

BLAISDON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at Blaisdon Village Hall. Wednesday 12th
October 2022 @ 7.00 pm**

In attendance:

Chairman. Richard Boyles

Cllr. Nicola Atkinson

Cllr. Sue Foster

Cllr. Stephen Foster

Cllr. Stuart Gent

Clerk. Jonathan Martin.

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

A welcome was given with attention directed to the location of the two fire exits and the emergency meeting area in the car park.

383. Apologies for absence.

No apologies were received from Cllr Philip Robinson and Cllr Simon Phelps.

384. Declarations of Interest & Public Forum.

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

385. Minutes of the meeting held on September 14th 2022.

Regarding the previous minutes:

The Chairman asked the Clerk if a request had been sent to Cllr Robinson regarding a report on the long term plans of Gloucestershire Highways over the roads in Blaisdon Parish. The Clerk confirmed that an email containing this had been sent.

It was also confirmed that recent images gathered by Cllr Atkinson of water leaking on local roads had been forwarded to the Clerk, who in turn had passed these on to Highways.

Cllr Robinson enters at 7:04 pm and apologized for being late.

Continuing from the above point. This leaking water was felt to be a natural spring breaking through the surface. It does not reduce even during a drought. The issue therefore is carrying this water away via the existing drainage system, and not to terminate this spring.

Cllr Atkinson confirmed that she now has possession of the key to the noticeboard in relation to replacing the Council's agendas.

Resolved.

Forum.

Cllr Robinson gave his report on the long-term plans of Gloucestershire Highways. He suggested that these were more short and mid term plans, as opposed to long term equivalents. However, drainage problems will continue to be investigated in Parkwood. Patching work at Velthouse would also be started soon. Some reconstruction work on the footpath has been completed. Re-stoning work would likely be started on the path in the near future. Issues with narrow drains however would require major work. A comment was made that when a local well became inactive approximately 20 years ago, the flooding problems began, suggesting a link.

Cllr Robinson also stressed that dissatisfactory repairs to the footpath would likely now be carried over into the next financial year as far as Highways was concerned. Moreover, that Blaisdon is not a priority for Highways' and the risk of economic uncertainty posed a limitation to the future funding of repairs.

The Chairman mentioned that some years ago Highways undertook a camera survey of the drains, yet it has not been seen by the Parish. He questioned if Highways have seen this report as well and adapted to its findings. For example, it was discovered that the septic tanks overflowed during heavy rain into the streets and from this, the issue was corrected. Cllr Robinson said that he would look into this and see if the report could be provided to the Parish Council.

The recent cancellation of the tour of Britain due to the Queen's death was explained as not being financially ruinous as some had reported. Most of the hotel rooms had been booked in advanced. Also, flowers purchased for the run were repurposed as condolence gestures.

Closures and reductions in Bus services in the forest of dean were reported to likely. This was due to a Europe wide shortage of drivers as well as the Bus companies being under no obligation to renew their licences despite copious grant money. The bus companies are relocating their resources to more profitable routes. Therefore, replacements for these services may not be found.

Lastly, the accommodation of approximately 2,000 Ukrainian refugees in the county was resulting in increased pressure on local schools which were already oversubscribed. This problem was accentuated in the Cheltenham area.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Robinson for his report and his continued assistance and support towards Blaisdon Parish Council.

386. Clerk's Report and Correspondence.

The Clerk was asked to send a confirmation of receipt email to Huntley Council, over their request for comments for a development.

The Clerk then stated that there had been no direct correspondence since the last meeting and most of the issues to be raised had already been addressed in item 4 of the agenda.

Minor issues reported on were a slight adjustment to the structure of the website for ease of access to the agendas and minutes. Feedback from the website host company as to why some files were previously not apparent had been received. It was suggested that agendas and minutes be uploaded as PDF files instead. This would now be undertaken.

The possibility of the Parish being charged for a meeting that was cancelled in August was still being investigated by the hall management and the Clerk would report back on this.

387. Financial Report – September 2022.

Further improvements to the format of the budget were suggested, as well as improvements for the upcoming budget proposal for 2023-24.

There were no major expenses or income for the period.

388. Planning Application for Consultation:

- DF12198 P1182/22/FUL. The Stables Blaisdon Longhope Gloucestershire GL17 0XT. Creation of a detached house and agricultural storage barn.

After considering the application and the views of two local residents, the Council decided to object to this proposal.

The council feels that its objection is grounded in the following reasons. Firstly, Blaisdon parish agrees with the findings of Gloucestershire Highways, in that the road adjoining the land would not serve well as an access point. The land itself is close to a conservation area and is designated as unoccupied agricultural land. Building here would set a precedent for similar conversions in the area. The environmental report on the local bat life was seen to be inaccurate as the hedges were large enough for bats to roost and local reports attested to bats being present there. Lastly, the land has significant flooding problems in wetter months and a blue hose has been seen draining water from here into the street drains.

389. Preparations for the yearly review of the Standing Orders.

Cllr Atkinson volunteered for this review. As of yet there had been no significant problems with the current Standing Orders, however, the Clerk would check if the GAPTC template had been updated, and suggested that a more formal complaints procedure could be inserted into the document.

390. To consider opinions to be submitted for the District's new local plan considerations.

The Chairman recused himself from the meeting at 7:58 as he sits on the plan committee in the Forest of Dean District Council.

Now that the Churcham development has been abolished, the new plan is to spread the new homes across the 3 main towns in the region as well as add minor developments in the villages.

Councillors noted that at least five new houses had been scheduled for construction in the area, and questioned if these would be included into the district plans for the 8,000+ new homes. From this, the number of new homes that would be built in the parish could only be a few percentages added to the total number of residences. The Clerk was asked to find out how many residences are in the parish.

Generally, the council found this agreeable however the current restrictions on developments would have to be maintained.

The Chairman reentered the meeting at 8:08 pm.

391. Invoices for payment.

- Clerk Wages - September. 19hrs x £10 = £190.00

Resolved.

392. Any other urgent business.

There were none.

393. Date and Time of Next Meeting – 9th November 2022 at 7.00 pm

Agreed.

Meeting commenced: 7.01 p.m. Meeting finished: 8.08 p.m. Signed:

..... Date:2022

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