

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 Council Meeting held
at Blaisdon Village Hall. Wednesday 14th
December 2022 @ 7.00 pm**

In attendance:

Chairman. Richard Boyles.

Cllr. Sue Foster.

Cllr. Stephen Foster.

Cllr. Stuart Gent.

Dist Cllr. Simon Phelps.

Clerk. Jonathan Martin.

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

The safety information was given, and a request was made for the audience to declare any recording activity.

406. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Atkinson and County Councilor Robinson.

407. Declarations of Interest & Public Forum.

No declarations or dispensations were made.

Forum.

A report was given by District Councilor Phelps.

There would be a full council meeting tomorrow wherein the local housing plan would likely be raised and potentially revised. This is due to the predicted population rise not being evidenced by the 2021 Census, as well as higher political machinations from central government.

Gloucestershire police would be starting their crackdown on alcohol and narcotics abuse on December 21st, with the aim of improving road safety. The county is stated to be the sixth worst in the country with regard to a lack of road safety. Another problem was the casual parking of cars that blocked access to buildings in emergencies for the fire service.

A target of reducing road deaths by 50% by 2032 had been suggested, though the method of this would be developed later, though focus will be given to known

accident hotspots. For 2019-21 the total road fatalities were 8 with around 120 people being seriously injured.

Related news included the plan to combine the offices of local police and fire service into a single centre, with Newent being the first area to receive this.

The Chairman asked whether the numbers of road accidents from the motorways were included in the figures. This is due to the motorways being under a differing police jurisdiction. It was believed that these statistics were not included in the above figures. An example of an accident hotspot was near hartpury college.

Councilor Phelps was thanked for his report.

408. Minutes of the meeting held on November 9th2022, and matters arising.

Resolved.

Item 397 would need to be rewritten to improve its clarity.

The report on the local drainage issues by Highways was reported to still be under construction, but would be ready soon.

GAPTC's legal advice service would need to be clarified via examination of its membership contract. The Clerk would report back on this.

The Clerk reported that a complaint over the felling of a protected tree had been made to District Council, but had received no further information on this. This would need to be chased up and gage the status of the investigation.

409. Clerk's Report and Correspondence.

The Clerk would follow up on the status on the Council's VAT refund application.

410. Financial Report – November 2022

The report was given with no unusual activity mentioned.

411. Presentation of updated draft budget for 2023-24 for discussion.

The Clerk presented a new version of the draft budget. Improvements included adjustments to the Clerk's wages inline with the NALC recommendations on pay increases, as well as an increase in the grant monies that will be on offer. A slight 2% increase in the precept was also accepted as a necessary step to gradually remove the Council's reliance on its reserves. The finalized budget would be presented in the next meeting in January prior to the application for the 2023 Precept.

412. Invoices for payment.

- ICO subscription renewal. 29th Nov. £35.00
- Clerk Wages - September. 19hrs x £10 = £190.00

Resolved.

413. Any other urgent business.

The recent application from Flaxley Village Hall for £293.50 for a warm places scheme was accepted. The conditions imposed on this grant would be for the hall to report back to the Council on the attendance to the scheme. This would be communicated to the Hall administration to confirm these arrangements.

Regarding the Bramble Orchard planning application. This application is being considered in this item as there was a failure of it being communicated to the Council's inbox in time. It was reported that the site had not been used for agricultural purposes for over ten years, and its application is to have the land reclassified as a residential area. The Council had no objections to this, however it was regrettable that the local community would be losing a farm that would have provided employment and training opportunities.

414. Date and Time of Next Meeting – 11th January 2023 at 7.00 pm

Agreed.

Meeting commenced: 7.00 p.m. Meeting finished: 7.38 p.m. Signed:

..... Date:2022

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