

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 15th
March 2023 @ 7.00 pm**

In attendance:

Cllr. Nicola Atkinson. (Acting Chairman)

Cllr. Sue Foster

Cllr. Stuart Gent.

County Cllr Philip Robinson.

Dist Cllr. Simon Phelps.

Clerk. Jonathan Martin.

438. 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.

439. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from the Chairman Richard Boyles and Cllr Stephen Foster.

440. Declarations of Interest & Public Forum.

No declarations or dispensations were made.

Forum.

Cllr Robinson briefed the Council on developments within Gloucestershire County Council. The County Council has resolved on its budget at around 567 million pounds for this financial year. The Council is continuing its program of significant investment into local services. This includes funding for adult social care, children's services including foster care, increased funding for schools and repair and safety modifications for local roads. Approximately 91 million of the above budget is directed towards tackling climate change. 118 million for transport, and 23 million for community safety, such as the fire service. Further investment was directed towards the county's libraries. With this in mind, the County's council tax increase remains relatively low at a £6.04 increase for a band D type house. A further 32 million has been made via savings and efficiencies.

Cllr Robinson added that there was an unusually large year group this year transitioning from primary to secondary school, with over 6000 placements being given. The vast majority of these students receiving their first or second choices of school.

It was reported that there remained, as of March 2023, 1,391 Ukrainian refugees within the County. Perhaps as much as half have left, presumably returning home to Ukraine. Around 380 Ukrainian children remain in the county school system.

Cllr Robinson suggested that the Parish apply for a 'build back better' grant within the 2-5 thousand pound range for a local project. The Parish could request a grant for the benefit of a local charity.

The acting chairman asked about the new hospitals that are set to be built in the district. Specifically, if they would be convalescent homes. Cllr Robinson said that he would report back on this.

District Councillor Phelps then gave his report.

The FODDC resolved on their budget with an increase of 3%. However, this increase could be subject to change depending on the outcome of the May local elections.

A scrutiny committee has looked further into the issue of water quality in the Cinderford area. A report has been made and will be submitted soon to the FODDC.

The Acting Chairman thanked both visiting Councillors for their information.

7:24pm Cllrs Phelps and Robinson leave.

441. Minutes of the meeting held on February 15th 2023, and matters arising.

An application for a grant from the Parish had been received from Blaisdon Village hall and would be processed later.

Since the last meeting, several local people had been approached if they would like to stand as a parish councillor in the May elections. The Clerk would send to Cllr Atkinson the links to the online forms on the FODDC, as well as place a notice on the Council's website for a call for Councillors.

Resolved.

442. Clerk's Report and Correspondence.

The Clerk detailed the information he had received from the FODDC over the upcoming May election.

443. Financial Report – February 2023.

A slight exceedance of the yearly maintenance budget was described due to the recent repair work on the Council's laptop and replacement of the printer. This was less than a 10% overspend. Despite this no other aspect of the budget has exceeded its limits which is a good result considering the near completion of the current financial year.

The Chairman asked if the reserve funds in the council's current account could be moved to the saving account, for the benefits of security and higher interest receipts. This would be an item for the next agenda.

444. Resolve on the Risk Assessment for 2023-24.

Resolved.

445. Resolve on the Equality and Diversity policy for 2023-24.

Resolved.

446. Resolve on the proposed meeting times for 2023-24.

The list presented by the Clerk was approved and this would be placed online on the Council's website as well as sent to the County and District Councillors.

Resolved.

447. Invoices for payment.

- Blaisdon Village Hall Hire. 5hrs x £10 = 50.00
- Clerk Wages - February. 19hrs x £10 = £190.00

Resolved.

448. Any other urgent business.

The application for a grant of £500.00 to Blaisdon Village Hall was confirmed. The reason for this was to undertake necessary repairs and improve the security measures of the hall. The Clerk would need confirmations from the Hall management team that this work would be evidenced by receipts and that these would be provided to the Parish Council. Final approval for this would be in an item for the next agenda.

449. Date and Time of Next Meeting – 12th April 2023 at 7.00 pm

Agreed.

Meeting commenced: 7.00 p.m. Meeting finished: 7.56 p.m. Signed:

..... Date:2023