

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 12th
April 2023 @ 7.00 pm**

In attendance:

Cllr. Richard Boyles. (Chairman)

Cllr. Nicola Atkinson.

Cllr. Sue Foster.

Cllr. Stephen Foster.

Cllr. Stuart Gent.

Cllr (Elect) Jane Spencer.

Clerk. Jonathan Martin.

450. 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.

451. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from the County Councilor Robinson, but none had been received from District Councilor Phelps.

452. Declarations of Interest & Public Forum.

No declarations or dispensations were made.

Forum.

453. Minutes of the meeting held on March 15th 2023, and matters arising.

Resolved.

454. Clerk's Report and Correspondence.

The Clerk reported that he had confirmed that Mrs Fowler was available to perform the Council's internal audit.

455. Financial Report – March 2023.

The Clerk gave the report with no outstanding issues. The Clerk was instructed to include an item in the next meeting's agenda to discuss and resolve upon the transfer of money from the current account into the saving's account.

456. To review and resolve on the annual statement of accounts and annual report for the financial year of 2022-23.

The accounts were deemed to be clear and in good order, in relation to the monthly financial reports.

Resolved.

457. To discuss and resolve on the preparation for the audit of the previous financial year.

a). To resolve on the appointment of a Councillor to carry out the internal checks on finance for the financial year 2022-23.

Councillor Atkinson volunteered for this role.

Resolved.

b). To resolve on whether the Parish Council should declare itself exempt from the external audit for the financial year 2022-23.

The Parish Council's year income was far below the threshold of 25 thousand pounds a year, as the qualifier for an external audit. Also the Council has no issues that would necessitate an external audit. Therefore an internal audit was resolved on.

Resolved.

458. Statutory meetings:

a). To agree the date in May 2023 for the AGM of the Parish Council.

b). To agree the date for the Annual Parish Meeting and consider its format and agenda.

In relation to the above two items. The Date for the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting was deemed to be best held on the same date. The Annual Parish Meeting would be held first on May 17th with the AGM after. The Clerk was tasked to organise this with an extended booking.

A request for guest speakers would also be made and this would need to be included into the Annual Parish's agenda.

459. Planning Applications for Consultation.

- **P0414/23/TCA. Nettlestones Blaisdon Lane Blaisdon. Fell 1 x Ash (small) and 1 x Lawson Cypress. Reduce the following trees by 30%: 1 x Beech (small), 1 x Field Maple, 1 x Birch and 2 x Oak.**

There were no objections, however Cllr Stephen Foster stressed the legal need for the above application to undertake a survey of the potential bird life in the trees, as not to destroy nest sites. This requirement would be added to the consultation statement.

- **P0025/23/FUL. Riverdene Cottage, New road, Flaxley. Creation of two storey rear extension and replacement side porch.**

There were no objections.

460. To resolve on the acceptance of the new Financial Regulations for 2023-24.

Resolved.

461. To resolve and confirm the payment of £500.00 to Blaisdon Village Hall in response to their recent application for grant monies.

Resolved.

462. Invoices for payment.

- **GAPTC subscription £66.63**
- **Website subscription £160.00**
- **Clerk Wages - March 19hrs x £10 = £190.00**

Resolved.

463. Any other urgent business.

A report from the Flaxley village hall was relayed as to the success of the warm spaces scheme, of which Blaisdon Parish Council had funded via a grant. Its average attendance was between 7-11 people. A difficulty was the remoteness of the village hall which reduced accessibility.

There were reports of excessive water pooling along Velthouse lane. The recent pothole repairs seem to have either failed or been insufficient. The Clerk would receive photos of this and pass these on to the Highways authority for redress of this.

Though the current Chairman is due to step down in May, in order to maintain the functionality of the Council, it is intended that he will be co-opted at the next meeting as a new councillor. Also, other members of the community would be approached if they would be co-opted as well.

The Chairman thanked Councillors Stuart Gent, Sue and Stephen Foster for their long service and contributions to Blaisdon Parish Council. All three will be retiring their roles in May.

464. Date and Time of Next Meeting – 17th May 2023 at 7.00 pm

Meeting commenced: 7.00 p.m. Meeting finished: 7.42 p.m. Signed:

..... Date:2023

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