

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Address: Jasmine Cottage, 2 High Street, Blisworth NN7 3BJ

Email: blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com

Website: <https://parish.blisworthvillage.org>

Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held at Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 6 December 2021 at 7.30 pm**

Present:

Cllr Bunker (vice chair)

Cllr Field

Cllr Gardner

Cllr Hawkins

Cllr Read

Cllr Wilson (Chair)

Also present:

District Cllr Cooper (from 8.45)

Two members of the public

1. To receive apologies: Apologies received from Cllr Billing
2. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda: Cllr Bunker declared that he had received a 'neighbour' letter regarding the Little lane Planning application in Agenda item 13
3. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meetings held on 4 October 2021 and 1 November 2021. Minutes approved for both meetings.
4. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only: None
5. Correspondence: Cllr Read referred to a number of issues that had been reported via the Council's Facebook page, and advised the Council that no additional action was required. The updating of the village directory has been raised again. All agreed that this was needed, but would require input from volunteers within the village with the relevant information. The idea of a 'let's talk' rainbow bench was also mentioned.
6. Highways/traffic update. Discuss/agree action relating to issues raised by residents regarding the 3T weight restriction on Stoke Road; Chairman informed PC that Highways has advised that due to structural issues, no exemptions can be permitted, and that restrictions are likely to remain in place for 18+ months whilst investigations are carried out & solutions developed. Chairman will continue to follow up with Highways and WNC for them to pursue options to minimise impact on residents/businesses.
7. Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme update: Cllr Read reported a crime data drop off, although there has been a burglary in Stoke road. Night time speeding has been reported as an issue, but the Police has advised that they do not have the technology to monitor when it is dark. They have suggested that increased visibility at the village gates, such as luminous strips may be helpful. It was also suggested that the PC may wish to consider moving the SID machines on a regular basis ACTION
8. To consider the draft budget for 2022-23. Cllr Bunker proposed a 4.6% increase in precept, but mentioned that additional spending may need to be funded from Reserves. In particular, Cemetery works. The proposal was agreed, although some Councillors were concerned that such a small increase,

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when compared to expected National inflation in 2022, may limit the amount of work/improvements that the PC could fund. It was suggested that this message should be relayed to residents.

9. To consider the draft precept for 2022-23. See point 8 above

10. Finance & Administration;

a. Banking Issues:

i. Banking Mandate - Cllr Field advised that she had not been able to make any further progress. The Chairman suggested that this issue is pursued by the new Clerk in January
ACTION

b. To note receipts and approve the following payments and any others that arrive after publication of the agenda: The Council agreed to pay £100 to cover expenses relating to the mowing of the cemetery, as it would cost the PC (& taxpayers) significantly more money to employ a contractor to undertake this task. Advice/support from NCalc was also a contributory factor in this decision.

RECEIPTS			
Date	Payee	Detail	Amount
15/10/ 2021	Lottery Grant	Lottery Grant	£7,530.00*
26/10/2021	WNC	CIL re SMS	£13,724.55*
29/10/2021	NatWest Bank	October Interest	£0.29*
			*BR Account
PAYMENTS			
CH/DD	Payee	Purpose	Amount (VAT)
2882	G Greaves	Clerk's November Final salary	£781.82
2883	G Greaves	Clerk's final expenses mileage £20 & Stamps £7.92	£27.92
2884	HMRC	Clerks November PAYE	£227.47
2886	G Dunkley	Chapel Lane and Church Lane – clearance of brambles, overgrown weeds and self-set elders	£650.50
2887	Northants CALC	Course attendance Social Media Skills INV-1653	£38.00
2888	Zeta Lighting	Emergency replacement lights	306.00 (£51.00)
2890	A Newbury	Mowing of Cemetery	£100.00
2891	N&P Gardening Services	Final cut and strim of cemetery.	£173.00 (£28.00)
DD	Waves	Water Charge	£88.00
DD	IONOS	Website Fee	£10.80 (£1.80)
2892	N&P Gardening Services	Invoice 3952 re late payment fee for Nov invoice	£35.00 (£5.00)
2893	R Hennessy	VAS battery	£45.90 (£7.65)

11. Internal Control – Cllr Bunker reiterated his concerns regarding the lack of bank account mandate holders. Concerns were also raised regarding the payment of the Clerks final salary before evidence of the final inputs & calculations had been seen, and it was agreed that some basic authorisation forms should be developed & used in future
ACTION

12. Action List Update – Cllr Read to circulate updated list
ACTION

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13. Planning & Development.

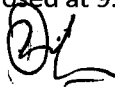
Application	Location/description	Decision
WNS/2021/1912/FUL	2 Connegar Leys Blisworth NN7 3DF Proposed 2 storey side/front extension, dormers to front and rear and new detached garage	No objections
WNS/2021/1887/FUL	Old Telephone Exchange Little Lane, Blisworth, Northamptonshire, NN7 3BS Demolition of the existing building and erection of a 2 bedroom detached dwelling	Objection: Design not in keeping with local area. Building too close to pavement. Insufficient parking, especially bearing in mind existing parking issues in locality. Also concerns re lack of space for storage & deliveries during construction.
WNS/2021/1858/EIA	Land at Milton Road, Gayton, Northamptonshire Construction of a temporary 49.72MW Solar Farm, to include the installation of Solar Panels with transformers, a substation, a DNO control room, a customer substation, GRP comms cabin, security fencing, landscaping and other associated infrastructure	Objection: The scale & extent of the proposed development is such that the existing landscape & topography is considered unlikely to have the ability to appropriately accommodate the development & to filter & restrict views of the proposed development, or to incorporate mitigation to enable this
Appeal Decision	Location/description	Decision
APP/Z2830/W/21/3270614	Site Address: Land off Northampton Road, Blisworth, Northamptonshire, NN7 3DW Appeal by Manor Farm Developments (UK) Ltd & CBC Meats Ltd	Appeal dismissed by Planning Inspector
Information Only	Location	Description
WNS/2021/1971/TCA	Elm Tree House 11 Courteenhall Road Blisworth NN7 3DD	T1 Walnut – Fell
WNS/2021/1972/TCA	Grafton House 1 Gayton Road Blisworth NN7 3BN	1. Pollarding of poplar tree; 2. Reduction and maintenance of x 2 apple trees; 3. Removal of cherry tree branches to prevent damage; 4. Pollarding of willow tree to prevent branch fracture; 5. General maintenance of trees in shaded area.

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14. Agree response regarding Towcester DHL Planning Application and the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Spatial Options Consultation. The Council agreed that it should respond in line with the concerns raised by Cllr Read. In particular, the impact that these developments would have on all local road networks (including minor roads through villages) ACTION
15. Agree to the purchase of a SID/VAS machine and pole – The Chairman presented the various quotes, and recommended the purchase of a refurbished SID for £1935+VAT including carriage, and the purchase of a pole for £828.30+VAT
16. Approve (subject to quotation) the purchase of 5 additional LED lights at Ladyfield - deferred
17. Agree to pursue the possibility of traffic calming measures using Northampton Gateway Grant funds: The Council agreed that it was willing to utilise Gateway Grant funds towards structural traffic calming measures in the village, although this would be subject to final costs (current estimate c.£50k) and location.
18. Discuss/agree the Formation of a working group relating to platinum jubilee celebrations: The formation of a Working group was welcomed by all, & Cllrs Read, Field, Hawkins and Gardner volunteered to become members. It was hoped that a number of non-PC residents would also join the Group. Cllr Read agreed to draft Terms of Reference for agreement at the January meeting ACTION
19. Discuss/agree a Councillor surgery session: All agreed that monthly Councillor surgery sessions during Tuesday coffee mornings at the Baptist church was a good idea, and all councillors agreed to help on a rota basis, with a maximum of two councillors at each session. Cllr Read agreed to develop a rota ACTION
20. Risk Assessments for approval:
 - a. Closed Cemetery Risk Assessment - deferred
 - b. Allotment Risk Assessment - deferred
21. Village Maintenance & Open Spaces:
 - a. Cemetery – consider condition of trees and agree action: One quote for the required works has been received, and at least one more should be available in time for the January meeting
 - b. Cemetery Wall repairs – Repairs to the wall have been completed.
 - c. Play area.
 - i. Monthly safety inspection report – Chairman to report: No new issues identified.
 - ii. Repairs to Eastfield Play Area – Delayed repairs are due to be carried out on 10th December.
22. Recruitment: Chairman explained that there had been a number of applicants and, following a vetting process, two had been interviewed. Based upon these interviews, the HR Committee recommended an appointment. This was agreed by the Council. The appointment will be subject to the Councils Performance management Policies, including a satisfactory probation period. The Chair agreed to advise applicants of the outcome and deal with the required documentation ACTION
23. Public Session:
 - a. District Councillor Reports: Report circulated prior to the meeting
 - b. Members of the public: Message of thanks to cllr Field for arranging for the cutting back of the hedge at the canal car park entrance, and resolving issues with the ploughing of a public footpath.
24. To agree the date of next meeting Monday 10 January 2021 at 7.30pm.
25. The meeting closed at 9.45

Signed:

Chairman



Date

13/1/2022