

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 Annual Parish Council
Meeting held at Blaisdon Village Hall.
Wednesday 24th May 2023 @ 7.00 pm**

In attendance:

Cllr. Nicola Atkinson.
Cllr. Nathalie Magnotte
Dist Cllr. Simon Phelps
Clerk. Jonathan Martin.

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

The welcome was given to all members present and attention was drawn to the location of the fire exits and the emergency evacuation procedure.

466. Apologies for absence.

Cllr Spencer gave her apologies.

467. Declarations of Interest & Public Forum.

There were none.

468. Chairman's report.

The acting chairperson read out a report written and given to the council by the previous chairman, Mr Boyle. The main points were the success of the various local projects that had benefited from Blaisdon's grants. These being the jubilee celebrations and the warm spaces scheme.

The routine updates and support from both the district and county councillors was praised and thanked. The Churcham development plan's suspension was cited as a result of Blaisdon's and Churcham et al council's efforts.

Lastly, thanks were given to Blaisdon's three retiring council members, all of whom had served the parish diligently for years.

469. Financial report.

The Clerk gave a brief summary of the financial activity and status of the council for the previous financial year. The council had remained solvent, withheld practical reserves and remained well within budget. Moreover, the council has significantly increased its available grant monies for members of the parish to use, which had been achieved over the year.

With regard to the current financial year, the Clerk explained that the grant money had been increased again, according to policy.

470.To receive a talk from Cllr Mignotte on the importance of local lanes.

Lanes and their corresponding verges are essentially taken for granted and only become relevant when there is a problem with them, such as damage or issues with flooding.

However, they can be considered as places where gardens spill out, containing both desirable plants and weeds, either native plants or imported. They also provide sanctuaries for native animal life, including insects and provide flowers for bees.

Problems of flooding can be resolved via proper maintenance of the drains, in keeping them clear of blocking debris. As well as overflow ponds being created to contain flooding in a designated area until natural drainage dissipates them. It is also crucial to know when and how to cut the verges to keep them contained. Long term planning could also involve the planting of trees.

A question from the public was raised over the former management systems of the local lanes, which used to be under local control. Combined, local, county, private and public interests would need to converge to create an adequate system of management.

471. District and County Councillor's reports.

Cllr Phelps explained that after the recent local elections the Green party was expected to form the dominant block in the District council. Because of this, the district housing plan is likely to be modified. The implementation of the levelling up funds may also be altered.

There will be more updates on these changes for the next meeting.

472. Question & Answer.

A member of the public raised the same issue of the wildlife reserves in the Parish and how these are maintained.

It was also suggested that the litter picking issue be chased with the local authority.

473. Any other business.

There was none.

Meeting commenced: 7.00 p.m. Meeting finished: 7.41 p.m. Signed:

..... Date:2023

BPC Minutes 2023 24 05