

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Email: blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the Meeting 7th JANUARY 2019

Held in Blisworth Village Hall at 7.30 p.m

Present:

Cllr Hawkins Chairman
 Cllr Kennedy Vice Chair
 Cllr Bunker
 Cllr Hillier
 Cllr Gardner
 Cllr Billing
 Andrew Vincent
 Cllr Field
 Cllr Lee
 Cllr Dalton
 Cllr Stephen Clarke

7 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.

Cllr Hawkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year. In the absence of the Parish Clerk, Ann North would be taking the minutes.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – The following apologies were received: County Cllr Adam Brown; Cllr Burgoyne; Cllr Field; Cllr Hywel Davies;
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. The additional Planning Applications to be considered were noted and no declarations were made.
3. **RESOLUTION TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 3rd DECEMBER 2018.**

Signed-----

Date-----

All amendments had been made and the resolution to sign and approve the minutes was proposed by Cllr Gardner and seconded by Cllr Billing.

4. CLERK/CHAIR'S REPORT

Cllr Hawkins read the following address:

'After some thought I have decided to step down as Chairman of Blisworth Parish Council.

My last meeting as Chairman will be in May when I will hand over to the new Chairman

The last two years have proved an interesting and rewarding experience, so much has happened in the Village.

My aim was to consolidate unity within the Village and I feel this has, in many ways, been achieved. Now it is time for a new Chairman to move the aims and targets of the PC forward, to meet future challenges.

I would like to thank the Committee for all their support, especially those who have given so much time and input during the past few months.

Also my thanks to the Progress Group who have supported me and the PC by achieving so much through positive action.

I would like to remain as a Parish Councillor and to continue to work with the Progress Group.'

Cllr Hawkins reported She had visited Danny Moody the head of NCALC with Ann North and had received very helpful advice on the way forward and how to ensure Business Continuity, division of labour within the Council and to ensure that the Clerk knows the priorities so that she is able to deal flexibly with her return.

Ann had taken notes at the meeting with Danny Moody which she read to the PC and these were then discussed.

It was agreed that Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Hillier should meet with the Clerk as soon as possible and before her phased return to work. (Arranged for 15th January). Danny Moody had suggested an HR committee should be set up for the future and Cllrs Kennedy and Bunker agreed to look at the requirements in discussion with the Clerk.

Cllr Kennedy also advised the PC that she will be resigning from the post of Vice Chair and from the Council in May.

The Chair thanked Ann North for her continuing support and the Councillors agreed to consider an amount for her as an honorarium.

Ann said that to assist the Clerk, if the next PC meeting was postponed to the 11th February, she would be able to help with the agenda on her return from holiday.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

Cllr Clarke highlighted items in his monthly reported, previously circulated.

The main areas are an update on Unitary Councils, SNC's budget, NCC's budget and the provisional settlement for local government.

Signed-----

Date-----

He commended ACRE's Rural Wellbeing Service which aims to tackle loneliness and isolation and SNC's Wellbeing Activity Map.

South Northamptonshire is in the top 10 for recycling.

He was asked about the New Homes Bonus and it would appear that following the consultation there is support for pooling the allocation in the future and it will no longer be ring – fenced for the originating Parish.

The Chair read out the report sent in by County Councillor Adam Brown which explained that NCC has been granted special dispensation to use the proceeds from the sale of 1 Angel Square to pay off last year's deficit and replenish reserves.

Next year's draft budget is open for public consultation till 23rd January and members of the public are invited to provide feedback via the NCC website. He will be heavily involved in the scrutiny of the new budget as he has been asked to sit on the Council's new Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

6. RAIL FREIGHT TERMINALS

Mark Redding told the meeting that he had attended recent **Northampton Gateway** meetings of the Planning Inspectorate and he felt that Roxhill were so heavily represented with experts and solicitors that they outweighed the **few members** of the public present. He hopes that for future sessions more representatives from the public and **Parish Councils** can be persuaded to attend. The leaflets explaining how to register objections/expressions of interest on **Rail Central** have been widely circulated and the assistance given to aid completion of the form by using the Village Hall enabled 20 people to register their objections. Mark will shortly be meeting with the 3rd Rail Minister to repeat all the arguments that the projects are only a way of bi-passing local planning and are really nothing but warehouses. He hopes the Minister may be able to put pressure on National Rail to make a firm statement about lack of rail capacity.

6. CHAPEL LANE

Cllr Bunker reported that there was unlikely to be any activity on site for two to three months as the developer is concentrating on the Section 278 aspects. They seem to support the need for a banksman at the proposed car park entrance. This would support the PC's objection to the Candle Cottage proposal in that the entrance to that site is unsafe.

7. PLANNING

Application No: S/2018/2783/FUL

Proposed stopping of highway and footpath to allow change of use to private driveway and lawn area.

Grafton House 1 Gayton Road Blisworth NN7 3BN

Delegated decision

Ann North had asked for and received an extension to the response date

All Councillors were concerned that the proposal would result in the parking problems moving elsewhere. Ann North was asked to write on behalf of the PC stating that: Although the Parish Council have great sympathy with the resident they wish to object to the application. If it were to proceed the village would lose the parking facility which is used by those accessing the canal.

Signed-----

Date-----

8. LOCAL MATTERS

- I. **Footpaths** –
No issues reported.
 - II. **Lighting – Lights reported:** Cllr Kennedy said that the light in Pond Bank was a temporary replacement as the correct lamp was out of stock. She has reported No 36 opposite Eastfield and No 84 at Greenaway Close. She has also commissioned a survey of all lights as some of the new ones are already failing.
 - III. **Play Area** – No issues reported
 - IV. **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** – Reminder that Residents can sign up to receive updates directly.
 - V. **Highways – Stoke Road works.** Still continuing. The potholes reported have all been filled in.
 - VI. **Allotments** – Cllr Kennedy has received a water bill from Wave and asked about the amount to be billed to the Football Club and the Scouts..
9. **NCC Highways – review of Grit bins** – Residents had reported that the grit in the bins which are now the responsibility of the Parish Council has reduced considerably. Cllr Kennedy said that Allseasons have been asked to fill all the bins which have been passed to the PC and she will find out what has occurred. Cllr Billing pointed out that the grit supplied for the highway should not be used on footpaths or drives as it eats into the tarmac.

10. COMMUNICATIONS (not mentioned elsewhere on the agenda)

OUT

- Chair to Danny Moody agreeing to meet on 7.1.19 to discuss how to deal with the clerk's absence.
- Chair to Gary Wright to confirm that Blisworth wishes to take part in the 2019 Speed Watch.
- Ann North to Gary Wright to confirm that Graham Juffs will be the lead for Blisworth's speed watch.
- Ann North on behalf of Clerk to SNC asking for extension of time to consider S/2018/2783/FUL at Grafton House 1 Gayton Road Blisworth NN7 3BN

IN

- Danny Moody final mini e-update of 2018 – circulated.
- NCC December monthly briefing – circulated.
- NCALC 2019 Training opportunities – circulated.
- SNC Press Release re new exercise opportunities – circulated.
- SNC Press Release re barriers installed at Towcester Long Stay car park – circulated and suggested for Blisworth Notice Board.
- Western Power Distribution queries re new lamp connections – referred to Cllr Kennedy.
- Aylesbury Mains Invoice sent to Cllr Kennedy
- Danny Moody mini e-update with details of grants for pocket parks – forwarded to Mike Holton Canal Partnership.
- Invoice for Neighbourhood Watch signs being dealt with by Cllr Kennedy.

Signed-----

Date-----

- Beginners jogging groups in Towcester – circulated.
- Northamptonshire Highways information that grass cutting grant remains the same for 2019.
- Northants PCC December update – circulated
- Electoral Register – unopened
- VAS information from Phillip Hayward to be sent to Graham Juffs

12. PROGRESS GROUP REPORT

No meeting held since last Council meeting

13. FINANCE

Payments – for approval

Chq	Payee	Detail	TOTAL	NET	VAT
721	Shire Lumsden	R&A printing	125.00		
722	Shire Lumsden	Reprint WW1 booklet (PPG budget)	245.00		
723	Aylesbury Mains	Repair	87.24	72.70	14.54
724	SNAST (NHW)	Signs (4)	42.00		
725	A Newbery	Annual mowing	100.00		
726	Allseasons	Grit bin filling	126.00	105.00	21.00
727	Wave (Anglian Water)	Water supply	128.40		
728	V Hartley	Jan pay	607.75		
729	Barbara Osborne	Payroll	63.00		
730	HMRC	Tax	33.00		
731	Aylesbury Mains	Sept invoice unpaid	104.64	87.20	17.44

- **Bank Balance** not available.
- **Budget and Precept Information-** Cllrs Kennedy and Bunker have drafted a budget for 2019/2120 and presented the spreadsheet for consideration. The proposal is for an increase of £5,000 bringing the total to £38,000. Cllr Dalton queried the amount for lighting but this includes provision for some upgrades. Cllr Bunker explained that they had worked on the itemised expenditure as well as the 6 months to date in order to forecast. They had also taken into account the suggestions from Danny Moody of NCALC which included the increase in the Clerk's salary and a contingency for any expenditure that may be handed down from other Councils as were the grit bins. There was also an increase in the gardening as there may be more cuts needed next year. Cllr Billing wished to have it on record that it appears that the public are expected to pay more tax but are not receiving the services that they need from the County and now we in the Parish are expected to pick up the bill. The Councillors accepted the need to increase the precept. Proposed by Cllr Dalton and seconded by Cllr Billing. Agreed unanimously. The Council also voted to remain with Allseasons for another year and Cllrs Kennedy and Billing would walk round the village with Mr Judkins to ensure that he is fully aware of the areas to be cut.

Signed-----

Date-----

• **COMMUNITY FUND**

There is a small balance which the PC has asked to be rolled over to the next financial year. In view of the new process outlined by Cllr Clarke the new budget will be opened up to all parishes on a first come first served basis. This was not what Blisworth Council had voted for. Assurances are needed that the Community Fund balance will not be subsumed into next year’s fund. The meeting then discussed the mitigation from the two SRFIs as both had replied favourably. Cllr Clarke was asked to speak to Dennis Winterbottom for the exact timing of the PC’s next application to Northampton Gateway and Rail Central. All Councillors felt this should be a substantial sum.

The Progress Group to be asked to look into the costs of exercise equipment for a grant application from the residue of the Community Fund and the New Homes Bonus.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COUNCILLORS COMMENTS

- Cllr Bunker asked about the grit bin at the top of Chapel Lane and Cllr Kennedy explained that it had already been removed by NCC and not included in the review.
- Cllr Kennedy wished to commend Flowercraft for their support of the planters in the village.
- Cllr Gardner pointed out that Bugbrooke have a Police Officer on trial funded by their PC and if successful the post will be retained.

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS – 11th February 2019, 7.30 pm.

16. PUBLIC SESSION

- Ann North explained that she had telephoned the Regional Manager of Enterprise Inns about the future of the Royal Oak. She had been assured that there was interest in taking over the tenancy and he expected that it would only be closed for a few weeks at most. He is happy to speak to any concerned resident to give an update.
- Jane Percival asked for information about the new Community Bus and was directed to Kevin Jeffery, Scouts.

Signed

Date

Planning Register

11/12/2018
 S/2018/2192/TCA
 Old Rectory 35 High
 Street Blisworth
 NN7 3BJ
 No Objections 11/12/2018

Works to various trees within
 a conservation area

as per
 specification
 set out at
 point 5 in the
 211
 notification

Signed-----

Date-----

S/2018/2856/COND
Application for
approval of details
submitted
30 Stoke Road Blisworth
Reg Date 21/12/2018
Proposal

S2018/1623/ful
Erection of dwelling and
detached garage

Condition
(Revised
Brick Panel
Sample)

30 Stoke
Road
Blisworth

Signed-----

Date-----