



BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Email: blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the Meeting 4th MARCH 2019

Held in Blisworth Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Hawkins Chairman
Cllr Kennedy Vice Chair
Cllr Hillier
Cllr Gardner
Cllr Billing
Cllr Lee
Cllr Dalton
Cllr Bunker

Cllr Stephen Clarke, SNC

Clerk and 6 members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND REPRESENTATIONS:

In the last item on the agenda of the meeting residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes. Members of the public should address their representations through the Chairman of the meeting and may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – The following apologies were received: Cllrs Burgoyne, Field, and Cllr Davies, SNC
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** – members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any items under consideration at this meeting.
None was declared.
3. **RESOLUTION TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 11.2.19**

Signed-----

Date-----

The minutes were approved, proposed Cllr Billing, seconded Cllr Kennedy.

4. CLERK'S/CHAIRS

Clerk –

- Interest in Footpath Warden post, Clerk had responded with information
- Quote received from Aylesbury Mains for re-numbering - £633.40 ex VAT. Agreed not to accept.

Chair –

- Thank you to Ann North for help when the Clerk was off.
- Requested that the Council consider the position of Chairman when she resigns in May.
(The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the Council shall be the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (if there is one) of the Council. If no Chairman is elected the Council cannot function until one is elected).
- The Sun Moon and Stars is up for sale. Discussion followed as to whether the PC should write to SNC with its concerns about the continued demise of the building. **To go on next agenda**

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

Cllr Clarke gave his reported – appended.

6. **PARISH STREET LIGHTING CONFERENCE** - organised by NCALC on 4th March – Attended by Clerk and Cllr Gardner. It was a useful day and had included a technical lecture and some reports from 3 councils about how they had improved their systems.

ADULT OUTDOOREXERCISE EQUIPMENT - update Cllr Hillier reported that this had been discussed at PG and various pieces of equipment are being looked at.

7. **HR COMMITTEE** - Parish Council to consider establishing and implementing an "HR" committee as advised by NCALC.

Cllr Hillier suggested having a 'working group'. He will organise a meeting with Cllrs Billing, Lee and Clerk as a follow up to the Return to Work interview

8. RAIL FREIGHT TERMINALS' APPLICATIONS – Update

- PC response to Rail Central Dead line 5, 26.2.19, circulated and submitted by Mark Redding, considered an excellent response.

Signed-----

Date-----

Gateway Application:

12th March, 10 am at Hilton Hotel – Cumulative Impact of both Gateway and Rail Central report being brought to Inspector. Request to attend.

Must register by email if you wish to attend.

13th March, 2.30 – Compulsory Acquisition

14th March 6.30 – Open Floor meeting, open to all

Mark Redding

9. **CHAPEL LANE – update.** Cllr Bunker reported that the hedge has now been removed. The position over the lighting discussed. Clerk had requested clarification from Eastco homes as to what is proposed. **Clerk** to check the obligations of the PC for a new development.

10. **PLANNING** – See Planning Register below for details of applications

For Comments:

- i) Planning Application S/2019/0324, 34 Station Road Replacement of Sewage systems for 4 properties – No objections, **Clerk** to submit response.
- ii) Planning Application S/2019/0270/FUL, 38 Station Road, new sewage system plant (retrospective) – No objections, **Clerk** to submit response.
- iii) Planning Application S/2019/0354, (retrospective) 7 Courteenhall Road – canopy over front door – No objections, **Clerk** to submit response.
- iv) S/2019/0288/LBC and S/2019/0287/FUL – 1 Stoke Road, Crieff House – demolition of 2 storey bay window and replacement extension – no objections, **Clerk** to submit response.
- v) 34 Station Road, S/2019/0408 uo/Blisworth, new application today, **Clerk** to get extension

11. **DRAFT ORDER: EM/3634 - PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF HIGHWAY AT GRAFTON HOUSE, BEING GAYTON ROAD, BLISWORTH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NN7 3BN – PC considered response from DoT and SNC.**

Consultation closed 7th March 2019. Clerk had objected on grounds that footpath and turning space would be lost along with the parking provision for walkers to access the canal.

A response had been received:

the Secretary of State's role in this matter is limited to considering the impact that closing a highway would have on its users, and determining where the ultimate public interest may lie. As PC objection does not directly relate to the closure of the highway, which is the subject of this stopping up Order, the DoT cannot accept the letter as a valid objection.

It is considered that the issues the PC have raised relate directly to the planning permission and pertain predominantly to the impact of the development. This is a matter for South Northamptonshire Council and the advice is to raise these issues with them directly. The

Signed-----

Date-----

Secretary of State cannot interfere in any way with the planning permission decision that has been issued.

The local authority advised at the planning stage that this area is not a designated parking area and that the development would not cause harm through the loss of parking in the area.

Clerk had also written to Jim Newton at SNC with concern that SNC had approved the planning application before the consultation from Secretary of State had ended on 7.3.19 and had not fully considered the application.

Jim Newton response raised two points:

- i) *SNC made their planning decision before the Department for Transport made its decision.*

The short answer to this is that we had to. A stopping up Order is made in accordance with a planning permission. This means that if we had not made the planning decision, DfT would not have been able to make its decision concerning the Order. You were not to know that though (I had to ask my colleague who determined the planning application) not least because these types of application are relatively rare.

- ii) *PC objected and SNC did not fully consider comments*

We carefully consider comments that are made about planning applications before we decide whether to grant planning permission or not. We publish comments in full, on our web site, and we also publish an officer report which considers all of the relevant planning comments that have been received by us. I can confirm that your letter was received, and that I have read it. I can also confirm that I have read the detailed officer's report, and not least in the absence of an objection from the local highway authority, I agree that planning permission was correctly granted. I do understand your point of view, and I believe that the planning officer gave due consideration to that. Within the officer's report I noted discussion about the availability of alternative parking opportunities in the area, as well as consideration of the current status of the application site and its future availability in any event. I therefore conclude that the report references your objection, it considers the issues, and reaches a fair and reasoned conclusion.

I believe that, while we disagree with each other about the issue of parking in this particular case, that is not to say that we have dismissed your concerns out of hand.

These responses have been copied to a concerned resident.

The matter was then considered closed.

12. LOCAL MATTERS

I. Footpaths –

- Reports of any problems – none to report
- possible interest in post of Path Warden, Clerk had sent relevant information.

II. Lighting – Lights reported: PL40, Church Lane – Clerk has reported

III. Play Area – Reports of any issues

Clerk has requested Annual inspection by Wicksteed (10 week lag)

Signed-----

Date-----

Sarah Burns from SNC has written to say that £1000 still in the Parish fund. Question whether it could be transferred to Adult Equipment Fund. Clerk to send information to Ann North and Cllr Hillier.

IV. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

- NHW Co-ordinator sought

Highways –

- It was reported that some potholes have white lines round them. Request from PG group for PC to ask Helen Howard Highways to visit again to consider implementation of 20mph zones, dropped kerbs for mobility scooters and buggies, deterring of HGVs and traffic calming. **Clerk** to arrange.
- Courteenhall Road – **Clerk** to report pothole just outside 30mph zone.
- Request from PG group to move VAS device to Stoke Road. Cllr Dalton stated that a new licence would be required and a post to fit it. This was discussed.
- Stoke Road VAS machine not working, **Clerk** to report to Highways
- Cllr Hillier reported that a litter bin is to be placed in Tunnel carpark.

V. Allotments – Collection night 1st April

13. **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH 2019** – Update from Cllr Dalton training day arranged. Team formed. Dates and locations to be arranged.

14. **ROYAL OAK** – PC has written to Enterprise Inns with their concerns that the pub might close. Response received that they have no plans to dispose of it. Utilities have to be transferred to a new tenant. Hopeful that a new temporary tenant will be in soon.

15. COMMUNICATIONS (not mentioned elsewhere on the agenda)

- NCALC bookings for Street light workshop
- NCALC Mini Update
- NHS – Survey – Influence the way we engage (circulated)
Clerk had completed.

16. **PROGRESS GROUP REPORT** – appended to minutes.

17. FINANCE

Payments agreed:

Chq Payee	Detail	Net	Vat	Total
740 Allseasons	Grit bins	65.00	13.00	78.00
741 Aylesbury mains	Rprs, Church Lane & Courteenhall Rd	108.40	21.68	130.08
742 V Hartley	Sal- Feb			607.75
743 HMRC	Tax to 28.2.19			33.00
744 Shire Lumsden	R&A print			125.00
745 V Hartley	Stationery etc 2018			303.74

Signed-----

Date-----

746 Allseasons	Grass (and grit £89)	519.00	103.80	622.80
747 V Hartley	New printer 50% with Gayton&Brafield PCs			56.00
748 Pat Masterman	litter bins (PG)			581.39

- **Bank Balance at 24.1.19 - £34949.89, at 22.2.19 – 32817.01**

- **Direct Debit instructions set up for payment of:**

- o WAVE, £54.50 x 10 payments(Anglian Water)
- o ICO (Information commissioner) - £40 per annum less £5 for DD.

18. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COUNCILLORS COMMENTS

Cllr Gardner –

- o Light out in Courteenhall Road outside no 66, PL 81/41 is not working. Felt this should be a free repair as light fitting is in a bad way and should not have been repaired - **Clerk** to report.

Cllr Billing –

- o Road Closure for Canal Festival will cut off Pond Bank. Concern that emergency vehicles will not be able to access.
- o Exposure of rubbish on Chapel Lane due to removal of hedge. Clerk to request it is moved to prevent encouragement of fly tipping.

Cllr Kennedy –

- o requesting further funding of Crossing Lady – proposal to increase to go on **next agenda**. Clerk to check on how the funds are raised.

19. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS – 1st April, AGM - 7th May meeting date

Annual Parish Meeting date to be on next agenda

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm

20. **PUBLIC SESSION** – no significant issues were raised.

Signed Date

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS GROUP REPORT

Community Resilience and Response Plan

The production of the Emergency Procedures for the village is still at the fact finding stage. Looking at what equipment is available and provision of rescue centres should they be needed. It is time consuming work but necessary. Ian has set up an email address, info@blisworthcrrg.co.uk, Facebook page Blisworth CRRG and website <https://www.blisworthcrrg.co.uk/>. He already has some volunteers!

100th anniversary of the end of WW1 book

Copies of the book will be on sale at the various future events in the village and it has been publicised in Round and About and on Facebook.

Litter Campaign

- The Campaign Group meets regularly every month and the last meeting was held on 15th January 2019.
- The Group are moving ahead to purchase 3 – 4 litter bins hopefully by 8th March. The Art Group will be approached with a view to decorating them.
- The idea of positioning some of the new litter bins next to selected grit bins is being explored. This might prevent the grit bins being used for litter.
- Sue and Tony met with Jo Reed, head of the Primary School on 1st February and the following actions were agreed.
 1. A special school assembly will take place on Monday 29th April to promote litter campaign awareness.
 2. The Litter Campaign Day will be on 23rd May 2019.
 3. Jo is planning some initiatives in the school between May and July.
- The Group plan to enter this year's CPRE Litter Heroes competition.
- If the new bins are on an existing route it is hoped they will be emptied by the Council otherwise the Group have volunteers willing to do the work.

Outdoor exercise equipment

Tony and Estelle are looking at costings for the equipment and with a view to an early grant application to the New Homes Bonus.

4. Finance

Balance	£1,588.11
Litter Group	£1,300.00

Signed-----

Date-----

WWI booklets sold

following second print run £ 74.00

PPG funds £ 288.11

Survey weekend suggestions - Would like PC to ask Highways to visit again to consider implementation of 20mph zones, dropped kerbs for mobility scooters and buggies, deterring of HGVs and traffic calming.

Also ask that VAS device is moved to Stoke Road. Cllr Dalton stated that a new licence would be required and a post to fit it.

Ann North

Secretary

Progress Group

APPENDIX 2 – PLANNING REGISTER AT 4.3.19

<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Received</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Status</u>
<u>S/2019/0408/OUT</u>	Land to the rear of 34 Station Road Blisworth NN7 3DT	Proposed 3 bedroom bungalow (outline)	26/02/2019	4 - Consults Despatched
<u>S/2019/0354/FUL</u>	7 Courteenhall Road Blisworth NN7 3DD	Canopy over front door (Retrospective)	21/02/2019	4 - Consults Despatched
<u>S/2019/0324/FUL</u>	34 Station Road Blisworth NN7 3DT	Replace sewage system serving four properties to individual sewage system. New sewage treatment plant and soakaway installation.	18/02/2019	5 - Site Visit Complete by case officer

Signed-----

Date-----

APPENDIX 3 - District Councillor Stephen Clarke, Ward Member for Blisworth and Roade

REPORT 28.2.19

Dear resident,

If you have any comments or questions on the content of this report, please do not hesitate to get in touch and, of course, on any matter relating to South Northamptonshire Council's responsibilities where I can help now or in the future.

Best wishes, Steve

District Councillor Stephen Clarke, Ward Member for Blisworth and Roade

Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration

South Northamptonshire Council

Email: stephen.clarke@southnorthants.gov.uk

SNC Budget and Council Tax

As those of you who were at the Full Council meeting last week will know, we passed the Budget and set the Council Tax on Wednesday 27 February 2019. There were no amendments to the published papers. We now have in place the budget that will enable us to:

- Continue to deliver our excellent services to our residents
- Complete the separation from Cherwell
- Participate fully in the creation of the two new Unitary Councils
Unitary Authorities

We are challenging the increase in cost estimates:

- The programme management figure is very high. £3.7m for project management (10% programme cost) and £2.9m for programme management.
- The other major increase in cost is redundancy.
- It would seem sensible that we now have budget for technical specialists and backfill, which were not in the original costs.

When we started, the assumption was that all the Councils would share the total cost of the programme £30m in 2019/20. At that stage we did not include the 75% business rates retention and therefore we did not include it in our budget and neither has the County. This would have meant that the total cost per Council would be £3.8m. We have allocated budget of £3m+ from reserves plus the £500k we have already approved, which means we can cover our share on the old prices. The County should have included a similar amount in their budget, as they knew this work was coming up.

The remainder of the cost – the transformation bit comes in 2020 and this will cost an extra £14.6m.

However, I think that when Councils have been given a business rate pilot they do it on the basis of one year only but the Government seems to roll it over into following years. If we are to get the same in 2020/21 - £17m, we could actually easily cover the £14.6m cost.

Signed-----

Date-----

We now understand that 118 children in residential care cost £21m that's an average of £177k per child per year or almost £500 a day.

There seems to be some improvement going on with interventions in the recent months both by the new NCC Chief Exec and by the Commissioner. There is also a plan in place to try to recruit more social workers, improve the offer made to them and stabilise the service. It was a poor service because of historic poor leadership and management.

Brexit

We've established an informal cross-party member group to consider Brexit. It will cover any impact on us as an authority and the services we provide, and also on the wider area.

We already have a robust 'business continuity' approach in place for the council, which aims to look ahead to things that might disrupt our service provision, whether from acts of nature (snow, flood etc.), from technical failure (e.g. power cuts, IT server crash), or whatever. We're extending that work to include Brexit. The three most common characteristics of risk to our range of services are:

- Loss of building
- Loss of staff
- Loss of IT

And officers have added two Brexit-specific risks to this list, including:

- Loss of vehicle fuel supply
- Loss of supply chain (i.e. any equipment or consumables we need)

The likelihood of losing vehicle fuel or important supplies is assessed as low. But as the impact of these risks if they were to happen is potentially high, officers have identified mitigating actions proportionate to the scale of the risk.

Oxford-MK-Cambridge Arc

This continues to get a lot of attention from government, and we are expecting an announcement in the Spring Statement on progress. There is a dedicated team in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHCLG) working on this project and pulling in other departments.

There are calls to fix the route of the expressway as this will impact on local plans as there is a fear an inspector could say housing and infrastructure are not aligned until the route is fixed.

Local Area Receives International Exposure

On Thursday 21 February 2019, SNC was invited to join eleven Department for International Trade (DIT) advisers from international consultancies/embassies at Silverstone Innovation Centre.

MEPC Ltd aims to create a global destination for engineering, innovation and business development at Silverstone.

Signed-----

Date-----

The event offered those considering relocating to Silverstone an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the capabilities of South Northamptonshire.

The DIT advisers focussed on the Automotive sector, and Roz Bird, Commercial Director of MEPC Ltd, explained that Silverstone Park and the Silverstone Technology Cluster (STC) is home to businesses that focus on innovation and R&D, meaning they can benefit and enhance all industries including automotive, as well as medical and aerospace.

Pim Van Baarsen, Chief Executive of the STC, said "The Silverstone Technology Cluster has already attracted interest from China, Malaysia, France and Russia".

SNC aims to nurture and develop relationships with existing businesses and stakeholders, as well as attracting investment and new businesses into the District. For more information on how the SNC team promotes the District, please see www.investinsouthnorthants.com.

Campion School's Next Steps careers event

SNC attended the Campion School 'Next Steps' careers event for over 200 Year 10 students on Thursday 28 February 2019.

During the event, SNC gave a presentation on the range of employment and career opportunities available at the Council, talking to students about opportunities available in Environmental Health, Planning, Legal, Economic Growth and Graphic Design.

During the presentation, SNC covered the workplace skills needed and explored opportunities for apprenticeships and in house training, showing the wide variety of roles available at a local council and career opportunities in the public sector.

There was also the opportunity to promote the fantastic businesses based in the District and the wide range of jobs that are available, as well as employment opportunities at Junction 16 of the M1 and the Oxford-MK-Cambridge Arc.

Other organisations attended the event included Northampton College, University of Northampton, RAF Careers and Balfour Beatty.

Local Plan Part 2

Our plan has been acknowledged and we have an appointed Inspector with 'hearings' designated for June 2019. Should the Inspector be inclined to raise any issues this will be done through an Intermediary, who has also been appointed. Similarly SNC's responses will be directed through the Intermediary.

Richmond Road Car Park

This car park in Towcester belongs to SNC and was subject to vandalism this month when a number of wing mirrors were broken off numerous parked cars. This is by way of a warning if you use the Car Park.

Signed-----

Date-----

Draft Housing Strategy 2019 – 2022

Hot off the press is our new housing strategy. Thanks to Officers for their hard work, and to all the Members who attended the briefing sessions from the team, when Members were able to give their input to shape our new strategy. The report will go to Cabinet in April.

New Bulky Waste online booking system

This is working well following the launch in November across CDC and SNC. There is a charge of £34 for up to six items of old furniture and appliances. So far, we have received 376 responses with high levels of satisfaction:

95% satisfaction with booking

97% satisfaction with collection of items

Watermeadows

Progress with this wonderful community facility continues. We have an opportunity to apply for a National Lottery Grant this year.

In the meantime, other work has been carried out including the following:

- Community engagement - Working with many groups to engage in a range of activities on the Watermeadows (Towcester Wild Day, Towcester Community Fun Day, Towcester Wildlife Trust Group, Towcester Midsummer Music Fireworks, Park Run, Towcester Memory Walk, Chairman's Charity Fun Run, Towcester Monday Runners, Towcester WI).
- National Lottery Grants for Heritage - new criteria received, bid being worked up for submission in June.
- Water Environment Grant - Still waiting for outcome of our bid application.
- Rural Development Fund for England - Application due to be submitted by 1st March 2019.
- Diffuse Pollution Fund - Successful Bid £10K awarded.
- River Warden Scheme up and running, volunteers trained and started monitoring.
- Park Run - Started.
- Ecological & Bat Survey-Completed.
- Archaeology Report - Underway.

We plan to have the official opening by the chairman of South Northants Council on Tuesday 16th April 2019, 11.00am to 3.00pm.

Leisure Services

We have committed just over £1million towards making long overdue improvements to Towcester Centre for Leisure. Just weeks after the official opening of the new Brackley Pool and renovated leisure facilities we are able to bring this news to the users of Towcester Centre for Leisure. More and more people are using our leisure centres, and I know that people who come from the town and the surrounding areas to Towcester will all really welcome this investment. There is highlighted much needed work on the pools and wet side changing facilities along with a lack of wet side showers, relocation of the steam & sauna facilities and more.

Signed-----

Date-----

Last week, Towcester Centre for Leisure carried out refurbishment of the sports hall floor. It has been sanded and re-sealed.

Changing Minds Mental Health therapy and clinics are now based at Towcester Centre for Leisure every Friday through to July. The sessions provide physical activity sessions and programmes. In the first 2 weeks, 21 patients attended.

Further to our funding of the ForestSchool sessions at Sponne School in 2017/18, we will be supporting Muddy Feet Training to deliver outdoor learning sessions and some inset day training for all staff at Waynfilet Infants School in Brackley and a number of teachers from partner schools locally.

The usage figures for Brackley Leisure Centre continue to rise compared to the combined numbers for the old Brackley pool and the leisure centre before its new swimming pool was built.

Other Leisure activity - an update of our team's work in Kings Sutton and Blisworth follows:

- Intergenerational health walks with Kings Sutton school on 8 and 15 Feb saw 54 people attending walks, a mixture of walkers, 12 children and teachers, including the head teacher. The school is now going to make this a monthly walk.
- We are now running Otago falls prevention at Brackley and Towcester leisure centres, and at Kings Sutton and Blisworth. The Otago Exercise Program is a series of 17 strength and balance exercises delivered by a Physical Therapist. They reduce falls between 35 and 40% for frail older adults.
- Our 'lets get moving' seated sessions at Kings Sutton and Blisworth are a success. We now have 14 people attending at Blisworth and 16 at Kings Sutton.
- We are holding Dementia friendly training for organisations in Kings Sutton and Blisworth on 7 March.
- Blisworth residents asked for Walking Football and this has been organised and starts on 6 March.

We are providing funding for the Towcester River Wardens Scheme to enable local people to help look after the River Tove and its tributaries around the town.

Planning has started for the Brackley Play Day on the 10 April.

Rural Crime Barn Event

Analysis of the feedback we received from the farmers and landowners who attended our Rural Crime Barn Event held in Horton last month shows 98% rated the event as excellent or good. We had presentations and exhibitors covering a wide range of support and services enabling farmers and landowners to fully understand how best to prevent rural crime.

We now plan to hold two further events, one again in each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) area. It will be in Daventry this time and we are currently looking at venues, possibly at Moulton College. Our reason for moving away from a farmer's barn is purely for logistics, heat, light, power etc. The most time consuming and difficult part of the events already held were setting up the event in a barn.

Signed-----

Date-----

The next event will take place in April. This event will include Firearms licensing, a team from the Police will give gun safety advice to try and reduce the amount of guns being stolen in burglaries from licensed holders. Combating rural crime is one of our priorities and it forms an important part of our Community Safety Partnership Action Plan, which we have developed alongside the new County Strategy.

Mobile CCTV cameras

We have bought 6 mobile CCTV cameras which will be used to target crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety across the District. We are also looking at partnership working with the town and parish councils.

Community Safety fun day planned for 23 June

We have a Community Safety fun day planned for 23 June at Islington Road Recreation Ground in Towcester. The Police, Fire Services, external partners and sports providers are all engaged and set to attend.

DRAFT

Signed-----

Date-----