

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BLAKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2023 AT 7.30PM AT VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr P.Simon (Chair), M. Gulliman, N. Burbidge, N. Berrill and Cllr Mrs J. Stewart

Also present Cllr Charles Manners, Unitary Member, Linda Paice, Parish Clerk and five members of the public.

1	23/51	Having been duly nominated it was RESOLVED that Cllr Peter Simon be appointed CHAIRMAN for the year						
2	23/52	Cllr Simon duly completed his DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE form.						
3	23/53	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS were read and noted.						
4	23/54	APOLOGIES for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Foster (no reason given) and Cllr Hopewell (family commitment)						
5	23/55	i) No DISPENSATION REQUESTS had been received. ii) DECLARATION OF INTEREST was made by Cllr Stewart as applicant on WNS/2023/5056/TCA iii) A reminder was given on the REQUIREMENT TO UPDATE REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS as and when necessary.						
6	23/56	It was noted that the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Council had been signed at the June 2022 meeting and it was RESOLVED that MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 th April 2023 having been previously circulated, be signed as a true record, in line with Standing Orders						
7	23/57	Having been duly nominated it was RESOLVED that Cllr Nick Burbidge be appointed VICE CHAIRMAN for the year						
8	23/58	ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES: a) Village Hall Trustees – It was RESOLVED that Cllr Burbidge be appointed to represent the Council on this body. The Chair of Trustees would be advised and a list of meeting dates requested.						
9	23/59	It was RESOLVED that the Clerk be appointed RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER of the Council						
10	23/60	It was RESOLVED that the Council continue to buy into the NCALC INTERNAL AUDITOR service.						
11	23/61	It was RESOLVED that Cllr Mrs Stewart be appointed as the Council's INTERNAL VERIFIER						
12	23/62	Having been previously advised, it was RESOLVED that the following POLICIES OF THE COUNCIL be re-adopted enbloc, further Policies to be adopted over the coming months: a) Standing Orders b) Financial Regulations c) Terms of Reference for internal audit d) Scope and nature of internal controls and internal audit						
13	23/63	It was RESOLVED that Cllr Simon be appointed as member with responsibility for overseeing the PLAY EQUIPMENT and carrying out weekly checks.						
14	23/64	Having been circulated and previously agreed, it was RESOLVED that the revised SPORTING BLAKESLEY AGREEMENT be duly signed by both parties.						
15	23/65	It was RESOLVED that DELEGATED POWERS be given to the Clerk to determine, in consultation with members, suitable open issues. Actions to be ratified at the next meeting of the Council						
16	23/66	It was RESOLVED that DATES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS for the coming year be the second Tuesday of each month, excepting August and December when there would be no meeting, or such other date as may be designated by the Clerk as necessary						
17	23/67	ISSUES MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHED TO RAISE – Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman, a rare experience for the Council. Two electors of the Parish formally raised concerns in relation to the 2023-24 Precept level. Their comments and suggestions for consideration going forward were noted. Clarifications were given by the Chairman and Cllr Burbidge. The Chairman further clarified that a proposal to form a Finance Working Group was being progressed. Cllr Charles Manners as the elected WEST NORTHANTS UNITARY MEMBER gave a brief update in advance of his report to the Annual Village Meeting which he was unable to attend. Issues ranged over the WNC budget issues, the Children's Trust, School transport consultation, the soon to be opened ex Co-Op site carparking facility which would initially be free of charge although this could not be assured once a new Council was in place in 2025. He was thanked for attending.						
18	23/68	PLANNING – 68.1 The following APPLICATIONS were considered and comments would be submitted accordingly – Cllr Stewart as applicant was invited to explain the following application for points of clarification: <table border="1" data-bbox="300 1973 1527 2096"> <thead> <tr> <th>Application No</th> <th>Details</th> <th>Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2023/5056/TCA</td> <td>T1 - Whisteria - Remove. T2 - Yew - Remove. T3 - Cornus spp - Fell to ground level and remove all</td> <td>No objections provided that WNC Arboricultural Officer were content with the</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Application No	Details	Comments	2023/5056/TCA	T1 - Whisteria - Remove. T2 - Yew - Remove. T3 - Cornus spp - Fell to ground level and remove all	No objections provided that WNC Arboricultural Officer were content with the
Application No	Details	Comments						
2023/5056/TCA	T1 - Whisteria - Remove. T2 - Yew - Remove. T3 - Cornus spp - Fell to ground level and remove all	No objections provided that WNC Arboricultural Officer were content with the						

			arisings. T4 - Mature Hazel Crown Lift at the Manor House, 1 High Street	application.			
		68.2 To note PERMISSIONS received - None					
		68.3 To note any REFUSALS received - None					
		68.4 ANY OTHER PLANNING MATTERS - Information from WNC on a single planning system and planning services updates had been circulated.					
19	23/69	FINANCE –69.1 It was noted that the following payments had been made since the last meeting:					
		Payment ref	Amount	Incl VAT of	Payee	Details	Power
		OL4/3	£151.24		AJGIBL	Mower insurance	Open Spaces Ac
		69.2 It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments – Cllrs Stewart and Gulliman to authorise on the Unity Bank Account;					
		Chq No	Amount	Incl VAT of	Payee	Details	Power
		OL5/1	£722.89		Linda Paice	Salary	LGA 1972 s 112
		OL5/2	£167.82		HMRC	Tax	LGA 1972 S112
		OL5/3	£690.88	60.80	NCALC	Membership and training fees	LGA 1972 s 143 LGA 1972 s111
		OL5/4	£42.00	7.00	Northants ACRE	Membership	LGA 1972 s143
		OL5/5	£25.00		SNAST	Subscription	LGA & Rating ac 1997 s31
		OL5/6	£72.00	12.00	DNH Contracts	Dog bin maintenance	Open Spaces Ac
		Ol5/7	£729.36	121.76	N J Blackwell	Mowing	Open Spaces Ac
		Direct debit	£3.00		Lloyds bank	Multipay card fee	Accs & Audit Re
		69.3. It was further RESOLVED that the following additional payments be made under Financial Regulation 6.5					
		Payment ref	Amount	Incl VAT of	Payee	Details	Power
		Direct Debit	£93.84	4.46	SSE	Electricity	Highways Act
		OL5/8	£192.00	32.00	Forde & McHugh	Light repair	Highways Act
		OL5/9	£31.00		Blakesley & Woodend Public Hall	Room Hire	LGA 1972 s111
		OL5/10	£216.00		Alexia Simon	Community Engagement	LGA 1972 s111
		69.4 RECEIPTS – WNC £31636.00 half precept.					
		69.5 The Council's bank balance at 30 th April was noted as £117681.50 including £38529 of earmarked funds.					
		69.6 The Report of the Internal Auditor for 2022-23 was noted raising no concerns.					
		69.7 Submission of the 2022-23 Audit return to PKF Littlejohn was noted.					
		69.8 The Clerk reported that the Unity trust Multipay Card was now received and operational.					
		69.9 Posting on the website of a brief summary of Council spending in 2022-23 was noted.					
		69.10 Following the Council's earlier decision to form a Finance Working Group it was RESOLVED that Cllrs Stewart and Burbidge become members along with the Chairman and Clerk. The Terms of Reference of the Group were agreed as largely working toward presentation of a Draft Budget to the Full Council to the October/November meeting each year or a soon as possible after that date and bringing to the attention of the Council any other necessary financial issues for determination. The Group would have no delegated powers only referral back to Full Council.					
		69.11 The Clerk reported that annual reports on spending of grants made by the Council to the Village Hall Trustees and the School Breakfast Club had been followed up and received.					
		69.12 A further letter from a resident in regard to the 2023-24 Precept had been raised and noted in Public Time.					
20	23/70	REPORTS - 70.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – The Chairman reported that there had been 627 engagements and opened posts on the newly set up PC Facebook page over the last two months.					

		<p>70.2 PLAYING FIELD - i) The STORAGE BUILDING was now largely completed and a decision remained open as to whether or not the floor should be concreted. Cllr Burbidge would get an updated quotation for this. There was discussion on the means of supplying power to control the door and it was RESOLVED that a formal quotation be sought by Cllr Gulliman for an off grid kit. The Clerk would speak to the Electrician to establish that he would be able to install this.</p> <p>ii) An alternative installation option for the SKATEBOARD RAMP had been put forward by the Contractor who would be asked for further information and pictures of the suggested equipment. It was clarified that the field was still not in a suitable condition to take heavy vehicles and this would be passed on to Cllr Foster in his absence from the meeting.</p> <p>iii) The new Contractor had started the maintenance of the play area and the Village Hall road mowing.</p> <p>70.3 HIGHWAYS – a) A deep pothole on Maidford Road had been reported. No further defect reports. b) Updates on previous reports on the erosion of the highways width on Church Street were noted</p> <p>70.4 RIGHTS OF WAY – Nettle overgrowth on RC1 from Old School Lane through to Quinbury End had been reported.</p> <p>70.5 LIGHTING – a) No faulty lights were reported.</p> <p>70.6 BURIAL GROUND - a) Nothing to report.</p> <p>70.7 ALLOTMENTS – All in order with nothing to report.</p> <p>70.8 VILLAGE HALL – a) Nothing directly to report. Re-examination of the files was in hand. b) Feedback on Podpoint rebates was now almost established and the Agreement had earlier been renewed for a further year, but views were expressed that the position should be reviewed next year in order for the Council to start to recoup some of the monies expended on original installation of the equipment.</p> <p>70.9 OTHER REPORTS – i) The Clerk updated members of the position with the damage to the Pocket Park/Closed Churchyard wall. Permission to carry out the necessary works was underway with the C of E Diocesan Office. ii) Appointment by WNC of Alan Burns as Parish Liaison Officer was noted. iii) In the absence of Cllr Hopewell as POLICE LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE there was no report.</p>
21	23/71	CORRESPONDENCE. –i) Tabled and general correspondence was noted.
22	23/72	CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS - Details had been circulated to members.
23	23/73	ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA – None requested
		<i>Pursuant to the public bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the sensitive nature of the matter next to be considered relating to the Clerk members of the public and press were asked to leave</i>
24	23/74	Consideration was given to the annual review of the Clerk’s salary and conditions and the Chairman would send formal advice accordingly.
25	23/75	To note the DATE OF NEXT MEETING -13 th June 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm

