

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting of Blisworth Parish Council held on Monday 11 January 2021, 11.00 am.

Present:

- Cllr S Billing
- Cllr S Bunker, Vice Chairman
- Cllr M Field
- Cllr C Gardner
- Cllr A Goss
- Cllr J Hawkins
- Cllr C Read
- Cllr T Wells
- Cllr D Wilson, Chairman

Also present:

- Gillian Greaves, Parish Clerk
- Cllr S Clarke, District Councillor
- 1 Member of the public

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the meeting was held by telephone conference.

1. Apologies to be accepted. None received.
2. Declarations of Interest. Cllr Goss expressed an interest in item 19 and agreed not to speak on the matter.
3. Approval and Signature of the minutes of the meeting of the 7 December 2020. The minutes of meeting held on 7 December 2020 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
4. Clerk/Chairs Report. The Chairman circulated a report prior to the meeting.
5. District and County Councillors reports. District Councillor Clarke reported that the planning application in respect of the tree on the Sun, Moon and Stars site was still being considered by the planning officer and there was nothing further to report at this time. The issues concerning heavy vehicles using Candle Bridge had been raised with the Assistant Director of Planning at South Northants Council and a response awaited. Following complaints from residents concerning traffic management and safety issues at the junction of Towcester Road and High Street Cllr Clarke had contacted the local authority to arrange for an urgent assessment of the site. The assessment resulted in remedial action by Kierwsp including dealing with changes to the barriers and improving the traffic lights. Cllr Clarke has received several positive comments from residents.
6. Rail Freight Terminal – Update. The Chairman updated the Council that there were further documents available but that the Council were not required to comment on them. A SERGO meeting was being held on 12 January and the Chairman would attend and report back to the next meeting of the Council.
7. Appointment of New Clerk. The Council noted the appointment of the new Clerk, Gillian Greaves.
8. Use of a Handyman. Cllr Billings updated the Council that he had compiled a list of jobs around the village that needed attention including painting of steps, fencing at Westbrook and that two handymen had been identified. The council agreed that Cllr Billing would approach the two handymen identified, to obtain quotes for the fencing and painting of step edges at Westbrook. Cllr Bunker agreed to provide details of handymen to Cllr Billing. Ann North agreed to provide details of priority footpaths that needed siding out.
9. Speeding Issues. The Council discussed the speed settings on the mobile speeding unit. The council agreed to adjust the Towcester Road VAS machine display in line with the recommendation made by Cllr Wilson. Cllr Wilson also agreed to chase Steve Barber from Highways regarding a new VAS post and obtain prices for an additional mobile VAS machine.
10. Street Lighting Improvements. Cllr Bunker updated the Council on progress and the Council discussed the options to fund the project. An application to South Northants Council for a Community Grant had been unsuccessful. Currently South Northants Council were not supporting street lighting improvements.

The Parish Council will benefit from CIL funding in respect of the Sun, Stars & Moon development in due course which could be offset against the cost. Cllr Bunker reminded the Council that it held sufficient funds to pay for the new street lighting without raising the precept or applying for a public works loan which is a slow and complicated process. The Council agreed to meet the cost of the new street lighting from within existing funds. Cllr Bunker reported that he would be meeting with the contractor at Greenaway Close to discuss a lighting issue raised by a resident. He reminded the Council that once the new lanterns had been fitted it would be possible to adjust the settings to allow the lamp to cover a wider range.

11. Closed Cemetery Update. Cllr Billing reported that he was awaiting the outcome of a planning application in respect of a tree in the cemetery but understood the decision was imminent so he would contact the contractor to agree a timetable for the works.

12. Chapel Lane Update. Cllr Clarke reported that he had escalated the issue of speeding and heavy vehicles compromising the structure of the bridge to the Assistant Director of Planning at South Northants Council.

13. Planning.

a. Application No: S/2020/2204/FUL

Proposed relocation and renovation of recreational aircraft hangar at Buttermilk Hall Farm Stoke Road, Blisworth, NN7 3DP. Cllr Read circulated a report to councillors prior to the meeting.

The Council discussed the application and resolved to make no objections or observations to the application.

14. Local Matters

a. Footpaths. Nothing to report.

b. Lighting. Cllr Bunker reported that there were currently four faulty streetlights in the village awaiting report. One of the lights had been reported to the Councils maintenance contractors but there had been delays due to parts being out of stock. Cllr Bunker had agreed with Zeta that they would replace the faulty lights with the new lights prior to the programme starting so that residents would not have to wait unduly for the streetlights to be working. The Council supported this recommendation.

c. Play area. Cllr Billing advised the Council that he had removed details of the former Clerk from the signage in the play area. The Council agreed the signs need updating and discussed what information was required on the signs especially in respect of emergency contact information. The Clerk will report back to the next meeting once this has been investigated further.

d. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Nothing to report.

e. Highways:

i. Traffic issues:

1. Pond Bank footway parking. The Council discussed issues relating to the volume of vehicles visiting and the resulting parking issues in the area. Several options to deal with the problem were discussed including requesting from the appropriate authority e.g. police and requesting the installation of yellow lines. Cllr Wells was asked to obtain photographic evidence and, potentially, report to the police.

2. Candle bridge heavy vehicles. This has been reported to Assistant Director of Planning, South Northants Council by District Councillor Clarke.

3. Stoke Road – a report had been received of an incident in Stoke Road involving a heavy lorry, resulting in damage to property and several cars. This area has a high incidence of speeding cars and this is another example. The Council discussed the need to collate evidence to support further action.

ii. Liaison with Highways.

1. To enable infrastructure repairs to be done promptly e.g., the bridge wall damage by Towcester Road/Mill/SMS location. The Council discussed the need to engage in discussions with the various agencies to ensure better liaison.

f. Grit bins – potential replacement in Wellspring. Cllr Bunker asked the Council if they wished to consider replacing a grit bin sited at Wellspring. It was understood not to be an official grit bin and it was decided not to replace it but to provide replacement grit as and when the grit bins were refilled.

g. Allotment. Following the December meeting allotment holders had been received written requests to maintain their allotments and bring them up to the required standard by the end of February. The Council had received a response from an allotment holder explaining the reasons why they

had not been able to do this previously. Cllr Billings will work with the Clerk to send out a further letter giving notice if the situation is not improved.

- h. Dog bins. A complaint had been received from a resident concerning the overflowing bin outside the entrance to the village hall. This bin is emptied by South Northants Council but due to the Christmas/New Year holiday the bin had missed a collection, although the bin has now been emptied. The situation was made worse by the amount of dog waste bags that had been left to overflow out of the bin. The Council discussed the options for providing a dog waste bin and agreed to monitor the situation for three months to see if this was a one-off problem or a regular occurrence.

15. Communications. Noted.

16. Progress Group Report. No report.

17. Finance:

a. Payments

Chq/DD	Payee	Purpose	VAT	Amount
2976	A North	R & A Production & travel x 2		£124.00
2977	Shire Lumsden Ltd	Round & About leaflets. Invoice 00022071		£125.00
2978	ACRE	Annual Membership		£35.00
DD	Village Hall	Wifi village hall		£8.00
DD	Wave Utilities	Water Rates		£88.00
DD	ICO	Data Protection Fee		£35.00

- b. Bank account. The Chairman reported that it was proving difficult to resolve the issues with the bank but that the Clerk was preparing a letter to the bank to update on the changes and request copies of statements.

c. Internal Controls Update. Nothing to report until the banking issues were resolved.

d. Conclusion of Audit Notice.

18. Resolution to approve the 2021/22 Budget. The Council considered the draft budget figures as proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Bunker. The Council **Resolved** to set the budget at £41,480.00.

19. Resolution to set the Precept for 2021/22. The Chairman proposed that the precept be set at £41,480.00, seconded by Cllr Bunker. The Council **Resolved** to set the precept at £41,480.00.

20. Review of S137 Grants Process. Cllr Bunker recommended that the Council review its grants process to ensure a consistent approach to grant funding. The Clerk and Cllr Bunker would review the S137 Grants process and bring a draft policy to the next meeting for the Council to consider.

21. Grant request from Blisworth Friendship Group. The Chairman proposed that the application be considered once the Council has reviewed its S137 Grant Policy.

22. Membership Renewal of Northamptonshire ACRE. The Council agreed to review their membership of Northamptonshire ACRE and the annual fee of £35.

23. Grass cutting contract: Decision to continue the existing grass maintenance contract beyond end of January 2021. The Chairman reported that the grass maintenance contract would be extended for a further three months and that the contractor would be requested to provide risk management information and resolve several quality issues.

24. Fencing Replacement Update – Chapel Lane entrance to footpath. Cllr Billing has made unsuccessful attempts to contact the resident whose property adjoins the fencing. The work will need to progress, and Cllr Billing will write a letter to the resident advising him on this.

25. Round and About. The Chairman proposed that the production dates of the newsletter were adjusted to allow for the Christmas edition to arrive before Christmas rather than afterwards. The Council agreed with this proposal.

26. HR Advisor Contract. The Chairman reported that now the recruitment process had concluded he recommended that the contract be terminated by giving one months' notice but that the Council retain option to reopen the contract in the future should the need arise. The Chairman agreed to write the termination letter.

27. Appointment of Police Liaison Representative. Northants CALC has contacted all councils to request they appointed a names person to act as a named contact for policing matters. Cllr Read volunteered to take on the role, there were no other volunteers and the Council thanked Cllr Read for taking on the role. Cllr Read agreed to complete the notification and report back to the Council.

28. Vacancy for Parish Councillors. The Chairman reported that there were two vacancies for parish councillors and that the Clerk had received an enquiry which she would be following up.
29. Future Agenda Items and Councillor Comments. The Chairman said that the Council wanted to pass on many thanks for the support Ann North had given to the Council during the absence of a clerk.
30. Date and time of next meeting. The Council noted the next meeting would be held on Monday 1 February 2021 at 7.30pm.
31. Public Session. Ann North informed the Council that a letter had been sent to resident concerning the allotment. Ann North said Paulette Kennedy may have more information on the ownership of the grit bin. Letter to the Canal and River Trust.

Meeting Closed at 22.23pm.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman