

**BACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2024
IN BACKWELL PARISH HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr Sarah Ould (Chair)
Cllrs Karen Barclay, Barbara Harland, Marie Horton, Charles Hatcher,
David Lloyd, Robert Martin, Hilary Power and Bob Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor Bridget Petty
Locum Clerk Keith Donoghue
Four members of the public

1. Apologies

001 Councillors Mo Bowerman and Paul Ramos.

2. Co-option of new members onto Backwell Parish Council

002 There were no candidates.

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3. Declarations of Interest

003 No declarations were made.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

004 Subject to the word **donation** being changed to **grant** in minute **12** it was unanimously **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the full council held on 18th January 2024 be signed by the Chair as a true record.

5. Public participation

005 A member of the public sought the support of the council in a planning matter. His neighbour had built up to and over his boundary in contravention of planning consent given for works. He had raised this with North Somerset Council who would not take action as it was not considered a priority. There was general consensus that the precedent set was unacceptable to the council and it was agreed that Cllr Lloyd would write expressing this. The District Councillor also agreed to take the matter up.

A member of the public spoke on his behalf and a number of other residents asking the council to object to the planning application relating to 45 West Town Road. There was general agreement from the council with the point being made which would be formally supported in due course.

6. District Councillor Petty

006 Cllr Petty presented her report and emphasised the difficulties the District Council faced in setting a budget. She referred to Local Plan responses and to issues surrounding proposed development at Grove Farm.

Signed.....Chairman

7. Communications from the Chair

007 The Chair reported that repairs to the clock would be more complex and costly than anticipated and a decision would have to be made in due course about repair or replacement.

008 Brockley Church were seeking support for a grant application for temporary toilet facilities and a discussion arose as to the best source of funds for such a project.

8. Questions from Councillors

009 No questions were raised.

9. Planning Committee Minutes

010 There were no minutes to consider.

10. Clerk's Report

011 There was no report.

11. Planning Matters

012 Application number 24/P/0032/FUH 37 Farleigh Road

The application was in keeping with the neighbouring properties and the recommendation was for **approval**

013 Application number 24/P/0072/FUL 45 West Town Road

Members referred to the representations made by a member of the public at **005** and unanimously **resolved** as proposed by Cllr Barclay that the council object to the invalid application as the previous permission had been personal to Signet Signs and had expired in 2018 when that business had vacated the building. The council would respond appropriately to a further submission by the applicant detailing their intended use of the site.

It was observed that there was clearly no possibility of permission for parking on the playing fields as was suggested by the applicant.

014 Application number 23/P/2568/FUH 34 Oakleigh Close

This application was for a like for like replacement and the recommendation was for **approval**.

015 Update on Farleigh Fields

A meeting would be held with a small group of councillors and arranged before the next council meeting so that a report could be considered.

016 Update on Rodney Road

There was nothing to report.

017 Update on Gleeson proposals

There was nothing to report.

018 Report from Lucy White

The report from Lucy White was received and **noted**.

019 Update on Draft Local Plan and consultation fees

It was unanimously **resolved** that a further £5,000 be made available to enable professional advice to assist in the response to the Draft Local Plan.

020 Grove Farm Bus Service Improvement Plan

This was not on the agenda but a further report would be forthcoming.

Signed.....Chairman

021 Application number 23/P/2618/OU2 Grove Farm

Concern arose that the deadline for responses to this application expired on 15th February. The Locum Clerk advised that since the matter appeared in the minutes considered at item **004** above it could be discussed as a matter arising from those minutes. It was therefore **resolved** that the council would object to the planning application with a range of experts responding on matters such as transport, drainage and ecology.

12. Bristol Airport

022 Cllr Harland reported on a meeting that had taken place recently on the range of issues arising from development works and proposals as they affected the parish and she was thanked for both her report and her work in this respect.

13. Parish Council Working Groups

023 There had been no progress in this work.

14. Footpath Working Group

024 There was no report.

15. Enhancement Working Party

025 There was no report.

16. Review of Policies and Procedures Schedule

026 There was no report.

17. Pedestrian safety at Station Road/MeadowClose/The Crescent

027 The communication and photographs were noted and Cllr Barclay would progress this matter with the District Council.

18. Proposal for 40 mph speed limit on Backwell Bow and Backwell Common

028 It was generally considered that the limit should be lower but the formal response to the consultation would be to **object** and it was noted that the proposal was inconsistent with the Active Travel Network Action Plan and other policies of the District Council.

19. Parking on West Town Road

029 Cllr Power would report back to the next meeting after a forthcoming site visit.

20. Nailsea and District Community Transport Service Level Agreement

030 Cllr Power explained that as it was not possible to make a grant on a per capita basis as the CTS had suggested a Service Level Agreement had been prepared to enable the excellent service provided to continue and it was unanimously **resolved** that this be approved.

21. Office Working Party

Signed.....Chairman

031 There was no report.

22. Replacement of Dog Bins

032 It was agreed that this was desirable and full information and an appropriate quotation would be brought to the next meeting.

23. Dog Bin Emptying Contract

033 Members noted the proposal and unanimously **resolved** to enter into a contract with the current provider for a fixed period of two years at a cost of £5 per bin noting the excellent service that was received.

24. Biodiversity Duty

034 It was generally agreed that enquiring of neighbouring councils how they were meeting this obligation would be a constructive way to proceed.

25. Replacement Bearings on Carousel

035 There was no avoiding this obligation and it was unanimously **resolved** to accept the quotation of £723 plus VAT to replace the bearings on the carousel in the Moor Lane play area.

26. Approval of Stained Glass Window design

036 Members approved the design which it was **resolved** to accept with Cllr Power abstaining.

27. Approval of installation of Coronation Commemoration window

037 The Chair explained that the bulk of the cost would be met from existing available funds and it was **resolved** to proceed with Cllr Power abstaining.

28. Installation of an EV charge point

038 Members noted the report and proposal and a discussion arose as to likely locations. Backwell Motors, Alliance Homes garages and Backwell Lake were all suggested as possibilities.

29. Accounts

039 The report presented was duly considered and subject to one minor clarification it was **resolved** to authorise the expenditure.

30. Confidential Staff Matter

040 There being no press or public present members considered the confidential minute circulated and **resolved** to accept it as a true record.

There being no further business the Chair concluded the meeting at 2115.

Signed.....Chairman