the next meeting's agenda.

6. District and County Councillor's reports.

County Councillor Robinson gave a report on the year's local issues. He thanked local parishioners for being elected last year. He also reiterated the success of the Gloucestershire County Council's budget in that Council tax increases were low, yet spending on services, such as children's care and highways had been significantly increased. This increase had been achieved via a new funding arrangement with central government. The budget also included funds for the application to reduce local speed limits.

The Councillor also informed the Council that a part of his yearly grant of £30,000 is still unallocated and that Blaisdon Parish council could still submit a suitable application. This was also true of the remaining 'build back better' funds. The 'tour of Britain' cycle event might be coming to the county, which would be beneficial to local tourism.

Lastly, the support given to the Ukrainian refugees was described, with emphasis on assisting the children assimilate into the local schools. This included providing school uniforms, free meals and free transport.

7. Question & Answer.

The Chairman and other Council's mentioned the ongoing problem and previously complained about issue with the loss of the footpath on Blaisdon lane. This is due in part to erosion and plant overgrowth. Councillor Robinson suggested his Highways

budget might be available to go towards the cost of resurfacing the footpath & will set up a meeting on site with councillors & the Highways officer on 10 June 2022. We can also bring to his attention the state of the road surface at the start of Velthouse Lane.

7.34 pm Councillor Robinson leaves.

Meeting commenced: 7.00 p.m. Meeting finished: 7.36 p.m. Signed:

..... Date:2022

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