

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs V. Hartley, Clerk to the Council,
Beech House, 17 Dean's Row,
Gayton, Northampton NN7 3HA

tel[01604 858360] email:blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the Meeting 7th January 2013

Held in the upstairs room of Blisworth Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:	Cllr Mrs P Masterman	Chairman
	Cllr Mrs J Hawkins	
	Cllr Mrs M Field	
	Cllr Mr D Dalton	
	Cllr Mr S Billing	
	Cllr Mrs K Gray	
	Cllr C Gardner	
	Cllr M McKeown	
	Cllr Mr S Clarke	SNC Cllr

9 members of the public

132. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – THE FOLLOWING APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED AND APPROVED :

Cllr C Jefferies
Cllr D Burgoyne
Cllr Mr T Bartlett

133. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – members were asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have had in any items under consideration at this meeting. None declared.

134. RESOLUTION TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 3rd December 2012

- that the minutes were approved was proposed by Cllr Hawkins and seconded by Cllr McKeown.

135. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- i. Parking at Blisworth Arm – Mr Clarke had responded to the Clerk confirming his agreement to the proposals in accordance with NCC guide lines - that he will donate the planters, maintain and keep them supplied with plants and

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remove them if he moved. He will proceed in the spring. **Clerk** to write to confirm agreement.

- ii. Bollards at junction of Eastfield and Buttmead – possible application for licence for planting to screen bollards. This had been suggested by a resident in the village. The Council decided it was not appropriate that a licence would NOT be applied for.

136. MATTERS ARISING -

- I. Adoption of a Complaints Procedure – this previously circulated to councillors. It was agreed, adopted and signed by the Chairman. The document will be kept by the Chairman.

- II. Flooding of Towcester Road – Cllr Field reported that she had met with a representative from NCC and was confident that the problem will be solved. The pipework which had been blocked is now clear, 2 extra grates have been positioned to prevent blockage and the camber of the road will be levelled so that the water can get away. The NCC informed her that this work should be completed by the end of March.

137. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

Stephen Clarke reported that the Joint Core Strategy had been approved ready for submission at the end of last year. An enquiry will be scheduled and hopefully completed ready for adoption by this Autumn.

The mid-term assessment of the coalition government is published today.

There is no new information on the 'Sun Moon and Stars' planning issue.

138. PLANNING

Applications since previous meeting:

- a) **S/2012/1536/EXT – extension to time limit on S/2009/0961/OUT Residential development for 27 houses and estate Road and associated works (outline) , Location : Land at Chapel Lane Farm, Chapel Lane, Blisworth.**

The Clerk had obtained an extension to the time limit for comments to be made by the Parish Council from a colleague of Rebecca Smith the Planning Officer. The application was discussed by the Parish Council and the following comments were agreed, to be submitted by the **Clerk** after this meeting:

Reference should be made to the original 106 agreements:

- There must be a minimum of 40% affordable housing constructed
- More detail on the specifics of the housing is required
- Repairs are needed to the Station Road culvert, otherwise the properties would flood

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- A contribution from the developers towards either a Zebra crossing or patrol crossing for the school should be made.
- A footpath from Little Lane to the development should be constructed
- There should be an access road from the development to the Northampton Road during construction.

Other points mentioned were that there should be more street lighting in Chapel Lane around the entrance and the movement of the 30mph on the adjacent road way.

b) S/2012/1491/PE - Proposal to divert and rebuild the existing 33kv high voltage overhead line and a section of the underground line to include repositioning/removing some of the wooden poles on land south of Station Road, Blisworth

After discussion it was agreed the only comment to make is that the lines should go underground.

Awaiting Decision:

- a) S/2012/1239/FUL Grafton House Barns, Gayton Road, Blisworth – conversion of existing buildings and reconstruction of single storey sections to form 3 dwellings with garaging, erection of single garage with car parking. Removal of open barn to the north side of stone barns.
- b) S/2012/1187/LBD Grafton House Barns, Gayton Road, Blisworth – demolition of open sided building on north side of stone barns.
- c) S/2012/1150/FUL 75 Buttmead, Blisworth – front extension
- d) S/2012/1057/FUL – land adjacent to Willow House, Towcester Road, Blisworth – detached dwelling with single garage
- e) S/2012/1373/FUL - Single storey rear extension, 34 High Street, Blisworth
- f) S/2012/1290/FUL - Oakwood Farm, Blisworth - a retrospective application for two portacabins, One is used as a farm Office and the other as a secure animal feed store.

Notice of Appeal – Under Section 78 of Town and Country Planning Act 1990 –

Site Address:	Land adjacent Milton Industrial Estate, Gayton Road, Milton Malsor
Description:	Engineering works and landscaping
Application Reference:	A/2012/0573/MAF
Name:	Luff Development Ltd
Reference:	APP/Z2830/A12/2187326/NWF
Appeal Start Date	22.11.12

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139. LOCAL MATTERS

i) **Footpaths**

- The problem of horse riders using the jetty, not the correct bridleway track, on the route from the allotment bridleway was discussed. Cllr Grey advised discussion with Kate Lee, requesting that consideration be made by the riders.
- It was reported that the bridleway above the tunnel entrance is giving way due to the recent flooding and a cavern has developed. The area has been fenced off.

ii) **Lighting**

- The Clerk had received a complaint about the lack of action on the Buttmead/Stoke Road street light as it had been out of action since July. The fact that was in need of repair had been reported twice in December 2012. The Clerk had spoken to E-on and forwarded the complaint to them. E-on (unlike the Parish) were not aware that the light had been removed further to a lorry hitting it. Mr Moody from E-on had stated that he would look into the matter and try to resolve it as soon as possible. The engineer is actually off sick at present but he had assured the Clerk action should take place within weeks.
- PL 25, the junction of Courteenhall Road and Lady Field was reported as not working. **Clerk** to report.

iii) **Play Area**

Cllr Dalton reported that he had no response as yet from 'Awards For All' for the Grant application for the fencing.

Cllr Dalton had arranged a play area inspection (unattended by a councillor as cheaper) to be carried out in February by Wicksteed. He had also carried out a visual check of the equipment and surfacing and found no problems.

iv) **Traffic Issues**

- It was agreed that pedestrian safety could be enhanced by the wearing of high visibility clothing. Jane Percival will add this to her newspaper report.
- Speed Watch Campaign – the Chairman pointed out this now has to be paid for by the Parish Council. Approximately 8 residents of the village are trained in the use of the speed gun, and Graham Juffs is willing to help. 4 people are required per camera to operate an effective monitor. It was reported that the number of camera vans in the County has been reduced from 8 to 4 due to cut backs.
- It was reported that since the closure of Stoke Road before Christmas the speed and volume of traffic in Church Lane has increased. This must be monitored.
- **Cllr Field** agreed to see the residents of 25 High Street and ask them to trim their hedge back so that it does not overhang the pavement.

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- v) Parish Plan Progress
Beryl Andrews gave her report. (attached) :

Parish Plan Progress Team – report January 2013-01-08

Following our success in the Best Village competition, progress has been made towards the provision of “Village of the Year” signs to be fixed to the Blisworth signs at each entry point to the village. Plans are being discussed with the relevant people at SNC.

After such a successful year for so many village organisations a celebration will hopefully be held in conjunction with the Annual Parish Assembly in April. We have written to the Parish Council to suggest this.

Many of the trees awarded by the Wildlife Trust have been planted temporarily in land kindly offered by Colin Wakelin. A good response has been received from the Blisworth Gardening Group to help with planting them when their final destinations are decided during the next few weeks. Suggestions are still being requested for the position of the Jubilee Oak.

We hope there will be news of progress on the village sign in the near future.

A discussion ensued about whether to have the ‘Celebration Event’ for the Village of the Year, at the Annual Assembly or not.

The siting of a Jubilee Oak was discussed. It was agreed that the **Clerk** write to the Royal Oak to see if they would be prepared to have it on their land. It was felt the grass at the junction of Connegar Leys and Buttmead was not appropriate.

140. COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence out

- i. Request to cut back overhanging vegetation in High Street to request cutting back of overhanging vegetation – Cllr Field will speak to resident.
- ii. Request to cut back vegetation growing over road up to football fields
- iii. Reported street lamps

Correspondence in

- i. NCC – Highways – Parish Satisfaction questionnaire
- ii. CPRE newsletter – Cllr Hawkins retrieved this.
- iii. NCALC – Update

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Emails:

- i. Ann North –re village celebration – cancellation of event planned for 12.1.13
- ii. SNC Press Release – Unemployment in South Northants and information on Job Club Services – www.southnorthants.gov.uk/jobclub
- iii. NCC – Draft Revenue Budget 2013 – 14 and medium Term Financail Plan 2013 -14 to 2015 -16 – consultation until 21st Feb 2013.
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/budget13-14

Website – no issues to report

141. FINANCE

Payments – the following were proposed by Cllr McKeown and seconded by Cllr Hawkins.

Name	Details	Amount £	VAT	Total	Chq
Shire Lumsden	Printing				2110
E-on	Lighting Maintenance	187.27	37.45	224.72	2111
V Hartley	Salary for Dec	318.40	-	318.40	2112
HMRC	Tax for above	79.60	-	79.60	2113
AH Contracts	Empty dog bins	79.40	15.88	95.28	2114
A North	Round and About	70.00	-	70.00	2115
N and P	Grass	469.00	93.80	562.80	2116

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS - COURTEENHALL ALLOTMENTS – Report on collection of rents - £252 collected to date. The Clerk had received 3 more payments which she will hand to Cllr Jeffery on return.

Bank Balances

Current Account at 23.11.12 - £25651.55

Reserve Account at 23.11.12 - £5087.90

It was agreed that the Precept Request for 2013/14 further to finance meeting held on 1.11.12 would be £31,000. See attached budget.

142. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS

- **Village Sign** – Cllr McKeown and Cllr Billing had looked into the acquisition of a village sign. The Clerk had reported that Brafield's was costing in the region of £6000 and Gayton's had cost £2000 in 2000. Both Councillors felt it was a lot of money to spend which could possibly be better spent on another 'project' in the village such as the play area fencing. It was agreed that the issue should be put to the village in the Round and About and Cllr McKewon will do this.

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- **Seating** - The Chairman reported that Chapel had agreed to place a seat in front of the old grave yard.
- **Canals and Rivers Trust** - Blisworth had been congratulated on their efforts at encouraging volunteers in the village.

143. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT and FUTURE MEETINGS - next meeting 4th February. Cllr Hawkins will speak to Village Hall bookings Clerk to see if the hall can be obtained for longer for the Report and Exhibition at the Annual Assembly. The Parish Council meeting concluded at 9.25 pm.

Views from the residents:

Potholes are particularly bad in Stoke Road. Work is supposed to be carried out in this financial year. It was agreed that the **Clerk** arrange a 'walk about' with Helen Howard (NCC Highways) and councillors should be arranged in February so that problems can be pointed out with hopeful action ensuing.

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