

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 9th
November 2022 @ 7.00 pm**

In attendance:

Chairman. Richard Boyles

Cllr. Nicola Atkinson

Cllr. Sue Foster

Cllr. Stephen Foster

Cllr. Stuart Gent

Dist Cllr. Simon Phelps.

Clerk. Jonathan Martin.

394. 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.

395. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Philip Robinson.

396. Declarations of Interest & Public Forum.

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

Forum.

District Councilor Phelps gave his report on local matters.

There is an ongoing issue with the poor water quality of the river Wye. The source of this pollution originates from adjacent agricultural practices, as well as insufficient purification systems from local water treatment plants. This problem falls within the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency. The FODDC has resolved to improve the water quality here, yet its effective power is limited due to this jurisdictional partition.

Regarding reports of renewed fracking, this is now a moot point due to the policies of the new administration. Previously, the FODDC had voted not to pursue this exploration. That said, the district has little to no economic value in this field as its geology denies the likelihood of natural gas being present.

On the future of Cannop ponds. The District Council supported the retention of the ponds. The dams holding back the water are also in need of upkeep to prevent any leakage. There is also a suggestion that the dams could be expanded to help reduce flooding.

Other updates include that there is a new FODDC cabinet due to the Green party withdrawing due to rejecting the recent housing plan.

Chairman Boyles asked about the river Wye pollution. He added that the pollution consists of chicken manure run-off. There is also fertilizer run-off from potato and maize farming into the river. Sewage overflow into the river further upstream from the recent heavy rains is also a problem.

397. Minutes of the meeting held on October 12th 2022, and matters arising.

The Clerk reported that the drainage report had not been received yet, however Cllr Phelps stated that the report was still being created. The Clerk confirmed that the email to Huntley council had been done. Lastly, the overcharge by Blaisdon Village Hall had been voided as well.

Resolved.

398. Clerk's Report and Correspondence.

The Clerk reported on the construction of the Council's new complaint's policy and report back on the finalised version for the next meeting.

The Clerk was asked to check on the legal advice cover that the Council currently has under its existing insurance policy and GAPTC membership. The Clerk would report back on this as well.

399. Financial Report – October 2022.

The report was given with no issues present.

400. Planning Application for Consultation:

**- P1436/22/FUL .The Forge, Blaisdon, Longhope, Gloucestershire.
Erection of a two storey rear extension with associated alterations and works.**

The plans were inspected and no comments or objections were made.

401. Presentation of draft budget for 2023-24 for discussion.

The Clerk presented the draft budget. The following comments were made and would be incorporated into the new draft.

The Clerk should receive a pay rise inline with the NALC recommendations. It was also felt that the Council may have too much money allocated to reserves. At present the Council has nearly 2 ½ years of operational costs in its savings. The general principle, however, is for a council to have between 6 months to 1 year of reserves to

cover costs. From these, the grant funding could be expanded, drawing on these reserves, and a possibility for a minor rise in the precept to begin the regeneration of the reserves was also discussed.

402. Invoices for payment.

- Blaisdon Hall Hire. 2hr x £8.00 = 16.00
- Clerk Wages - September. 19hrs x £10 = £190.00

Resolved.

403. Any other urgent business.

A local house had been reported to have allegedly cut down a tree, which may have been protected by the rules pertaining to the conservation area. The Clerk would investigate this.

404. Date and Time of Next Meeting – 14th December 2022 at 7.00 pm

Agreed.

Meeting commenced: 7.00 p.m. Meeting finished: 7.58 p.m. Signed:

..... Date:2022

BPC Minutes 2022 09 11