



BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Coronation Halls
Coronation Road
Bleadon. North Somerset. BS24 0PG
www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk

7th August 2024

Members of the public and press are entitled to be at the following meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 Section 1 unless excluded by the Parish Council by resolution during the whole or part of the proceedings. Such entitlement does not however include the right to speak on any matter except at the commencement of the meeting given over specifically for that purpose.

Dear Councillor:

You are summoned to attend a Meeting of Bleadon Parish Council, to be held at Coronation Hall, Coronation Road, Bleadon. BS24 0PG on Monday 12th August 2024 at 7.00pm, when the following business will be transacted.

C P Bolt

Parish Clerk & RFO

Before the meeting begins there will be a public participation session – *This session is open to the Public to present comments, observations, information, petitions or lead deputations and is the only time members of the public may participate. (Please note that the Council is unable to make formal decisions under this item LGA1972 Sch 12, paras 10(2)(b))*

- i) Members of the public.
- ii) Beat Managers Report
- iii) Ward Councillor's report.

A G E N D A

380.1 To receive **Apologies for Absence** (LGA 1972 s85 (1)).

380.2 **Declarations of Interest** on any agenda items.

380.3 **To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 8th July 2024 (pages 4-7).

380.4 **Reports from Working Parties/Committees.**

- i) Open Spaces Working Group – 1st August 2024 (pages 8-9)

380.5 **Reports from Outside Bodies/Conferences/Training.**

- i) Report from Councillor Gower-Crane (pages 10-16)

380.6 To note the training and events available and agree any attendance.

- i) FREE Scribe Training <https://www.scribeaccounts.com/scribe-academy-training>
- ii) NALC virtual training <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-events/online-events>

380.7 **Financial/Staffing Matters** (pages 17-19)

1. To authorise bills for payment for August and note bills for payment for July.
2. To note the Parish Council's end of July bank balances and bank reconciliation and end of July net position.

380.8 **Report of the Parish Clerk** (pages 20-28).

Decision Items

1. Parish Clock Plaque – that the Council discusses options for the siting of a plaque recognising contributors to the fund for re-gilding the Parish Clock.
2. Wall adjacent to toilet block – that the Parish Clerk is authorised to issue a contract variation to enable the scheme of works to be completed entirely in natural stone, subject to the additional cost not exceeding £800.
3. Annual Play Area Inspection – that the outcome of the annual play area inspection is noted and any recommendations are considered in the context of proposals to redevelop the play area.
4. Replacement noticeboards – that the Council authorises the acquisition of four noticeboards from Acorn Workshops in the amount of £5,420. That the Council considers any quotes received in relation to the installation of four noticeboards and instructs the Clerk accordingly.

Information Items/Correspondence Received

1. Changes to North Somerset Mobile Library service
2. Correspondence received from BDO (External Auditors) in respect of AGAR 2023/24
3. Fields in Trust Survey (Play Area) in relation to active travel and environmental initiatives
4. Mendip Hills events – Regenerative Farming Conference and Sculptural Installation

380.9 To receive an **update report in respect of previous planning applications considered by the Council.**

380.10 **consider and comment upon the following planning applications:**

[Request to discharge condition number 34 \(Bat and Light Scheme\) on application 19/P/0835/OUT](#)

Bleadon Quarry Bridge Road Bleadon Weston-super-Mare BS24 0AU

Ref. No: 24/P/1355/AOC | Received: Thu 04 Jul 2024 | Validated: Thu 04 Jul 2024 | Status: Registered

380.11 Date of the next meeting(s):

- Parish Council Meeting Monday 9th September 2024, 7.00pm at Coronation Hall



Avon and Somerset Police

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

July 1st till 31st 2024 Bleadon Neighbourhood Report

Calls Received – 24

Road-4 Abandoned 999 -4 Weapons-1 Stalking-1 Burglary-1 Other-2 Concerns for welfare-1 Theft-2 ASB-1
Suspicious -2 Harassment-3 Threats-1

Most crimes reported are isolated incidents which have occurred within dwellings and are unlikely to have any effect on the wider community.

For awareness the only crime in the village was a Road related his month

STREETSAFE

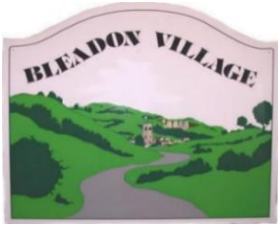
If there is a public place where you have felt unsafe, tell us where and why.

Anonymously flag areas on a map where you don't feel safe.

Email: 8338@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Police Priorities/Action Undertaken/Advice/Upcoming events:

Please also see attached link for our street safe website [Report feeling unsafe in public spaces \(StreetSafe\) | Avon and Somerset Police](#). This is a great way to report areas you feel unsafe, this maybe inadequate lighting problems with any other issues , this is not a way of reporting please still use 101/999 or online



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CORNATION HALL AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 8TH JULY 2024.

PRESENT:	Councillors Mary Sheppard (Chairman), ID Clarke, Jo Gower-Crane, Ann Davies and Steve Sugg.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk)
WARD COUNCILLORS:	Councillor Terry Porter
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:	One

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

i) **Members of the public**

None.

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**

Councillor Terry Porter offered Councillor Mike Solomon's apologies and provided the following updates:

- Responses to noise complaints in relation to works at the former quarry site.
- Ongoing discussions in relation to play provision within the Parish.

Councillor Porter also responded to questions raised in relation to the change in government and possible implications in relation to planning given that the North Somerset Local Plan was, as yet, unadopted. Cllr Gower-Crane raised concern that new houses built may not be available to North Somerset residents. NSC has a duty to cooperate with neighbouring councils to build houses for their housing need as well as for local residents, e.g. Bristol. Cllr Porter agreed it was a difficult situation, acknowledging the knock on effect on services and village communities, including potential solar and wind development, noting that the Local Plan was under consideration now.

Cllr Sheppard opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

The meeting was convened.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Andy Scarisbrick.

379.2 Declarations of Interest

None.

379.3 To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 10th June 2024.

It was noted that the two NALC training courses referenced were as follows:

- Unleashing the Power of Local Councils to Tackle the Climate Emergency
- Decoding the Future of Artificial Intelligence in Local Governance

Resolved: To approve the Parish Council minutes of 10th June 2024.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

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

379.4 Reports from Working Parties/Committees

Councillors considered the notes of the Open Spaces Working Group meeting of the 27th June 2024. It was noted that issues requiring resolution featured as part of the Clerk's report.

379.5 Reports from Outside Bodies/Conferences/Training

Councillor Jo Gower-Crane provided an update in relation to a series of events attended in relation to Biodiversity and Net Gain. A common theme of concern was the lack of discussion and understanding of implications at the local, regional and national level regarding the reallocation of land use away from food production, affecting food security.

Cllr Gower-Crane also advised that she had been appointed as Vice-chairman of the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA) North Somerset.

379.6 Training and Events

The availability of Scribe and NALC training events was noted.

379.7 Financial/Staffing Matters

i) To authorise bills for payment for July.

Resolved: To authorise the payments for July of £4,465.22.

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 June budget position, bank balances and bank reconciliations.

The Parish Council's end of June position, bank balances and bank reconciliations were noted.

iii) 1st Quarter Monitoring Report

Councillors noted the work undertaken to reconstruct cost centres and cost codes. The Clerk responded to a number of questions and the new format for reporting was welcomed with the following requests made in relation to future reports:

- Rename Cost Centre 4 as 'Public Engagement/Website' and transfer cost codes accordingly.
- Notes to be expanded/updated in relation to the following cost codes – 306, 803 and 805.

Resolved: That the 1st Quarter Position be noted.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

379.8 Report of the Parish Clerk

1. Replacement Noticeboards

Councillors noted that the Open Spaces Working Group had undertaken an initial evaluation of a number of potential suppliers, details of which were provided within the Clerk's report.

Resolved:

- i) That the Council enters into further discussions with Acorn Workshop with a view to the supply of four noticeboards (with the option of a centre panel), with the final decision relating to design/finishes delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Open Spaces Working Group.
- ii) That the Clerk be formally requested to seek permission from North Somerset Council for a noticeboard to be erected adjacent to the layby at Bleadon Mill and to relocate the noticeboard at The Veale.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

2. Churchyard Memorial Tests

Councillors were provided with an update following a working party meeting earlier in the day. The working party members (comprising of Councillors Sheppard and Sugg in their lead roles for the churchyard and memorials) and a Church Warden had accepted the Clerk's preliminary findings. As a consequence, two headstones had been laid flat and further remedial work was required in relation to a further 12 memorials.

Resolved:

- i) That the Clerk be authorised to undertake short term remedial works to ensure that memorials which – in the opinion of the Working Party – require further action are made safe.
- ii) That, where practicable, remedial works have regard to the views of the Diocese of Bath & Wells in relation to faculty permissions.
- iii) That, in the event that the budgetary provision of £1,000 is expected to be exceeded, the matter be referred back to the Council for further consideration.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

3. Parish Clock - Regilding

Councillors noted that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) had appointed an architect and the Clerk had already commenced discussions with the architect and Timsbury Clocks with a view to advancing the project and that costs (within the approved project budget) were being incurred.

Formal approval had been secured to extend the faculty permissions to the end of 2024 and the Clerk provided verbal confirmation that the PCC architect had formally approved the proposed Method Statement for the works. A date for the commencement of works was being sought and it was possible that this would be prior to the next meeting of the Council. The Clerk would, therefore, seek to ensure that Councillors were kept abreast of developments without compromising the timeline for any works.

Resolved: That the actions taken by the Clerk be endorsed.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

4. Parish Clock Mechanism – Service Contract

Resolved: That, in respect of the Parish Clock mechanism, the Council enters into a one year service contract with Smiths of Derby in the amount of £261.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

5. Works to Wall Adjacent to the Toilet Block

Councillors noted that the Open Spaces Working Group had considered a potential variation to the contract for works to the Jubilee Garden Wall to incorporate works to the wall adjacent to the Toilet Block. The Chairman of the Working Group shared the recommendations of the Working Group in relation to the appointment of A Moffatt to undertake works to the wall and J.A.R. to undertake works associated with the removal of planting areas and pavements.

Resolved:

- i) That, in respect of the wall adjacent to the toilet block – and subject to consent being obtained from other affected parties – the quote from A Moffatt in the amount of £2,500 be accepted.
- ii) That the Clerk be authorised to appoint J.A.R. to undertake works associated with the removal of planting areas and reinstatement of a pavement surface in all affected areas, subject to costs not exceeding £1,000.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

6. Allotments – Charges for Water Usage

Councillors noted that the Open Spaces Working Group had considered this issue and the Chairman of the Working Group shared the recommendation of the Working Group to waive charges in the current year as a goodwill gesture to tenants in recognition of problems experienced with the water supply.

Resolved: That the proposed charge (to tenants) for water usage in respect of the current allotment year be waived.

379.9 Planning Applications

[Request to discharge condition numbers 4 \(External Stonework\), 5 \(Detailed Drawings\), 6 \(Schedule of Works\), 7 \(Bricks should be re-used\) and 8 \(Existing Internals to be protected and undisturbed\) on application 23/P/2548/LBC](#)

Purn Villa Purn Way Bleadon North Somerset BS24 0QE

Ref. No: 24/P/1281/AOC | Received: Mon 24 Jun 2024 | Validated: Mon 24 Jun 2024 | Status: Registered

Resolved: That the application be supported.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

[Proposed construction of 1no. new single storey dwelling.](#)

South Hill Cottages Bridgwater Road Bleadon

Ref. No: 24/P/1106/FUL | Received: Mon 03 Jun 2024 | Validated: Wed 12 Jun 2024 | Status: Registered

Resolved: That the application be supported.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

It was further requested that the North Somerset Council decided applications also be added to the agenda/minutes as these used to be presented to residents.

379.10 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting Monday 12th August 2024, 7:00pm (Coronation Hall, Bleadon)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm

.....Chairman

.....Date

Open Spaces Working Group Notes

1st August 2024

Action points are in ***bold italics***

Report Author: Parish Clerk
Present: Councillors ID Clarke, Mary Sheppard and Ann Davies (part – including Play Area discussion)
No members of the public were present.

Apologies for absence

Councillors Ann Davies and Andy Scarisbrick.

Declarations of Interest

None.

Notes of Meeting Held on 27th June 2024

The Clerk confirmed that proposals in relation to noticeboards were expected to be ready for the next meeting of Council.

Councillors confirmed that the use of gabions in the churchyard was acceptable.

The Clerk confirmed that discussions had taken place with the wall owner in relation to proposals to alter the wall configuration adjacent to the toilet block. The reconstituted stone products proposed to be used were unlikely to meet councillors expectations. As a consequence, ***the Clerk had discussed using natural stone throughout and would be proposing a contract variation to the next meeting of Council.***

The Clerk was asked to clarify with Cllr Sugg what progress has been made in relation to works to the car parking barrier adjacent to the play area.

Play Area

Councillors noted that Edenstone had proposed a figure in relation to play provision associated with the agreed planning permission being met off site at the Bleadon play area. This proposal was now with North Somerset Council for consideration and for clarification of the process to be followed.

The Clerk advised that there had been some feedback following the Parish News article and he had taken the opportunity to raise the issue of how the play area might be improved with users over the course of the last few weeks. Councillors concluded that it would be helpful to discuss a number of principles to help guide future developments. Following discussion, ***the following principles were recommended for adoption by Council:***

- ***That future developments should focus upon early years and over 12s – the primary age range group largely being well served by the existing play area.***
- ***That the existing rural nature of the 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 given the proximity of the site to residential properties.*
- *That the potential to introduce 'gym' type equipment for older age ranges in the vicinity of Pea Green should be explored.*

Project and Maintenance Schedule

Updates to the Project and Maintenance schedule were noted.

Report to Bleadon Parish Council August 2024

Cllr Jo Gower-Crane

The following are notes of meetings and events that I have attended.

Scribe Biodiversity Pt2 Free Event 09 July 2024 (Approx 150 Attendees)

Speaker: Amanda Davis, Parish Councillor at Bourton on the Water, Executive Committee Member of the Gloucestershire Association of Town and Parish Councils, and Cotswolds National Landscape Board Member.

Following my last report to council in July (see below), concerns regarding food security are starting to be more openly raised by councillors throughout the country in relation to the rapid development of biodiversity projects, along with housing and renewable energy developments. One attendee asked, "Why aren't solar panels compulsory on new build properties and warehouses rather than taking up prime farmland?"

I asked whether anyone is working with farmers to ensure rural communities can continue to exist, how rural jobs can be protected and continue to be part of the national economy, producing local food and be part of local, regional and food security?

The speaker suggested that attendees ask their farming communities what top three things they could do as a council to help them, something Bleadon Parish Council may wish me to undertake.

One attendee responded that they were just starting to work with a Farming Cluster.

North Somerset Council Executive Meeting 17 July 2024

There was an address to the Executive by a member of the public calling for a Food Security Emergency, the Chair stated that an Executive member would contact him (transcript obtained following the meeting with NSC video link at the end)

"Thank you for this opportunity to address the Executive Committee this evening to raise my concerns regarding food security.

As the UK is becoming increasingly less self sufficient in its food security surely we should be protecting our farms, and if possible increasing them.

North Somerset Council has declared both a Climate and a Nature emergency. As we know, farming, and hence our food security, depends on nature and the climate to enable farmers to grow our food.

Government and North Somerset Council have said that '*Farmers are encouraged to diversify their activities and supplement their income from enterprises other than normal food production.*' I believe that this poses a significant threat to our food security and our related health and well-being.

If councillors believe that there is a climate emergency then you must agree that our local food is at risk from weather extremes.

To protect our essential food sources at the highest level, I ask that North Somerset Council calls a Food Security Emergency which means that all food production is prioritized and protected at the highest level, for example, in line with the government's 13 Critical Infrastructure Sectors. This is urgently requested, especially in light of the imminent Local Plan consultation and submission.

Along with the declared climate and nature emergency, land is also under attack from the new government's required increase in house building; along with a 10% increase in biodiversity net gain on planning applications and escalating renewable energy projects.

All of these government related initiatives require land, which risks our food security at the local and national level. There is also a threat of war that will have an unknown negative effect on food provision and supply chains, both within the country and from abroad.

Has North Somerset Council assessed the current and future risk to our food production in relation to its declared climate and nature emergency, and related policies? Has the council analysed our region's food production over the last 5, 10, 20 years and our food needs into the future? Where will our food come from if there are less animals or crops in the fields?

What will we be eating, what will happen to our rural communities and associated jobs; and what will be the future for our children's health as a consequence? I would assume that appropriate risk analyses have been undertaken before declaring a Climate and or Nature Emergency and before implementing any policies, and so I would appreciate a copy of these assessments.

Considering the significant risk that a declared climate and nature emergency poses to our food production, I ask that North Somerset Council immediately call a Food Security Emergency, to prioritise and protect our food production and our health at the highest level

I look forward to discussing this further with you in the near future.

Thank you "

(NSC Video at 13:55 mins at <https://www.youtube.com/live/IJAlqinS6Qg>)

NALC Decoding The Future Of Artificial Intelligence In Local Governance 24 July 2024

Attendees were informed that There are some associated risks in an AI approach that are not present in traditional software solutions. One presenter acknowledged concerns that councils should be cautious of an AI led solution at this early stage of its development, stating that councils should be clear what problem they are trying to solve before engaging a software provider, so that they don't get pressured into an AI solution as a first or only option. AI should be used in a safe and responsible way. AI can get things wrong so users need to crosscheck information/results with trusted and authoritative sources. Attendees were informed of AI hallucinations, "*a response generated by AI which contains false or misleading information presented as fact*"

Councils were also informed that they should be aware of data protection issues when using AI, as some AI software automatically uses the data submitted to it to learn from, which may breach confidentiality.

I also have concern that councillors and employees at all levels of government may rely to heavily on AI (Artificial Intelligence) executive summaries rather than gaining an understanding of the full information put to them. This may affect the ability to make fully informed decisions.

NALC PRESS RELEASE "The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) held an online event on artificial intelligence (AI) on 24 July 2024 that discussed the potential use of AI in local government and AI policy considerations.

The expert panel featured Jenny McEneaney, senior improvement policy advisor on cyber, digital and technology for the Local Government Association (LGA), and Steve Walker, head of local government at the Cloudy Group.

Jenny McEneaney delved into the LGA's survey on councils' current use of AI capabilities, their AI network, with over 400 councillors, and their groundbreaking AI report. The report is being used to develop a series of policy responses and a request for a local government centre for digital technology. Stressing the importance of local government being considered in AI policy, she stated, "Local government is a vital part of the broader public sector, innovation ecosystem, so local government needs must be factored in. There is a digital divide within the sector. Emerging technology can often perpetuate that digital divide, so resources must go where they are needed most, not just to councils that are more mature in the AI space. This is what we are calling for through the local government centre for digital technology."

Steve Walker discussed how AI can significantly aid local (parish and town) councils by streamlining various tasks. He highlighted AI's ability to retrieve and summarise information, draft meeting minutes, create surveys, and generate quick responses. AI excels in analysing large data sets, producing reports, and enhancing policy documents with current best practices. Walker emphasised AI's utility in meeting preparation, such as building presentations and analysing survey feedback. He noted that Cloudy Group is developing bots specifically for the sector to enhance efficiency further. He also highlighted the importance of councils getting their data in shape before using AI, commenting, "Councils are very data rich, but it is about ensuring the data is ready for when you want to use AI on data. If you have sensitive data, make sure it has been identified and kept away".

Transport, Climate and Communities Policy and Scrutiny 25th July 2024

I addressed the scrutiny panel asking for an update following my approach to the Chair in November last year, address to NSC Executive committee in December and subsequent meeting with Cllrs Mark Canniford and Annemieke Waite in January (where they proposed a Supplementary Planning Document to address the lack of food security measures within the Local Plan). The scrutiny Chair, Cllr Steve Bridger, said that he would follow this up with Cllrs Canniford and Waite and get back to me.

Address to panel – Some of you may recall that last November I came to discuss issues around food security, and in December I was given the opportunity to speak to the Executive. Subsequently I met with two members in January, who acknowledged that the Local Plan was lacking in protection with regards to food security along with the land required to produce that food.

Last week the council was asked to call a Food Security Emergency based on the fact that, if the council has called a climate and nature emergency, and food depends on both the climate and nature, then it follows that there will be a food security issue.

Before attending today I took another look at the council's [Climate Emergency Action Plan](#) and on page 49 it says that, "Enclosed farmland makes up 68% of all land in North Somerset."

However, it goes on to say that the council needs to "Identify more areas of council land for re-wilding/management for biodiversity and manage 30% land for biodiversity by 2030" in order to replenish its carbon stores, along with planting "50,000 trees and introduce tall grass manage to 40 hectares of open space". There is also a threat to the land from housing and renewable energy projects and the potential threat of war, which may reduce our food imports further.

The council has said that it will "engage and support the farming community to improve green infrastructure on farms, which will enable significant improvements to green infrastructure in North Somerset and will also reduce the carbon intensity of agriculture."

I would therefore appreciate an update on how food production has been protected over the last eight months since I last came in November, and what is the plan for the future to protect it.

Thank you”

North Somerset Council Health and Wellbeing Board – Monday, 29 July 2024, 2.00 pm

I was informed of this meeting by ALCA, copies of reports are contained in the [Agenda Reports Pack](#) on the NSC website. The meeting covered topics such as

- Better Care Fund 2024-25
- System-wide, population level approach to healthy weight and introduction of the ICS Healthy Weight Declaration
- Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025 – 2028
- Creative Health and Wellbeing
- Voluntary Action North Somerset - State of Ageing Report pre-publication update
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2028
- Community Strategy

There was an address to the board by a member of the public regarding dairy, farming and nutrition of alternative food (transcript obtained following the meeting)

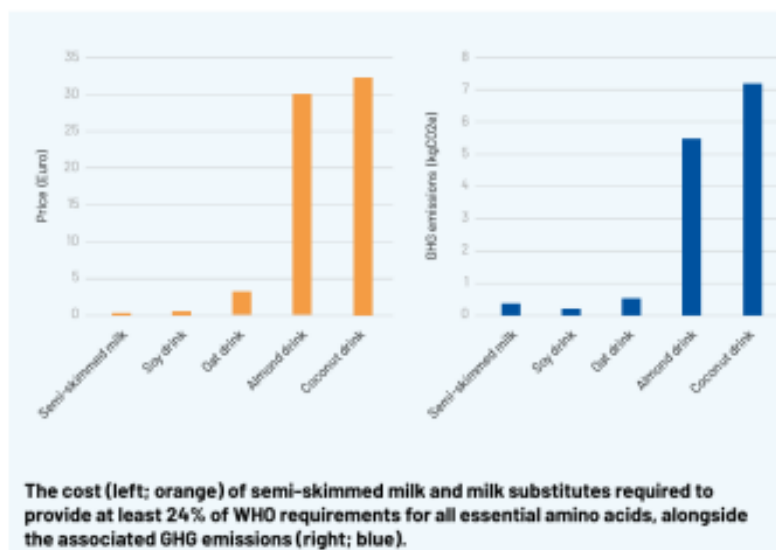
“Farming provides essential food for balanced nutrition especially for the vulnerable in our communities, for infants, growing children and the elderly. These include the production of milk, butter, cheese, yoghurt, eggs and meat. [Dairy UK](#) states that, “... dairy provides affordable, safe, value for money nutrition to the British public, via a range of tasty and diverse product options. It accounts for 9% of UK adult calorie intake and is a vital source of key nutrients for all age groups.

Protein quantity and quality are higher in milk than milk alternatives; one glass of semi-skimmed (not even full fat) milk provides at least 24% of the World Health Organisation requirements for all essential amino acids. By contrast, approximately 2 glasses of soy drink, 8 glasses of oat drink or a staggering 246 glasses of rice drink are required to provide the same level of protein nutrition.”

Please can the Board send me your information on the long term health effects of eating ‘alternative’ foods, with less dairy and meat.

The UK is particularly reliant on imports to meet domestic demand for cheese and yogurt that are natural probiotics. From 1996 to 2020 the total number of UK dairy cows had fallen 28% to 1.9 million. In December 2021 the UK was around 91% self-sufficient in dairy production, a year later it was only 85%.

Between 2000 and 2010 the number of registered dairy production holdings in England and Wales, halved to 11 thousand. By October last year, there were a total of 7,500 dairy farmers



remaining in England, Scotland and Wales, a decline of 4.5% compared to the previous year. This year the average Farm Business Income on dairy farms is forecast to be 78% lower.

Domestic production of all food available in the UK is maintained at around 60% of consumption. A survey last year showed that, almost half of British fruit and veg farmers fear they will go out of business within the next 12 months, due to supermarket buying behaviour. However, we currently only produce 55% of our vegetables and 17% fruit.

We can't live without our farmers. Due to these types of food security issues we support the request to North Somerset Council to declare a Food Security Emergency. This is particularly important as production is influenced by the related Climate and Nature emergency that has already been declared, and that food security is one of the central government's 13 key infrastructure sectors.

The UK is not food secure, and so cannot afford to lose access to local nutritious food, or the land it depends on. There are many external factors affecting our food production, so we ask that you

- work with councillors, farmers, schools and residents to return to a more natural balanced diet that includes dairy;
- help ensure access to affordable nutritious food for health, to avoid costly NHS pharmaceutical bills later in life, and to
- help to make our food production more resilient and less vulnerable to external influences, such as climate, supermarket dominance and price control, political and geopolitical uncertainties.

Finally, we would like the board to prioritise and protect farming, dairy production and related land, to deliver natural food as this is key to health and wellbeing, and to include this in all North Somerset Council policies, plans and activities.

Thank you for your support."

PRESS RELEASE North Somerset Council reviewing Local Plan 31 July 2024

It is interesting to note that Cllr Mark Canniford states that, "Around 85 per cent of our land is at risk from flooding", stating another risk to our local food production and security and lending support to the call for a Food Security Emergency as requested at the last NSC Executive meeting.

Press release - "Following the launch of consultation on the government's proposed planning reforms, North Somerset Council is reviewing its draft Local Plan.

The plan – which was first consulted on in 2020 and has been shaped by three more rounds of public consultation – was set to go out for a final round of consultation later this year, before being submitted for independent examination. This consultation will not now take place, pending consideration of the updated government guidance and any further work which may be required.

Councillor Mark Canniford, North Somerset Council's executive member who is responsible for spatial planning, placemaking and economy, said: "The government's planning reforms have major implications for our proposed Local Plan.

"The new standard method is 23,805 dwellings in North Somerset over the next 15 years – that's nearly 9,000 dwellings more than our current Local Plan target. This figure also doesn't take into account the needs of our neighbours, as the government has asked all councils to work together to jointly address unmet need.

"In light of this, we will not be proceeding with our planned final consultation on the Local Plan. We're working hard to review our draft plan in the light of the government's announcements, and hope to progress this as quickly as we can.

"As a council, we support the government's commitment to growth and meeting the housing need of our communities. All our communities will need to play a role in helping to meet this challenging housing requirement, and we'll work closely with them as we develop a revised plan.

"However, we want to create a Local Plan that also reflects the needs of our environment. Around 85 per cent of our land is at risk from flooding, part of the Mendip Hills landscape, high-quality Green Belt or protected in other ways for environmental or heritage reasons. This is a practical geographic constraint on the amount of development that's possible in North Somerset.

"New homes also need to be supported with the right infrastructure, so communities have access to the services they want and need. We want to make sure that infrastructure challenges are being met before we consider further development.

"We appreciate that this has been a long process. It's really important that we get our Local Plan right, as this will shape development in our area for the next 15 years. Thank you to our residents for your patience, and to our officers for their continued hard work."

Report to Bleadon Parish Council July 2024

Cllr Jo Gower-Crane

Over the last year, I've attended a number of local, regional and national events related to climate change and biodiversity net gain. And I have serious concerns about how initiatives are being promoted without proper democratic process. Nearly all of these indicate that they're supporting grass roots initiatives, but they are clearly supporting national goals, influenced by global and commercial input.

As some of you may be aware, the government has stated, with some exceptions, I quote

- *"every grant of planning permission is deemed to have been granted subject to the condition that the biodiversity gain objective is met. This objective is for development to deliver at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value [relative to the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat.] This increase can be achieved through onsite biodiversity gains, registered offsite biodiversity gains or statutory biodiversity credits."*

The events I have attended are online. As time is short, questions are taken via the text chat mechanism. Only the most popular questions are given to the presenters at the end of all the presentations.

- For example, in one event the overwhelming majority of these questions were related to trees, how to get hold of free trees, how to stop developers taking down trees, how make developers responsibly for keeping trees alive. These may be quick tick box climate change and biodiversity wins for councils, but where the land to plant these trees and nature reserves comes from has not yet been fully discussed or addressed.

I think national approaches such as these will negatively affect our residents and in particular farming communities. For example, at one of these 'grass roots' national events a local council representative stated, I quote,

- *"As a democratic councillor, should I be representing the views of the parishioners or should I be forcing and using behaviour control to uphold the climate emergency belief?"*

To achieve climate change or biodiversity net gain goals, a lot of farmland is being bought for investment, by both UK and foreign investors. It appears little to no conversation is being held at council attended events about food production and security. What will happen to tenant farmers and related jobs?

In some cases a pure vegan or vegetarian diet is being promoted, suggesting significant reduction or removal of meat and dairy products without any related health issues being discussed, especially for the young or elderly whose health depends on them.

Labour election changes to planning to fast track building may bring even more pressure on rural landscape especially for houses and solar farms.

Tomorrow I have a biodiversity net gain event and an ALCA meeting so, if you've any concerns you'd like me to raise at the local, regional or national level for our residents just let me know.

Financial/Staffing Matters
12th August 2024

1. Bills for Payment

- 1.1 Bills for payment for August 2024 are attached at Appendix 1. The bills for payment schedule is in a slightly different format as the information is now pulled direct from Scribe.
- 1.2 The provider of the toilet cleaning service is now required to register for VAT, which in part explains the increase from previous months (the remainder of the increase relating to the purchase of consumable items); the VAT will be recoverable. The invoice from J.A.R. in relation to the layby works includes £490 of costs relating to the provision of scalpings/stone. The contract for these works was on the basis that scalpings/stone would be supplied by the Council/other parties. An application will be made to the Mendip Hills AONB for a £2,000 contribution to the cost of these works (as previously agreed with the Mendip Hilla AONB).

Recommendations:

- i) That the bills for payment for August 2024 are approved.
- ii) That Councillors ID Clarke and Ann Davies be duly authorised to action the online payments.

2. Bank Balance and Bank Reconciliation

- 2.1 The Parish Council's end of July bank balances and bank reconciliation at the end of July are attached at Appendix 2.

Recommendation:

That the Parish Council's end of July bank balances and bank reconciliation and end of July net position are noted.

Bills for Payment – August Council Meeting

Cost Centre	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total	Minute
Utilities (Energy & Water)	Electricity Usage - Toilets	YU Energy	17.79	0.89	18.68	378.6
Public Toilets	Toilets - Cleaning. Also includes purchase of urinal blocks	Blue Spot Commercial Ltd	209.56	41.91	251.47	378.6
Grounds Maintenance Contract	Grounds Maintenance	We Dig It SW Ltd	312.78	62.56	375.34	378.6
Inspections	Playground Inspection (Annual)	GB Sport & Leisure	95.00	19.00	114.00	378.6
Room Hire	Room hire	Youth Centre Hall	52.00	0.00	52.00	378.6
Bank Charges	Bank Charges	Lloyds Credit Card	3.00	0.00	3.00	378.6
Church Clock Maintenance	Parish Council Clock Winding	Brian Robinson	25.00	0.00	25.00	378.6
Environmental Services Contract	Environmental Services	J.A.R.	640.00	0.00	640.00	378.6
Reguilding of Church Clock/Churcyard Maintenance	Minor Works	J.A.R.	154.00	0.00	154.00	378.6
Transport - Minor Schemes	Works to Layby	J.A.R.	2,130.00	0.00	2,130.00	378.6
Salary & NI	Salary	Craig Bolt	1,337.61	0.00	1,337.61	378.6
Salary & NI	Income Tax/NI	HMRC	151.08	0.00	151.08	378.6
Office Supplies/Printing	Reimbursement - equipment	Craig Bolt	8.32	1.67	9.99	D/A
IT & Mobile	Reimbursement - laptop stylus for Councillor	Craig Bolt	33.32	6.67	39.99	D/A
Office Supplies/Printing	Reimbursement - cabinet keys	Craig Bolt	3.10	0.00	3.10	D/A
Office Supplies/Printing	Reimbursement - photocopying	Craig Bolt	2.80	0.00	2.80	D/A
IT & Mobile	Reimbursement - mobile phone plan	Craig Bolt	0.49	0.00	0.49	378.6
General Maintenance	Reimbursement - chain (bench) and poles (churcyard notices)	Craig Bolt	25.20	5.04	30.24	379.8
Minor works	Reimbursement - parts for allotments watering system	Craig Bolt	6.67	1.33	8.00	377.12
Minor works	Reimbursement - parts for allotments watering system	Craig Bolt	5.82	1.16	6.98	377.12
Minor works	Reimbursement - hoses (allotments)	Craig Bolt	42.48	8.50	50.98	377.12
Reguilding of Church Clock	Reimbursement - purchase of access barriers	Craig Bolt	30.00	0.00	30.00	379.8
Reguilding of Church Clock	Reimbursement - mileage costs	Craig Bolt	15.30	0.00	15.30	379.8
Memorials - Safety and Appearance	Reimbursement - gabions	Craig Bolt	111.00	22.20	133.20	379.8
Memorials - Safety and Appearance	Reimbursement - resins	Craig Bolt	102.00	20.40	122.40	379.8
Memorials - Safety and Appearance	Reimbursement - stakes and notices	Craig Bolt	42.11	8.42	50.53	379.8
Totals			5,556.43	199.75	5,756.18	

Bleadon Parish Council

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/07/2024		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024		121,973.97
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2024 - 31/07/2024		45,748.87
			167,722.84
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2024 - 31/07/2024		26,264.14
A	Cash in Hand 31/07/2024 (per Cash Book)		141,458.70
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/07/2024	0.00	
	Bleadon Parish Council Current 31/07/2024	12,854.13	
	Bleadon Parish Council Deposit 31/07/2024	128,604.57	
			141,458.70
	Less unrepresented payments		
			141,458.70
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		141,458.70
	A = B Checks out OK		

Report of the Parish Clerk & RFO

12th August 2024

Decision Items

1. Parish Clock - Plaque

- 1.1 The clock dial was successfully removed on 24th July 2024 and was taken away for restoration works. There was some damage to the dial in the form of a large (hammer sized) dent to the raised rim of the dial. It was likely that this occurred when the dial was last installed. The masonry behind the dial appeared to be in good order and details have been shared with the OCC architect. Restoration works are expected to take between 8-10 weeks. On this basis – and assuming no works are required in relation to the masonry – the dial will potentially be re-installed before the end of October 2024.
- 1.2 The Council has previously indicated its wish to have a plaque to be produced recognising those who contributed to the fundraising for the restoration works. Any plaque within the church/churchyard would likely require a faculty permission. To obtain a faculty permission, the Council would need to be clear about location, size and materials to be used. The wording of the plaque would also need to be confirmed. Whilst specific advice has not been sought, in general terms, the naming of individuals/businesses may prove challenging in terms of obtaining a faculty permission. It may, therefore, be more appropriate to consider other locations for any plaque e.g. on the post outside of the entrance to the churchyard or on the information board on Pea Green.

Recommendation:

That Councillors discuss options for the siting of a plaque recognising contributors to the fund for re-gilding the Parish Clock.

2. Works to Wall Adjacent to the Toilet Block

- 2.1 At its July meeting, Councillors agreed to accept a quote from A Moffatt in relation to works adjacent to the wall at the toilet block. This quote (in the sum of £2,500) was based upon the use of reconstituted stone or bricks as quoins to 'square off' the end of the wall. The quote was also accepted subject to the agreement of the wall owner regarding the scheme of works.
- 2.2 Further work has taken place in relation to the type of materials which might be used and – in the opinion of the Clerk – the proposed materials would not be sufficiently in keeping with the rest of the wall and completing the project

entirely in natural stone would be preferable. Whilst samples were not shared with the wall owner, a similar view has been expressed by the wall owner.

- 2.3 'Squaring off' the end of the wall in natural stone is more labour intensive and requires stone with the right dimensions (the stone has to have a natural right angle). It may be that – in removing some of the wall – that there are sufficient stones of the right dimensions which can be used. However, the current curved end of the wall would suggest that sufficient quantities of stone of the correct dimensions was not available when the wall was constructed. As a consequence, the contractor has advised that they may need to source additional stone. For this reason, the contractor has provided an estimate of £400-800 (net of VAT) to complete the scheme of works entirely in natural stone.
- 2.4 The wall owners are supportive of the principle of the works subject to a number of entirely reasonable expectations. These can be summarised as follows:
- That there is no encroachment upon or loss of their land as a consequence of the works.
 - That, where practicable, the contractor works from the Parish Council side of the wall.
 - That the Council makes good any damage caused to their property – including any damage to plants during the scope of works.
- 2.5 If agreed, the changes would increase the scheme costs by up to £800. However, funding exists within the approved project budget for Phase 2 of the Coronation Hall environs to fund this increase. In reaching a decision, Councillors should be mindful that there are other proposed works within Phase 2 – most notably replacement of the parking barriers – which may not be able to be progressed without additional funding being provided.

Recommendation:

That the Clerk be authorised to issue a contract variation to enable the scheme of works (to the wall adjacent to the toilet block) to be completed entirely in natural stone, subject to the additional cost not exceeding £800.

3. Annual Play Area Inspection Report

- 3.1 The Annual Inspection of the play area was conducted on 22nd July 2024. The inspection is undertaken using a risk assessment methodology with a Red/Amber/Green rating – with Red and Amber being issues of significant/major concern. All areas subject to inspection (which includes seating and ancillary areas as well as play equipment) have achieved a Green rating. A summary of the inspection outcomes is attached at Appendix 1.

- 3.2 A 'Green' rating does not mean that individual items of equipment will not require some attention or consideration over the coming months. However, the issues which have been raised can reasonably be considered alongside current discussions regarding future investment in the play area.

Recommendation:

That the outcome of the annual play area inspection be noted and any recommendations be considered in the context of proposals to redevelop the play area.

4. Replacement Noticeboards

- 4.1 North Somerset Council has given formal consent to the replacement of noticeboards at Purn Way and Celtic Road, a new noticeboard at The Veale adjacent to the bench and a new noticeboard at Bleadon Mill adjacent to the planting area. The approval is conditional upon the Parish Council using an accredited Highways contractor.
- 4.2 The Council has relatively recently sought competitive quotes of accredited Highways contractors as part of the works to the front of the Coronation Hall. In this instance, PT Services was found to be the best value for money. Given this, PT Services have been asked to provide a quote for the installation of four noticeboards in the locations shown in the map at Appendix 2 (excluding the site of the noticeboard on the Coronation Halls which will remain unchanged). This quote is expected to be available for the Council meeting. Councillors are not bound to use PT Services and may wish to seek quotes from other potential (accredited) contractors.
- 4.3 The Council previously authorised further work with Acorn Workshops to produce a double bay design with scope for a central panel. A line diagram of the resultant design is attached at Appendix 3. The cost of producing four of these noticeboards finished in a clear wood oil to prevent the oak from 'greying' is £5,420 (exclusive of VAT). This includes delivery but excludes installation costs. The Council has previously authorised this acquisition on the condition that funds are available within the General Maintenance budget – such funds are available. The costs would not include the production of any form of central information panel. This is something the Council could source from Acorn Workshops or another provider once it is clearer upon the type of information panel it requires.

Recommendation:

- i) That the Council authorises the acquisition of four noticeboards from Acorn Workshops in the amount of £5,420.
- ii) That the Council considers any quotes received in relation to the installation of four noticeboards and instructs the Clerk accordingly.

Information Items/Correspondence Received


1. Changes to North Somerset Mobile Library service
2. Correspondence received from BDO (External Auditors) in respect of AGAR 2023/24
3. Fields in Trust Survey (Play Area) in relation to active travel and environmental initiatives
4. Mendip Hills events – Regenerative Farming Conference and Sculptural Installation

Ancillary Items Summary

Gate

Innate risk score:


 4

Description	Tasks	Risk score
Item has corrosion.	Treat and repair.	 5
Item is damaged.	Repair.	 5

Fencing - Mesh

Innate risk score:


 4

Description	Tasks	Risk score
Minor repairs are needed.	Repair.	 4

Seating - Mixed

Innate risk score:

 3

Description	Tasks	Risk score
Ground erosion present.	Consider adding grass matting to prevent wear.	 4

Litter Bin

Innate risk score:

 3

Description	Tasks	Risk score
No Findings		

Signage

Innate risk score:

 2


Description	Tasks	Risk score
No Findings		

Primary Items Summary

Climber

Innate risk score:



 6

Description	Tasks	Risk score
The supporting components should be dismantled and inspected according to the manufacturer's instructions. This will need doing on a regular basis, as defined by the manufacturer. This can lead to a high risk if no action is taken.	Dismantle and inspect according to manufacturer's instructions.	 6

Kick Panel

Innate risk score:






 6

Description	Tasks	Risk score
This equipment relies on one post for its stability. Special attention should be paid to maintenance (e.g. by monitoring degradation) and if necessary decommissioning the item before the end of its operating life.	Read the notes for further action.	 6
Surface is wearing.	Repair.	 4

Multiplay Unit

Innate risk score:




 6

Description	Tasks	Risk score
Item has corrosion.	Treat and repair.	 5
Timber is decayed.	Check on a routine basis.	 4
There is a toggle entrapment.	Read the notes for further action.	 3
Fixtures loose or missing.	Tighten.	 2
Cap missing.	Replace.	 2

Swing - Junior - 1 Bay 2 Seat

Innate risk score:

 5


Description	Tasks	Risk score
Surface is compacted or displaced.	Rake and fork over and top up as required to maintain minimum depth (usually 300 mm).	 6
The supporting components should be dismantled and inspected according to the manufacturer's instructions. This will need doing on a regular basis, as defined by the manufacturer. This can lead to a high risk if no action is taken.	Dismantle and inspect according to manufacturer's instructions.	 6
Fixtures loose or missing.	Tighten.	 6

Primary Items Summary

Swing - Toddler - 1 Bay 2 Seat

Innate risk score:



 4

Description	Tasks	Risk score
The supporting components should be dismantled and inspected according to the manufacturer's instructions. This will need doing on a regular basis, as defined by the manufacturer. This can lead to a high risk if no action is taken.	Dismantle and inspect according to manufacturer's instructions.	 6

Rocker - Chick

Innate risk score:

 4

Description	Tasks	Risk score
Item has corrosion.	Treat and repair.	 5
Protruding handles / foot rests.	The unit was installed prior to the publication of the current standards. There is no requirement to make retrospective changes.	 3

Rocker - 4 Seat

Innate risk score:

 4

Description	Tasks	Risk score
No Findings		

Sand Pit

Innate risk score:




 4

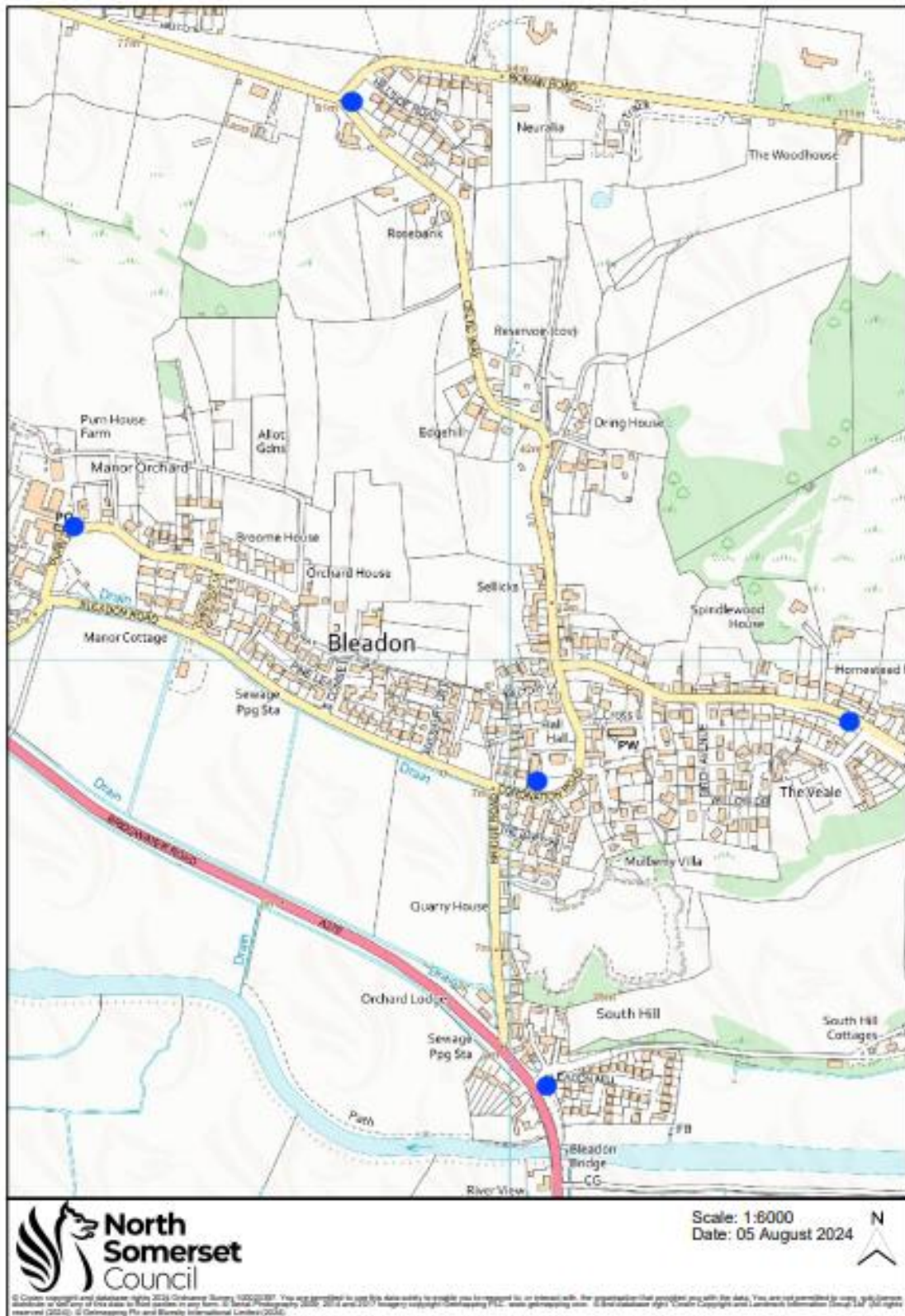
Description	Tasks	Risk score
No Findings		

Agility - Trim Trail

Innate risk score:

 4

Description	Tasks	Risk score
There are crushing points for the user between moving and / or stationary parts of the equipment during use.	Read the notes for further action.	 4
Fixtures loose or missing.	Tighten.	 3
The free space and / or falling space contains obstacles or equipment parts that are not permitted.	Refer to manufacturer for comment.	 3



Bleadon display panel
Scale 1:50

