

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting 1st October 2018

Held in the Blisworth Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Hawkins Chairman
Cllr Field
Cllr Bunker
Cllr Hillier
Cllr Gardner
Cllr Burgoyne
Cllr Billing

Cllr S Clarke, SNC
9 members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND REPRESENTATIONS:

In the last item on the agenda of 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.

The first half hour of the meeting starting at 7.30 pm was for Paul Scotney and his colleague Chris Hall (Eastco Homes Project Manager the new owners of the land) who were be in attendance for questions through the Chair about the Chapel Lane Building Proposals.

See appendix for question put to them and answers.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – The following apologies were received:
Cllr Kennedy, Dalton, Lee Cllr Davies SNC, Cllr Brown, NCC,
Cllr S Clarke, SNC
2. **CO-OPTION OF ANDREW VINCENT TO PARISH COUNCIL AND HIS SIGNING OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**
- **Not present – defer until next meeting**
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** – members were asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any items

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Date-----

under consideration at this meeting – The Chairman declared an interest in Planning Item S/2018/2192/TCA as the tree is on her property.

4. **RESOLUTION TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 5th SEPTEMBER 2018** – the minutes were corrected. **A RESOLUTION TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING** was passed – Proposed by Cllr Hiilier and seconded by Cllr Billing. .
5. **CLERK'S / CHAIR'S REPORT**
 Actions carried out as per last meeting.
 Other matters too late for agenda
 Rail Central Update - application submitted application gone in to Planning Inspectorate + Denis Winterbottom
 - a) Clerk had attended meeting at Moulton community Centre, run by NCALC on GDPR, FOI and vexatious requests.
 - b) Sewer Gas Issue – Email from Mr Moseley re valves
 - c) **South Northamptonshire Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2) Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19). SNC** contacting you to make you aware that South Northamptonshire Council will be publishing the Proposed Submission Local Plan for comment. The formal representation period will run from **Thursday 4 October until noon Friday 16 November 2018.**
 - Thursday 11th October 2018 14:00 – 16:00 in the second floor Council Chamber at The Forum, Towcester; and
 - Tuesday 16th October 2018 17:00 – 19:00 in the second floor Council Chamber at The Forum, Towcester
6. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS**
 See appendix for Cllr Brown NCC – report on Unitary Councils
7. **RAILFREIGHT TERMINAL – UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON THE CURRENT STATUS IN PARTICULAR :**
Rail Central – The application was formally submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) on Friday 21 September. PINs has confirmed it has been received.

More information is, as always, available on the PINs website:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/rail-central-strategic-rail-freight-interchange/>
 Residents need to register their objections. Leaflets need to be delivered. Hoping to have a week end in village hall for people to come and register
8. **CHAPEL LANE – Parking restrictions during building** – Emailed correspondence had taken place between SNC – Wayne Campbell, the

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Planning Inspectorate, the Parish Council, SNC councillors and Andrea Leadsom MP . See letter in appendix below summarising the final correspondence from Jim Newton, Assistant Director for Planning Policy and Development, Cherwell District Council & South Northamptonshire Council.
See appendix on questions to developers.

9. PLANNING - See Planning Register below for details of other applications

For circulation:

- S/2018/2136/FUL at Land to the side of 11 Greenside Blisworth NN7 3BY Demolition of existing garage and construction of new dwelling with associated car parking and car parking to no 11 Greenside No objections from PC. **Clerk** to submit to SNC.
 - S/2018/2192/TCA Proposal Works to various trees within a conservation area as per specification set out at point 5 in the application. Location Old Rectory 35 High Street Blisworth NN7 3BJ No Objections from PC. **Clerk** to submit to SNC.
 - S/2018/2017/TPO Proposal T1 Horse Chestnut - Remove to ground level, T2 Horse Chestnut - Reduction of main branches and laterals by 5 metres. T3 Sycamore - Overall reduction of leaf volume by 20 % including raising the crown, T4 Sycamore - Overall reduction of leaf volume by 20 %, including raising the crown. T5 Horse chestnut Overall reduction of leaf volume by 20 % including raising the crown by 5 metres. T6 Sycamore - Overall reduction of leaf volume by 20 % including raising the crown by 5 metres Location Heligan House Towcester Road Blisworth NN7 3BL **PC objects to T1 – removal of the whole tree. Crownlift/reduction would be OK. Clerk** to submit to SNC.
- S/2018/2026/FUL - Elm Tree House, Courteenhall Road- the application is being looked at by SNC as it has gone to appeal. No comment at present from PC.

See Planning Register below for details of other applications

10. TO AGREE REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATH – PURCHASE BY PC (Section 137) – cost of wreath is £35, to be laid by the Chairman. This will be a Section 137 expenditure and was approved by the Council.
11. STATE OF VILLAGE PAVEMENTS – ACTION?
 The latest Allseasons bill includes spraying of Stoke Road. No further action pursued at this time.

12. LOCAL MATTERS

- i. **Footpaths** –
- Reports of any problems

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Clerk reported that Wakelins have put a drain in the boggy area of the field footpath adjacent to the canal going towards the tunnel. .

Volunteer needed for a new Footpath Warden due to resignation of Tim Noble – suggested advert should go on Facebook - **Cllr Kennedy** could possibly action.

ii) Lighting – Lights reported by Clerk to Aylebury Mains:

49 Connegar Leys,
37 Greenaway Close

12 Connegar Leys

PL 35 in Buttmead

PL 59 in Stoke Road

Canal House, The Arm

Check Wellspring replacement light – **Clerk** to find out what was done

iii) Play Area – Reports of any issues

iv) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – reports circulated, add to noticeboard

v) Highways –

- Street Dr ref 953947- LEFT HAND TURN SIGN FOR STATION ROAD GOING TOWARDS MILTON MALSOR ON NORTHAMPTON ROAD,BLISWORTH (will take up to 6mths)
- **Request for planter in Courteenhall Road by Ann Goss, resident present at this meeting. She circulated photographs of the verge where the planter could be placed and will get costs and photos of the planter. Clerk to arrange license.**
- **Clerk to report to SNC the ‘Connegar Leys’ sign near Courteenhall Road end is in need of painting.**

• **NCC Highways - Countywide review of Grit bins**

Proposal to remove the following bins:

Buttmead Road bottom end (o/s no 8),
Windmill Avenue j/w Buttmead Road
Connegars Leys o/s 43
Courteenhall Road opp Greenway Close
Greenway Close
Windmill Avenue / Courteenhall Road Jct
Chapel Lane by Canal Bridge
Blisworth Arm centre, side of Arm Farm

Further information about the ownership of bins had been submitted to Council by NCALC which had been circulated. Parish Council to make a decision as to whether it wants to retain these bins asap. (should have made contact before the 15th September 2018 now extended to 30th September to avoid the bins being removed.)

Cllr Kennedy has done a report on the bins and the response to this from the other councillors was used to submit response to NCC.

Cllr Kennedy has written to NCC.

vi) **Allotments** – placing of top soil on allotment – Cllr Billing reported that this is being moved, no action required.

Signed-----

Date-----

13. COMMUNICATIONS (not mentioned elsewhere on agenda)

Out

In and circulated to PC:

Correspondence concerning the Chapel Lane Development issue
NCALC – Updates**14. FINANCE**

Payments – approved:

Chq	Payee	Detail	TOTAL	NET	VAT
699	V Hartley (Currys)	New computer +software	565.53	471.27	94.26
700	Allseasons	Replace chq 698	276.00	230.00	46.00
701	V Hartley	Sept Pay	607.75		
702	HMRC	Sept tax	33.00		
703	Wave	water for playing fields	126.77		
704	PKF Littlejohn	Audit completion	240.00	200.00	40.00
705	Blisworth Village Hall	Hall rent Jan – Jul	54.00		
706	Barbara Osborne	Pay roll June-Sept	63.00		

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Bank Balance of Current Account at September 24th - £37731.14 - available at meeting
- New computer for Clerk – been purchased.
- VAT Claim made for **£5099.98**

15. AUDIT REPORT FROM PKF LITTLEJOHN

- Notice of Conclusion of Audit notice displayed and on website
 - AGAR sections 1,2 &3 and External Auditor Report and certificate 2017/18 also displayed and on website.
- This was adopted by the Council.

16. COMMUNITY FUND – SUGGESTIONS FOR EXPENDITURE OF BALANCE OF £920 – suggested by Chairman that FOBS apply. **Chairman will advise them.****17. REPORT FROM BLISWORTH PROGRESS GROUP OCTOBER 18 – see appendix****18. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS**

CG – requested that **Clerk** send a letter to Grand Union – inadequate lighting in Ladyfield

19. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT and FUTURE MEETINGS – 5th November, 3rd December**20. PUBLIC SESSION**

A North –

- low maintenance lights should be used to replace broken lamps.

Signed-----

Date-----

- 23 yellow marks from Stone works Farm to entrance to allotments. Can claim for damage to vehicles if they have been reported.
- Request to Sage as to how they are planning to allocate the affordable homes in Chapel Lane.

Signed: -----

Date: -----

Report from Cllr A Brown, NCC – Unitary Councils

As covered in the local press, at the end of August councils in Northamptonshire voted in favour of a move to unitary authorities. Of the 8 councils (7 districts + NCC) only Corby voted against the joint bid to split the county into “North Northamptonshire” and “West Northamptonshire”. I would like to give you as Parish Councillors and the public in general an insight into my views and how I arrived at my final decision to vote in favour of the proposals.

Firstly it is fair to say that I believe that unitary authorities are a better way to run local government than the two tier system we have at present. Unitary councils remove the confusion about who does what, allow coherent strategic thinking within a single authority rather than having to align two or more bodies, and provide an opportunity to reduce expenditure on councillors and multiple chief executives. Nonetheless, they are not a magic bullet and it must be recognised that particularly in the “West” region we have been well served by two very efficient councils in South Northamptonshire and Daventry. The success or otherwise of any council depends upon the ability of those running the organisation and the prevailing conditions in which it has to work.

In the context of the County Council’s continuing financial difficulties it was therefore not a simple decision for me to support the proposals put before us. The current deficit faced by NCC (at the time of writing) is £64m with the potential for this figure to rise significantly as auditors continue to clarify the final outturn from last year’s budget. Clearly any new authority would be working with one hand tied behind its back were it to inherit that deficit, and therefore I believe that it is an inescapable fact that Northamptonshire will need special dispensation from MHCLG to use capital receipts to clear that deficit if we are to start life as West Northamptonshire with a clean slate. Debt repayments are also a significant burden on the County Council’s annual budget but it is the deficit issue that is most pressing.

The bid document that was presented to the Secretary of State therefore laid out a number of challenges, and it is these challenges that form the most important element of the bid. The challenges effectively make the local councils’ support for change contingent upon government recognising and rising to these challenges, namely; the aforementioned clean sheet; the provision of additional tools to fund transition costs such as a business rates pilot; recognition of the need for public service reform e.g. in the form of an integrated care system pilot to alleviate the strain placed upon councils by adult social care; additional investment in Northamptonshire’s infrastructure to compensate for the cut backs on investment in recent years and allow for forthcoming growth.

With the bid now going forward to the Secretary of State, the challenges laid out form criteria against which we will be able to judge government’s willingness to support Northamptonshire through our difficulties. Without these challenges and the clear demands for reasonable assistance that they represent I would have been unable to support the proposals, but I have on the record assurances from council leaders that they will be fearless in holding government to account and I will assist them in that endeavour wherever possible. The government has essentially given us one

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option for a solution to the current difficulties and asked us to submit a bid within that very tight criteria in order to provide local input to the process. It is therefore incumbent upon ministers and our members of parliament to ensure that their solution is indeed a solution and not greater failure in a different name.

At times I was highly tempted to vote against the proposals, and I weighed up very carefully what would be best for residents in the long term. Ultimately my mind was made up by my belief that this is our most realistic chance of resolving the delivery issues being suffered by services that the most vulnerable members of the community rely upon. Voting against these proposals ultimately would have been a futile gesture of protest when having all 8 Northamptonshire Councils around the table arguing the case with government allows us to at least exert some influence over what comes next.

If you or residents have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,

Cllr Adam Brown

Email from Jim Newton, Assistant Director for Planning Policy and Development

Cherwell District Council & South Northamptonshire Council

Dear All

Thank you for your emails, regarding the Construction Management Plan relating to the development at Chapel Lane Blisworth. I should start by saying that I have some sympathy with your point of view, with the Council having contested the appeal. That said, we must now accept the independent Inspector's conclusions, and reach a reasonable outcome. My sense is that we disagree about what is a reasonable outcome. Before getting into that detail, it is helpful to set out the facts. The development was granted consent following a variation of condition application under S/2015/2472/MAF upon which Condition 20 required the discharge of a construction management plan. The condition stated

"No development shall be carried out until revised access arrangements for construction traffic have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall thereafter be completed in accordance with the approved details."

This was then "discharged" under S/2018/0174/CON, and the Parish Council was a consultee. I realise the fact that the Council "discharged the condition" has disappointed residents, however we took the view that the proposed Construction Management Plan was a reasonable package of measures, including

- The imposition of a Temporary Traffic Restriction Order removing on street parking for a defined temporary period

Signed-----

Date-----

- The works to improve Chapel and Little Lane.
- The review on the potential restriction on the size of vehicles delivering to the site and
- The restriction of hours of HGVs to the site between 10am and 2pm to avoid peak flow times.

The County Council, which is the Highway Authority, did not object to this, and in fact insisted on the works and the TTRO to ensure the free flow of traffic.

We shares your frustrations regarding this issue. Due to the constraints of the canal bridge to the west on Chapel Lane, there is no alternative means to access the site except via Chapel and Little Lanes from High Street. Taking this into account and the above we did not really have any option but to approve the discharge of condition application as submitted.

We cannot make a developer use land that is not in their control. This has legal and financial implications such as landowners potentially having a ransom over a development site. We also have to determine an application that is in front of us, rather than an application that might be perfect.

I invite you to consider this, and of course I understand that some people may remain unhappy with the outcome. My advice at this point is to keep an eye on the development, and report any suspected breaches of planning to us. You also have the option to pursue a formal complaint to us about how we handled this, although I should make you aware that the outcome (the decision to “discharge” the condition) cannot now change. If you do decide to pursue a formal complaint, we operate a two stage complaints procedure, and if you remain dissatisfied after the second stage, you are then able to ask the Local Government Ombudsman to investigate.

Having said all of this, I remain of the view that we had no option but to take a pragmatic approach, in the absence of an objection from the highway authority.

Regards, Jim

REPORT FROM BLISWORTH PROGRESS GROUP OCTOBER 18

Survey Group

Attendance at the Open Weekend was disappointing, not as many new or younger faces or venturing into the Hall, slightly better on the Sunday. 87in total but that included Parish Councillors (thank you for attending), members of the refreshment teams and some of the Progress Team. Thank yous have been sent to both the WI and BMC for the refreshments which they supplied including some wonderful cakes. Plenty of post-it-notes though on a variety of subjects ranging from housing, traffic, parking, transport, litter to a slushy machine in the shop and other topics. I have a bill for £20.97 to present for the printing.

100 the anniversary of the end of WW1

The number of villagers making poppies to decorate the village is increasing and the production of the booklet with details of those from the village who died in WW1 is going ahead in association with the Heritage Society. It is expected that there will be extra wreaths at the Church service, including one from the PC. WI are planning a display of poppies under the Blisworth sign.

Community Land Trust

This was not discussed at the last PC meeting nor was the possibility of using the Rural Housing Association for a Housing Needs Survey. Do we have your authority to look further into both areas.

Signed-----

Date-----

Litter Campaign

The Campaign Group has started to list all the bins in the village and find out who owns which and looks after them. The list held by the Council does not agree with that held by the Group so Tony is arranging a meeting with SNDC.

£500 from Best Village Competition winnings are ring-fenced for the litter campaign.

Community Reliance and Support Group

The advert in R&A asking for volunteers to look at Emergency Procedures for the Village has resulted in an offer from a resident of the Mill, Ian Tack. We are very grateful to Ian who is highly qualified to draft the procedures using the NCC guidance. He hopes to attend our meetings when work commitments allow.

Ann North

Secretary

Progress Group

Signed-----

Date-----