



# BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Email: blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com

## Minutes of the Virtual 'Meeting' 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

This meeting was held by consultation over a conference call with the councillors. The government legislation to reduce the spread of covid 19 does not allow a normal meeting to take place. Security concerns had been raised over the use of some visual conferencing applications.

### Present via phone

**Cllr Wilson – Chairman**  
**Cllr Bunker**  
**Cllr Dalton**  
**Cllr Field**  
**Cllr Gardner**  
**Cllr Billing**  
**Cllr Hillier**  
**Cllr Hawkins**

**Clerk - Viv Hartley**

**No public were present** - The public had been given the opportunity to access the call. (They had been directed to contact the Clerk or Cllr Bunker by phone for joining instructions).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Adam Brown (had submitted report – see item 7)

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** – members were 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 MEETINGS DATED 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020.** (An Extraordinary meeting had been planned for 19.3.20 to resolve item 5 but this had been cancelled due to Coronavirus restrictions).

The minutes were signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman as correct records. The minutes of the extraordinary meeting will not appear on the website as this was a closed meeting due to its commercial sensitivity.

### 4. CLERK/CHAIR'S REPORT

Actions carried out as per last meeting – on agenda

Signed-----

Date-----

Street Lighting contractors – The Clerk listed the following contractors: Zeta, E-on, Aylesbury Mains, Magnatech, Spark x. It was agreed that **Clerk** would circulate an email with the names and the potential issues which Gayton Parish Council faced when pursuing a lighting project.

## 5. ACTIONS TAKEN IN RELATION TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND EFFECTS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT (This may require updating by publication)

AGAR - Year end accounts – dates for advertising Electors Rights delayed until September.

Blisworth CRRG activities regarding emergency community food larder working with South Northants Food and Education Alliance (SNFEA). Ian Tack has stood down as lead on the group and it is now Melissa Lee Patrick. Cllr Wilson will write to thank her for her efforts in this area.

[www.blisworthcrrg.co.uk](http://www.blisworthcrrg.co.uk)

Updates from Adam Brown, NCC Cllr, Steve Clarke, SNC Cllr A. Leadsom MP are being circulated. Unitary Council update is under review.

Cancellations:

Parish Council elections postponed until 2021.

CPRE Planning Roadshow

ACRE Good Neighbours Event postponed

Blisworth Village Hall closed

## 6. ADVERTISE AND CAMPAIGN FOR ADDITIONAL COUNCILLORS TO JOIN THE PC

- **Benefits to the Community**
- **Typical activities**
- **Discuss Plan**

Cllr Wilson reported:

Cllr Hawkins had stated that a campaign to recruit councillors had been proposed some time ago. Danny Moody had suggested that the PC held an open meeting inviting speakers to explain the role of the PC and its value to the Community – this did not happen. The website, Round and About and Facebook pages should be updated with this information:

*Parish Councils are for the benefit of their local community. However Councils need local residents to participate, as Councillors, to get a wide range of views, ensure the council carries out its task properly and to get things done for the benefit of the community. Blisworth Parish Council has vacancies for 5 Councillors. Without more Councillors it is more difficult for the existing 6 Councillors to get things done. The role of a Parish Councillor is explained on the Blisworth Parish Council website: <http://parish.blisworthvillage.org/about-us/general-information/>.*

It was suggested that the Annual Parish Council meeting which cannot be held at the present time could hopefully be used to promote the recruitment of councillors.

## 7. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS - if available

Cllr Adam Brown – report submitted:

Signed-----

Date-----

*Sadly we have seen 877 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in our county, and 191 death across Northamptonshire.*

*As a Local Government organisation providing vital services for nearly 750,000 people across Northamptonshire, the County Council is fully prepared to operate in crisis mode. We have robust plans and metrics in place ensuring we can utilise the skills and experience of our workforce to deliver what's needed, with a clear focus on achieving the outcomes necessary to support our residents.*

*There is remarkable work taking place as we continue to respond together to the COVID-19 pandemic which includes helping to relieve the current pressure on mortuary facilities. Sadly, there could potentially be an increased number of deaths in the county due to the pandemic, and we are working with our partners to fully prepare for this. Over the last few days we have mobilised a temporary mortuary which will have a capacity of 1,100, which is a phenomenal achievement. Based at a County Council owned site in Wollaston, the temporary mortuary will care for Northamptonshire's lost loved ones with dignity and kindness before they make their final journey, and has been equipped and organised at speed with our partners.*

*As the COVID-19 outbreak continues its path, we are working closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to ensure care and support providers in the county are supported during this time. They are working solidly to keep routines as normal as possible for the people they look after, and I am thankful to them for this, and the clear processes they have in place with regard to infection control.*

*Through the CCG, we are in direct communication with providers answering questions and giving any advice needed, including around PPE. This includes a weekly webinar, a regular briefing for teams covering a variety of topics, and a process is in place to ensure staff's wellbeing is recognised which is particularly important at this time. The Provider Support Hub, staffed by commissioning and quality monitoring staff, which was launched in early March is available every day for providers from 8am to 8pm to answer any queries, give advice and offer support.*

*Together with the CCG, we have established a budget to provide care and support providers with financial help relating to the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure they can continue to support our county's most vulnerable people. Many are having to use agency staff, and by providing this fund, we will ensure our providers are helped through this difficult period without additional pressures.*

*This is the biggest crisis we have faced together as a nation, and one where we can't predict what the coming weeks will bring. We don't have all the answers, but I am confident that in Northamptonshire, we are all pitching in and focussing on our mission to get through this difficult and rare period of time together, with support for our residents, communities and neighbourhoods at the very forefront of this. Particular credit must go not only to our incredible NHS staff and other key workers, but also to the army of volunteers who have organised themselves in villages such as Blisworth in order to help their neighbours. I have made contact with every voluntary group across Bugbrooke Division to offer any assistance they may require via the County Council and the level of commitment and organisation is simply remarkable. We are lucky to live in an area with such incredible community spirit.*

*Kind regards, Adam*

## **8. STREET LIGHTING – Reports of repairs required – none received.**

### **9. CHAPEL LANE BUILDING**

**i) Street lighting** – Clerk has sent formal acceptance letter of proposed commuted sum for lighting to Eastco Homes, acknowledged by Eastco Homes. Cliff

Signed-----

Date-----

Riley has informed Cllr Bunker that he will check whether this letter is all that is required for Eastco to be able to send PC a cheque for the commuted sum, or whether an invoice will be required.

**ii) Parking Restriction** – no update available

Cllr Bunker also reported that :

30 MPH sign has been moved to the Gayton side of candle bridge

Eastco homes have advised that they have no plans to continue with building works at the present time. They have promised to let PC know before they start any ground works.

**10. RAIL FREIGHT TERMINALS** – No Update available. **Clerk** to contact Henry Newby for update.

**11. GRASS CUTTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2020 with Corona virus restrictions** – (at time of writing) N and P are hoping to continue cutting as contracted but are complying with Social Distancing rules as set by HM Government. **Clerk** to contact N and P to find out when they are due to cut.

**12. HIGHWAYS** – **Clerk to receive any issues which should be reported**

- Stoke Road closed 6-17<sup>th</sup> April, queries contact M Richardson 03700500792 – assumed work has been done.
- Village Sign on Northampton Road reported to Fix My Street – ref 2038073
- Clerk has submitted order for Planters to Workbridge but delayed due to Coronavirus
- Clerk had written to Helen Howard requesting consideration of parking restrictions opposite SMS. Response that parking not a problem, knee rail would have to be paid by 3<sup>rd</sup> party.
- Village signs damage on Northampton Road and Stoke Road reported to Fix My Street. Work orders have been issued to complete repairs to both signs within 6 months.

**13. PLANNING** –

- Clerk had submitted objection letter to SNC re S/2020/0223-MAO for deadline of 9.3.20
- Comments submitted for application number S/2020/0174/LBC and S/2020/0165/FUL (SMS)
- Planning Register : see below
- Planning Equipment collection cancelled – online training to take place.
- All plans will now be sent electronically

Planning Register :- comments from PC to be submitted to SNC by **Clerk**

Signed-----

Date-----

- S/2020/0448/LBC  
28 Stoke Road Blisworth NN7 3BZ
- S/2020/0447/FUL  
28 Stoke Road Blisworth NN7 3BZ - withdrawn
- S/2020/0376/FUL  
Buttermilk Hall Farm 60 Stoke Road Blisworth NN7 3DB – No objections
- S/2020/0368/FUL  
Crieff House 1 Stoke Road Blisworth NN7 3BZ - No objections
- S/2020/0369/LBC  
Crieff House 1 Stoke Road Blisworth NN7 3BZ - No objections
- S/2020/0359/TCA  
66 High Street Blisworth NN7 3BJ - No objections
- This application was too late for this register but was discussed: -  
Application No. S/2020/0585/FUL - Proposal Change of use and conversion of agricultural barns to form two dwellings - Amendment of Planning Permission S/2016/1104/FUL - (Change of use and conversion of agricultural barns to a single dwelling) Location Buttermilk Hall Farm 60 Stoke Road Blisworth NN7 3DB  
No objections were made by the Council.

#### **14. FOOTPATHS –**

- Reports of any problems - Clerk had not received any reports for submission.

#### **15. PLAY AREA – Reports of any issues**

- Inspection of equipment ordered from Wicksteed – this will be postponed due to Covid 19 regulations.
- Play area closed due to Covid 19 regulations

#### **16. FENCING OF THE FOOTBALL FIELDS – request by resident to look into area being fenced off where access has been available for dog walkers. Cllr Wilson reported:**

Cllrs Field and Hawkins had provided information about the fencing which has been erected around one of the pitches. To summarise, only the recently reseeded pitch is enclosed. There is plenty of alternative space for dog walking nearby, including another pitch, though dogs should not be encouraged onto pitches because of the risk of fouling that is left behind even when the owners try to pick it up. The Chairman had walked around the area but could not see that the fencing has blocked access to the adjacent farmer's field.

Signed-----

Date-----

It was agreed that the **Clerk** respond to the resident, explain that the stile was erected to allow people to access the field to retrieve footballs and that it is not a Right of Way. The fencing is to protect the pitch.

## 17. ALLOTMENTS – Report of any issues

Rent collection delayed due to coronavirus, some has been received in post and some paid to co-ordinator on site

18. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME** – Updates being sent from Richard Akers

19. **COMMUNICATIONS (not mentioned elsewhere on the agenda)**

### OUT (not covered elsewhere in agenda):

Ability – Invitation to attend meeting on 1.6.20

### IN:

i) NCALC – Updates (circ)

20. **PROGRESS GROUP REPORT** – no meeting had taken place so no report available.

## 21. FINANCE

- i) **Payments and Receipts - Balance at 24.3.20 – £38673.83**  
**Outstanding cheques – 833 - £14.99**  
**Monies Received - £771.88 – NCC grass cutting grant**  
**£163.50 – Water rates from Blisworth Scouts**  
**Available Balance after payments made - £34473.88**

### Payments Approved:

Chq	Payee	Detail	Gross	VAT	Net
834	Allseasons	Payment re 2017 missed cuts	750.00		750.00
835	Aylesbury Mains	Invs 19643,19718,19835	248.16	41.36	206.80
836	Alan North	Prodn R&A	47.00		47.00
837	V Hartley	Sal for Mar	654.30		654.30
838	HMRC	Tax for Mar	3.20		3.20
839	Shire Lumsden	Printing R and A	125.00		125.00
840	B Osborne	Pay roll – Jan - Mar	64.50		64.50
841	ACRE	Sub 20/21	35.00		35.00
842	N and P	2 x Eastfield 1x village	732.00	122.00	610.00
843	NCALC	Annual sub £644.10 and audit £222.00	866.10		866.10
844	E-on	Supplies to 31.3.20	1524.19	254.03	1270.16

Signed-----

Date-----

	<b>Approx Total (inc DDs)</b>		<b>5120.34</b>		
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- Monthly Standing orders for Wifi - £8.00, direct debit for Website - £8.39 and Anglian Water £54.50
- Correspondence received from Tina Charteress, NCALC Internal Auditor and PKF Littlejohn regarding alterations due to Coronavirus impact – audits to be carried out remotely.
- Council approved that Clerk sets up Internet banking to make it easier to make payments particularly during Covid 19 pandemic. Also mandate requires updating.

## 22. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COUNCILLORS COMMENTS

Use of Canal and Rivers Trust towpaths by public during coronavirus crisis – A resident has enquired about their use. This is the responsibility of CRT and the government restrictions. Cllr Field and Hawkins provided links to Notices and the CRT website.

There is nothing at the present time to say the towpaths are closed, shut, do not enter, do not use etc so common sense should prevail.

Football Club – **Cllr Field** agreed to talk to the previous Clerk to see if any information could be obtained about a lease for the allotment land used by the Club. The present Clerk has not found any documentation other than the Allotment Agreement which has been passed to the Football Club last year.

It was at this point in the meeting that **Cllr Dave Dalton resigned** from the Parish Council. Cllr Dalton has served on the Parish Council for 33 years and the councillors wished him a well earned rest! **Cllr Tony Hillier also resigned** from the Parish Council. He will continue to be part of the Progress Group. Both councillors were thanked by the Councillors for their service to the community.

## 23. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS – May 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Signed .....

Date .....

Signed-----

Date-----