

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 17th January 2024 @ 8.30pm

In attendance:

Cllr. Richard Boyles.

Cllr. Nicola Atkinson.

Cllr. Tony Brady.

Cllr. Jane Spencer.

Cllr. Nathalie Mignotte

Clerk. Jonathan Martin.

542. 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.

543. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from County Councillor Robinson, yet none had been received from District Councillor Phelps.

544. Declarations of Interest & Public Forum.

Two members of the public were in attendance, their names were; Mr Grant Porter and Mr Jerry Thomas. Their residences were the Tan house and Saint Michael's cottage respectively. They were present to discuss the local development at the Stables.

Previously, this development proposal had failed, despite four extensions of time, and its current application was seen as being equally objectionable for the following reasons. These were;

1. The general plans are not supported by the national planning policy to limit developments in the countryside.
2. The development is not a family business and cannot use this exception.
3. The development is not on previously used or developed land.
4. It would cause harm to the surrounding conservation area.
5. There have been 4 recorded vehicle accidents in the lane adjoining the site, with more accidents suspected to have happened but not to have been reported.

The applicants may be attempting to wear the planning system down, however, the problem with this application being granted, is that it would open the floodgates to many other disruptive developments, via a new precedent being set.

Mister Porter presented to the council a draft complaint letter stating the above. The Parish would use this as the framework for its own letter to the local authority, to represent numerous other complainants.

It was mentioned that local traffic surveys of the lane were not effective, as these were only conducted during quiet times. Cllr Mignotte mentioned that traffic conditions would only worsen if construction here were to start.

The Chairman then cited that the new build would be too close to a listed building, and thus may be under the same restrictions. Concerns over the effect of the development on local views, however, remain a weak counterargument. Instead, the complaint should be structured around the above-mentioned substantive issues.

Cllr Brady suggested that he would liaise with the owners of the Stonehouse property, so that they can be made aware of this. They may even tender their own objections to the development.

The two members of the public thanked the council and left the meeting at 8:49 pm.

545. Minutes of Meetings 15th November 2023 and matters arising.

Resolved.

546. Clerk's Report and Correspondence.

The Clerk reported that the request to set up another salt bin location after a request from a local resident had been rejected by the County Council. The Clerk had suggested that these residents may apply for a grant from the Parish Council to fund their own road salting operations. No reply has been received from this.

A review of the recent FOI request on the local drainage report was had. The main point of contention was that the report seemed incomplete in that certain areas were not covered, such as the top of the village and the local well. The information is also out of date and has missed reports of broken pipes. An item for the next meeting will include a discussion on this matter in detail.

The Clerk was instructed to ask Gloucestershire County Council if there were any more drainage reports covering the area between Little London and Blaisdon.

547. To discuss the progress of the review of the Council's Standing Orders.

The review of the standing orders was complete with no changes deemed necessary.

A formal resolution to adopt these would be on the next meeting's agenda.

548. Clerk to present the Third draft of the new budget for discussion and alteration. Then to resolve on this.

Item 10 was moved here for convenience.

Resolved.

To confirm the budget for 2024-25 and the precept level of £4,350.00. This higher precept was stated as necessary to maintain the council's grant policy.

The next agenda would include an item assessing quotes to have the local war memorial's text recut.

549. To discuss the progress of the local walks map project.

The reply from Flaxley Village Hall was read out, the issues that would need addressing would be, the locations of the maps and whether they might cause road hazards. Also, who would accept the liabilities for the maps, and whose insurance would include it? The next question would be where to install these maps for public access. Cllr Spencer will investigate quotes for these installations.

550. Planning:

Planning matters have been covered largely in the public forum item. The Clerk will format the Parish Council's own response to the above-mentioned points on the stables development, as a representative of numerous complainants and to cover its own considerations.

Resolved.

To oppose the Stables planning application.

551. Financial Report(s) – November & December 2023.

The financial report was given with no abnormalities or problems named. There had been very little activity over the previous months.

552. See minute 535.

Returning to item 10 briefly, the Chairman reminded the Councillors of a recent email that had been circulated from the FODDC, in that all Councillors should not be in arrears with their council tax. This was not an issue for any of the members of Blaisdon Parish Council.

553. Invoice(s) for payment.

- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) sub' – £35.00
- Clerk Wages – Nov 19hrs x £11.06 = £210.14
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Resolved.

554. Any other urgent business.

Cllr Atkinson stated that as a matter of urgency, the battery for the defibrillator needs to be replaced. It was proposed that Cllr Atkinson purchases the replacement herself, and the Parish Council would refund this and authorise the payment retroactively at the next meeting.

The Chairman asked the other Councillors to update their register of interest if needed and communicate this to the Clerk.

The next date of the next meeting would also need to be confirmed. Either February 13th or 27th at 7pm. The Clerk would arrange this.

Meeting commenced: 8.30 p.m. Meeting finished: 9.44 p.m. Signed:

..... Date:2024

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