



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CORONATION HALL AT 7.00pm ON MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2025.

PRESENT:	Councillors Andy Scarisbrick (Chairman), ID Clarke, Jo Gower-Crane, Lorraine Stanley and Steve Sugg.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk)
WARD COUNCILLORS:	Councillor Terry Porter
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:	Two

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

i) **Members of the public**

It was noted that the new bus service operating through the village centre operated on a cash only basis.

ii) **Beat Manager's Report**

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

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iii) **Ward Councillors' report**

Councillor Porter provided updates and responded to questions in relation to the following:

- Section 106 funding in relation to the quarry development, where it was noted that the required legal documentation had been drafted.
- The extension of the Glendale contract in relation to grounds maintenance and other functions as part of the arrangements to support Town Councils in taking responsibility for the future delivery of local services. It was noted that many Parish Councils – including Bleadon – already delivered a range of comparable services.
- Negotiations in relation to North Somerset Council's future role in the context of the West of England Combined Authority.
- Confirmation of £5.5m of funding to support the restoration of the old pier.
- Regulation 19 proposals and progress in relation to the production of a Local Plan.

The meeting was convened.

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Davies, Sheppard and Dr Wild.

393.2 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Scarisbrick and Clarke declared an interest in respect of agenda item 393.8.2

393.3 To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 8th September 2025.

Resolved: To approve the Parish Council minutes of 8th September 2025.
The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

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

393.4 Reports from Working Parties/Committees

None.

393.5 Reports from Outside Bodies/Conferences/Training

Councillor Gower-Crane provided details in respect of the following:

- Attendance at a recent CPRE event, where issues in relation to the development of Local Plans and concerns about Bio-diversity Net Gain were raised.
- The appointment to North Somerset Council's Health and Wellbeing Board as part of her ALCA role. It was noted that one of the areas of the work of the board would be the development of Neighbourhood Health Plans.

Councillor Scarisbrick provided feedback from the minutes of the last meeting of the Youth Club management committee (which he had not been able to attend personally) where some questions had been raised relating to the distribution of funds from local fundraising events. It was felt that there might be a lack of understanding regarding the proportion of young people from the local area attending the youth club. As a consequence, it was requested that the Chairman and the Clerk arrange to meet with relevant trustees to clarify the position.

393.6 Training and Events

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

393.7 Financial/Staffing Matters

i) To authorise bills for payment for October.

Resolved: To authorise the payments for October of £5,881.30.
The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

(Councillors Clarke, Davies and Scarisbrick were duly authorised to action the online payments)

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

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

iii) 2nd Quarter Monitoring Report.

Councillors noted that spend was in line with expectations and that there were no significant changes from the Quarter 1 position.

The Clerk advised that there was likely to be an underspend in relation to Grounds Maintenance as the hot weather had meant that the grass had not needed to be cut as frequently as originally anticipated. As a consequence, some additional works had been commissioned in line with contract provisions. These works included cutting away turf around the ash burial plots in the churchyard. The Clerk was also asked to explore the possibility of cutting vegetation along the section of footpath at Purn Way.

393.8 Report of the Parish Clerk

1. Play Area and Outdoor Exercise Equipment

Councillors were advised that whilst an amended S106 had been drafted, it was still the subject of consideration and had not yet been formally approved. As a consequence, the Clerk advised that the Council would be operating at risk in formally awarding the contract for works in advance of the receipt of funding from North Somerset Council. However, the delay provided an opportunity for further discussion regarding the placement of proposed items of equipment and progress made on these discussions with Caloo was shared with Councillors.

It was noted that it would be possible to install the taller climbing structure favoured by Councillors but that discussions had concluded that it would not be possible to retain the existing configuration of swings and install a new basket swing without ground works to extend the bark chip area and the provision of new swing frames. Relocation of the proposed roundabout was also discussed, so as to maximise the amount of free space within the play area. Councillors indicated that they were minded to consider these additional requirements and instructed the Clerk accordingly.

Resolved: That the Clerk be instructed to discuss the Council's requirements with Caloo.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

2. Proposals for Project Development Fund

Councillors noted that a request had been received from the Church of St Peter & St Paul in respect of the installation of blackout/acoustic blinds in the Church Rooms. The likely costs of the proposed scheme was circa £1,500. Councillors indicated that they were minded to support the request in line with its grants policy, which would require the submission of some further information from the applicant body.

The Clerk advised that, due to the nature of the funding request, the expenditure would be treated as 'Section 137' expenditure. There was an annual expenditure limit under Section 137 of approximately £10,000 per year. The Clerk advised that there were no other planned projects or works which might fall under Section 137, so approving the funding request would not compromise other activities.

Resolved:

- i) That the Council approves the proposals in relation to blackout/acoustic blinds at the Church Rooms up to a maximum value of £1,500, subject to confirmation by the Clerk that the proposal meets the Council's grant application requirements.

- ii) That, subject to i) above, the Clerk is authorised to work with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to develop a scheme which meets the PCC's objectives on the most advantageous terms to local taxpayers.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

3. North Somerset Council Consultation on Changes to Library Provision

Resolved: That Councillor Gower-Crane circulate further details to Councillors, with a view to a co-ordinated response being submitted by Noon on 24th October 2025.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

4. Minor Works

Councillors considered a scheme of proposed minor works together with potential budgetary implications. The proposed works related primarily to the installation of signage, works in respect of the clock room and some grounds maintenance works. The proposals were discussed and approved, with the exception of the provision of 'No Overnight Parking' signs at the laybys. Councillors noted that the Council did not possess the practical means to enforce restrictions on overnight parking and that responsible overnight parking potentially acted as a deterrent to those who might otherwise use the laybys for anti-social activities.

Resolved: That, with the exception in respect of signage at the laybys, the minor works schedule presented by the Clerk be approved and the budgetary implications (of up to £1,130) be noted.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

5. External Funding Applications

Councillors considered proposals for funding applications in respect of the churchyard and the allotments.

In respect of the churchyard, it was noted that a number of the proposals would require further discussion with the Parochial Church Council and some might also be the subject of formal applications for Faculty Permissions. Councillors were supportive of the core elements of the proposals but felt that further clarification was required regarding the future of the current wilding strip within the churchyard.

In respect of the allotments, the proposals centred upon providing plots which would be easier to use and more relevant to the ageing population of the Parish. As a consequence, it was noted that the Clerk proposed to hold back the re-letting of two plots to enable them to be considered for re-design. Councillors were supportive of the core elements of the proposal but raised some concerns at the proposal to introduce a loan scheme for mechanical equipment.

The Clerk advised that the Council had some limited funding available to support works but that this would be insufficient to meet the likely project costs. As a consequence, it was suggested that the Council notionally allocate some of the available funds as 'matched funding' to support external grant applications.

Resolved:

- i) That the Clerk be authorised to develop funding applications in relation to the allotments and the churchyard, having regard to comments/concerns raised by Councillors.
- ii) That £7,000 (£3,500 for each project) be notionally allocated from the Project Development Fund as the Council's contribution to works.
- iii) That proposals in relation to external funding applications be circulated to Councillors and relevant partners for consideration prior to submission.
- iv) That the Chairman be authorised to finalise the funding applications, having regard to any views expressed by Councillors and partner organisations.
- v) That the Clerk be authorised to purchase heavyweight tarpaulins to place on the retained plots to prevent weed growth, provided that the costs do not exceed £200.

The resolutions were correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

6. Action Taken Under Delegated Powers

Councillors noted that the Clerk had authorised further works to the West Wall of the churchyard, in recognition that a larger than anticipated section of the wall required re-building.

Resolved: That the actions of the Clerk be endorsed.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

(Standing Orders were suspended to enable the meeting to progress – the normal 2 hour limit for meetings having been reached.)

393.9 Update report in respect of previous planning applications.

Councillor Clarke provided an update report in respect of planning applications determined and awaiting determination by North Somerset Council. It was noted that a previously submitted application in respect of land at South Hill Farm had been withdrawn.

393.10 Planning Applications

None.

393.11 Refurbishment of the Toilet Block

On the advice of the Clerk, the Council resolved to exclude the press and public – by virtue of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 – for this item due to the fact that it would require consideration of financial and performance information of companies and individuals, which had been provided in commercial confidence.

Councillors received a confidential report following the recent tendering exercise and the outcomes of the previous discussions of the Council at its 8th September meeting.

Resolved: That Jones Building Group Ltd be appointed as the Council's preferred contractor and that an on-site meeting be arranged to finalise scheme requirements and costs.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

393.12 Date of the next meeting

Parish Council Meeting **Monday 10th November 2025, 7:00pm** (Coronation Hall, Bleadon)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.22pm

.....Chairman

.....Date