

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
July 2023 @ 7.00 pm**

In attendance:

Cllr. Richard Boyles.

Cllr. Nicola Atkinson.

Cllr. Nathalie Mignotte.

Cllr. Tony Brady.

Clerk. Jonathan Martin.

490. 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.

491. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Jane Semore and District Councillor Simon Phelps. There were no apologies received from Philip Robinson.

A future apology was given by Cllr Mignotte who would not be able to attend at the next meeting in September.

492. Declarations of Interest & Public Forum.

There were none.

493. Minutes of Meetings 14th June 2023 and matters arising.

The attendance of Cllr Boyles and Cllr Brady were added to the minutes.

Resolved.

494. To resolve on the position of the Chairman for the Parish Council.

Cllr Atkinson asked for a replacement for her role as Chairperson, as she had accepted this role as a temporary position.

It was proposed by Cllr Atkinson that Cllr Richard Boyles become the new Chairperson.

This was seconded by Cllr Brady.

Resolved.

Cllr Richard Boyles is confirmed the new Blaisdon Parish Council Chairperson. He is happy to have been elected and is looking forward to returning to the role.

Cllr's Atkinon's resignation as Chairperson was recognised at 7:04pm.

495.To receive and the Council's Audit report for 2023 and resolve on any appropriate action that this requires.

The Clerk read out the audit report which had already been circulated. The internal auditor stated that no issues were apparent and the council's finances and safety practices were satisfactory.

The report and accounts would be placed online for public viewing.

496.To resolve on the renewal of the Council's insurance policy.

Resolved.

The Clerk would inquire as to why the fee was significantly lower this year.

497.Clerk's Report and Correspondence.

There was none.

498.Report on issue of the alleged blocking of the Blaisdon Hall footpath by way of a keypad, and to resolve on appropriate action if needed.

It was reported that this matter had been resolved satisfactorily. Cllr Brady had informed the new owners of the improper closure of the footpath, and via email they confirmed that this had been done in error and was soon corrected. The gate still had its pin code pad attached but the door remained open.

499.Planning:

- **Discussion on the appeal of the application concerning 'The Stables' on Velthouse lane, and to resolve on appropriate action if needed.**

The Parish council had previously objected to this development, due to breaches of the use of agricultural land and the conservation area. The original applicant has subsequently appealed, and the Council believes that it is in the public interest for it to comment on this.

Persistent problems with the application remain, these being; traffic dangers due to the access point from the estate onto the road. Specifically, poor lines of sight for exiting cars. Drainage problems during heavy rain which appears to cause seasonal flooding of the site. People have reported seeing a blue water pipe during winter

emanating from the site, and speculate that this is part of counter flooding actions by the owners. It is also probable that this waterlogged land renders the foundations perpetually flooded, adding to the unsuitability of further construction.

The above also reflects the concerns of several local people that have been communicated to the Council. Including the issue that should the appeal be granted, it would set a very troubling precedent for other developments within the locale.

From these points, the Council does not endorse the appeal.

500.Financial Report –June 2023.

Invoice(s) for payment.

- **Internal Audit fee 2023 - £60.00**
- **Community First Insurance - £129.23**
- **FODDC uncontested election costs – £211.80**
- **Clerk Wages – June 19hrs x £11.06 = £210.14**

Total: £611.17

Resolved.

It was noted that the election costs for the uncontested election should be taken out of the specific reserves, which were now to be renamed 'election' costs or words to that nature. As the election cycle has now reset, the remaining election funds could be reallocated to other items in the budget. The reserves would then be periodically regenerated over the coming years ready for the next election. This would be an item for the next agenda.

501.To resolve on the Clerk receiving training for the setting up and use of a PAYE and other related accounting systems for the Parish.

Resolved.

The Clerk was permitted to investigate this proposed training and seek quotes that would remain within the current budget of £100.00. Prior to this training the Council would need to authorise it. This would be reported back on.

502. Any other urgent business.

Due to time limits and the lack of a Council meeting in August, it has been determined that the grant application for the Blaisdon Village Hall shall be considered here. The grant application is for £300.00 to hire a children's entertainer for the summer fair.

This application was approved by the Council, however the Clerk would require a confirmation in the form of receipts after the grant has been spent.

The Clerk would also inquire with the Village Hall as to whether they used a card reader as a means of receiving payment. If not, the Council would be agreeable to funding the set up of this. The benefit being that it would increase the revenue of the

Village Hall by accommodating people who paid with card. This funding would be contingent on another formal grant application.

The need for the update of the Council's bank mandate was cited and the Clerk was instructed to undertake this, both the removal of former members and the addition of new signatories from the Council.

503. Date and Time of Next Meeting – 13th Sept 2023 at 7.00 pm

Meeting commenced: 7.00 p.m. Meeting finished: 7.51 p.m. Signed:

..... Date:2023

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