



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CORONATION HALL AT 7.00pm ON MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

PRESENT:	Councillors Mary Sheppard (Chairman), ID Clarke, Jo Gower-Crane, Ann Davies and Steve Sugg.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk)
WARD COUNCILLORS:	None
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:	Two

Before the meeting was convened, members of the public were invited to speak.

i) **Members of the public**

Members of the public raised questions in relation to planning application 24/P/0890/FUL. Concerns were expressed regarding potential overlooking, accuracy of plans and the effectiveness of landscaping proposals. It was noted that this application would be considered later in the meeting.

A member of the public raised a question regarding the alignment of signage in Bridge Road. The Clerk undertook to investigate and report to North Somerset Council as appropriate.

ii) **Beat Manager's Report**

The written report forming part of the agenda papers was noted.

For up-to-date information residents can keep in touch via the Avon & Somerset website or follow them on social media, Facebook "Weston & Worle police" or Twitter "ASPNorthSom" or email 8338@avonandsomerset.police.uk

iii) **Ward Councillors' report**

None

Cllr Sheppard opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

The meeting was convened.

381.1 To receive apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Andy Scarisbrick.

381.2 Declarations of Interest

None.

381.3 To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 9th September 2024.

Resolved: To approve the Parish Council minutes of 9th September 2024.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

The minutes of the meeting were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

381.4 Reports from Working Parties/Committees

Councillors considered the notes of the Parish News Working Group meeting of the 22nd August 2024. It was noted that a meeting of Councillors would need to be arranged to discuss the issues arising to enable a formal report to Council at a future date.

Councillors considered the notes of the Open Spaces Working Group meeting of the 29th August 2024. It was noted that issues requiring resolution were contained in the Clerk's report. It was also requested that blocked drains at the top of Celtic Way be added to the maintenance/task schedule.

381.5 Reports from Outside Bodies/Conferences/Training

Cllr Gower-Crane provided feedback from recent ALCA meetings in relation to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), new NALC training offers in relation to HR and Charing meetings and an update to the 'Good Councillors Guide'.

It was also noted that the ALCA AGM would be taking place on 5th October 2024.

Resolved: That the Clerk be requested to provide updated versions of the 'Good Councillors Guide'.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

381.6 Training and Events

The availability of Scribe, ALCA and NALC training events was noted.

381.7 Financial/Staffing Matters

i) To authorise bills for payment for September.

Resolved: To authorise the payments for September of £13,664.03.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

(Councillors ID Clarke and Ann Davies were duly authorised to action the online payments)

ii) To note the Parish Council's end of August budget position, bank balances and bank reconciliations.

The Parish Council's end of August position, bank balances and bank reconciliations were noted. It was further noted that the second payment of the precept had been received and that the interest rate on the deposit account had decreased by 0.15%.

Resolved: That the Clerk be authorised to effect a transfer of up to £30,000 between the current and deposit accounts.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

381.8 Report of the Parish Clerk

1. Parish Clock Plaque

Councillors debated the relative merits of different finishes/materials for a plaque. Further work was requested in relation to feasibility and costs in relation to both brass and hardwood (oak) options.

Resolved:

- i) That a commemorative plaque be located on Parish Council land adjacent to Coronation Road entrance to the churchyard – the precise location to be determined by the Chairman of Council.
- ii) That the Open Spaces Working Group be requested to consider feasibility and costs in relation to brass and oak plaques.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

2. Correspondence From Cllr Mike Bell (Leader of North Somerset Council)

Councillors considered initial proposals from Cllr Mike Bell in relation to potential joint working with Town and Parish Councils to deliver services currently provided by North Somerset Council. Concern was expressed regarding the driver for this work being linked to North Somerset Council's budget constraints rather than a meaningful plan to deliver quality statutory and other services at a reduced cost to taxpayers. The Parish Council had also sought to work with North Somerset Council on a range of proposals which would have benefitted both North Somerset Council financially and local residents and it had not always been easy to secure the necessary support from North Somerset Council to move forward. As a consequence, there was some unease at the prospect of investing significant time and resources in developing proposals which were not then advanced. As a consequence, whilst recognising that there might be areas where there was scope for further discussion, Councillors considered that further detail was needed from North Somerset Council regarding how it would seek to move forward with initial proposals and how it would seek to continue to provide statutory services.

Resolved: That the Clerk be requested to respond to Cllr Bell's correspondence outlining the Council's concerns and initial conclusions.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

3. Play Area Provision

Councillors noted that discussions regarding investment in play provision within the village centre were continuing and considered some guiding principles recommended by the Open Spaces Working Group to help shape future delivery.

Resolved: That the following principles be adopted to help shape the provision of any new play equipment:

- That future developments should focus upon early years and over 12s – the primary age range group largely being well served by the existing Trust play area.
- That the existing rural nature of the Trust play area should be preserved, with wood apparatus and muted colour schemes.
- That the Council should take the opportunity to introduce equipment capable of use by children with special/additional needs.
- That sound/music based equipment would be inappropriate in the existing Trust play area given the proximity of the site to residential properties.
- That the potential to introduce 'gym' type equipment for older age ranges (including adults/seniors) in the vicinity of Pea Green should be explored.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

4. Installation of Noticeboards

Councillors noted that North Somerset Council required the use of a North Somerset Council accredited contractor to erect the four noticeboards. A procurement process had been undertaken, which had only resulted in one bid. The Clerk advised that it was acceptable for the Council to proceed with a contract award as nine accredited companies had been invited to bid for the works and given the condition required by North Somerset Council it would not be possible to extend the invitation to bid beyond accredited contractors.

Resolved: That the quote from North Somerset Environment Company Ltd in the amount of £967.92 (Exc VAT) be accepted.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

5. Minor Works

Councillors considered a range of proposed minor works relating to:

- Staining of benches and bus shelter
- Fixing loose coping stones
- Cutting back overgrown areas at the allotments
- Installation of an irrigation system to the polytunnel
- Maintenance work in the play area
- Cleaning/repairing toilet block guttering

It was noted that some works in relation to the play area would only be advanced following confirmation that items of equipment would not be replaced as part of a larger scheme of work.

A preliminary cost estimate of £2,690 had been established for the minor works identified in the Clerk's report.

Councillors also debated options in relation to addressing the poor condition of the car parking barrier.

Resolved:

- i) That the minor works as set out in the report of the Parish Clerk and summarised above be approved at a combined cost not exceeding £2,690, with progress monitored and (where necessary) prioritised by the Open Spaces Working Group.
- ii) That consideration of the car parking barrier be deferred to the October meeting of Council.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

6. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Consultation

Councillor Gower-Crane summarised the proposed changes which were largely centred around delivering increased housing opportunities quicker than previously planned. There would be potential additional implications where an area did not have an adopted Local Plan – as was the case for North Somerset Council. The Parish Council had previously pressed North Somerset Council to provide a greater degree of protection for land which is or may be used in the context of food security and this issue might be further impacted by the NPPF consultation.

It was noted that the deadline for responses to the consultation was 24th September 2024.

Resolved: That Councillors submit any comments they might wish to make in response to the consultation to Cllr Gower-Crane.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

381.9 Update report in respect of previous planning applications.

Cllr Clarke advised Councillors that there were five applications which had not yet been determined by North Somerset Council. At least one of these dated back to 2023.

381.10 Planning Applications

**[Erection of 1no. temporary rural workers dwelling and 1no. rural building](#)
Land East Of Riverside Holiday Park Bridgwater Road Bleadon
Ref. No: 24/P/0890/FUL | Received: Wed 01 May 2024 | Validated: Wed 07 Aug
2024 | Status: Registered**

Resolved: That the Council objects to the application. In reaching its conclusion the Council noted that the Environment Agency had objected to aspects of the application proposal. It was also considered that further information was needed in respect of the relationship between proposed elevations and neighbouring properties and the provision of boundary fencing to prevent access to local waterways. A deferral request would be made to North Somerset Council to enable the applicant to submit such further details and the Council reserved the right to revisit its conclusion in the light of any further information received.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

**[Discharge of condition 6 \(Earth and Stone Spoilage Plan\) on application](#)
[23/P/1270/FUL.](#)
Land West Of Coombe Farm Bridgwater Road Bleadon**

Ref. No: 24/P/1644/AOC | Received: Wed 07 Aug 2024 | Validated: Thu 22 Aug 2024 | Status: Registered

Resolved: That the application be noted.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

381.11 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting Monday **14th October 2024, 7:00pm** (Coronation Hall, Bleadon)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.57pm

.....Chairman

.....Date