

## BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Address: 48 Pond Bank, Blisworth, Northamptonshire, NN7 3EL

Email: [blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com)

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

Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 4th July 2022** at **7.30 pm**.

**Present:**

Cllr S Billing, Chairman  
Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chairman  
Cllr D Wilson  
Cllr M Field  
Cllr B Brown  
District Cllr Cooper

**Also present:**

Angela Billing, Parish Clerk  
2 Members of the public

		Action
1.	<b>To receive apologies.</b> Cllr Bunker, Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Gardner. The Council resolved to accept the apologies.	
2.	<b>To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Councillors are reminded that if they have either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other interest in any of the agenda items then they should declare the interest and withdraw from the debate or meeting as appropriate.</b> None received.	
3.	<b>To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 6th June 2022.</b> Agreed.	
4.	<b>To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only.</b> None noted. Agreed to continue to log actions from Minutes on the Action File.	
5.	<b>Correspondence.</b> Blisworth Parochial Church Council have presented a claim which the Council's insurers are handling. No further information is available at this point and an update will be provided when possible. <b>Correspondence received after the Agenda was posted:</b> Contacted Highways about damaged Give Way sign on the junction of Northampton Road, Courteenhall Road and High Street – emergency wardens removed damaged sign and placed barriers around the site of the damaged sign. Resident's request with help with access along High Street at school pick up times. Agreed to contact the school in the first instance.	Clerk
6.	<b>Clerk's report circulated separately.</b> Noted.	
7.	<b>Resolve to approve publication of a summarised short form version of the Clerk's report and agree the type of contents and level of details.</b> Agreed not to publish Clerk's Report due to issues regarding GDPR and the time needed to redact and summarise the report.	
8.	<b>Annual Governance &amp; Accountability Return (AGAR): Update from Clerk.</b> Public notice runs from Monday 13 June 2022 to Friday 22 July 2022. Notice was posted on the Blisworth Parish Council website and notice board on 10 June 2022. All files sent to external auditor.	
9.	<b>Queen's Jubilee Update:</b> <b>Events Working Group Financial Report:</b> Update from Clerk. Total Spend £610.90 – under agreed budget of £700.00.	
10.	<b>Correspondence from social media:</b> Update from Cllr Read. Resident requested confirmation of Gigaclear works in Knock lane. Advised the resident of Gigaclear contact details. The most significant post has been the message on 16 June 2022 around the Kalvec Development for land west of Northampton Road which has had a post reach of 3612 people and 2890 engagements. Generally the posts around highways issues are popular and a post calling for photographic evidence of HGV issues	

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	on 28 June 2022 has a post reach of 1796 people and 729 engagements. We have 193 residents following the page (8 new in the last 28 days) and have had 4218 engagements between 4 June and 2 July 2022.	
11.	<p><b>Report on data from SID devices:</b> Update from Cllr Read. The VAS monitor was moved from the position in Stoke Road to High Street near to the Courteenhall/Northampton Road Junction on 18 June 2022 to help gather data on actual traffic flow through the centre of the village. Between 18 June 2022 and 3 July 2022 (15 Days) there were 71,080 traffic movements, 37,774 into the village and 33,306 away from the village. This amounts to a throughput of 5,138 vehicles a day, 214 vehicles per hour or a vehicle every 3.5 mins. (assuming consistent traffic flows 24hrs). Average speeds through this stretch of road were between 21-22mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 26mph. The maximum speed recorded was 47mph. Interestingly the speeds outwardly seem to be lower, Cllr Read noted that this may be due to the corner and parked cars on that side of the road. Cllr Read noted that the monitor in High Street did not show excessive speeding (possibly due to the location of parked cars). He proposed moving the monitor to another position in High Street. Clerk to contact Highways to update the Council's Section 50 licence to allow Cllr Read to reposition the traffic monitoring device. Cllr Read to apply for a grant to purchase another VAS traffic monitoring device.</p>	Clerk Cllr Read
12.	<p><b>Police &amp; Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:</b> Update from Cllr Read. The Crime data for May has not been released so Cllr Read will publish this in next month's report. There has been one neighbourhood alert affecting Blisworth Parish. Between 23/06/2022 09:00 and 24/06/2022 11:00, unknown person(s) has driven a vehicle onto field, in Gayton Road, Blisworth, damaged crops and dumped rubbish. Incident Details: 22000362677. 61 residents logged on with the Neighbourhood Watch Alerts system. Cllr Read will continue to share relevant updates via the Blisworth Parish Facebook page. Residents can sign up to Neighbourhood Alert on the following link <a href="http://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk">www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk</a>. Cllr Read wishes to apply for Northamptonshire Police Community Fund support for a further VAS machine and would ask for Parish Council support with this. Agreed.</p> <p><b>Community Speed Watch (CSW):</b> Cllr Read is investigating the commitment to register for the community speed watch process.</p> <p>Operation Snap has been set up to help keep our county's roads as safe as possible. It allows members of the public to report driving offences in the Northamptonshire area by filling out a form and uploading video evidence they have captured. Submitted footage and reports are then examined by roads policing officers and can be used to take action against drivers found to be breaking the law. Northamptonshire Police will investigate the following offences through Operation Snap:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dangerous driving</li> <li>• Driving without due care and attention</li> <li>• Careless driving</li> <li>• Using a mobile phone while driving</li> <li>• Not wearing a seatbelt</li> <li>• Failing to stop at a red traffic light</li> <li>• Crossing solid white lines</li> <li>• Offences where a driver is clearly not in proper control of a vehicle.</li> </ul> <p>Operation Snap cannot be used to report road traffic collisions. These have to be submitted separately. Please note that residents that submit a report through Operation Snap must be willing to attend court to give evidence, should the case go that far. Any footage submitted through Operation Snap must NOT be placed on social media as this may affect any subsequent legal proceedings. Cllr Read will continue to raise awareness of Operation Snap through social media.</p>	Cllr Read
13.	<p><b>Gateway Update.</b> Update from Cllr Wilson. Cllr Wilson is to attend the next SEGRO Logistics Park Northampton - Community Liaison Group Meeting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and will stress councillors' concerns specifically with regard to its fundamental change in use (from a rail/freight terminal to a warehousing development with the increase in associated road traffic) and with regard to the amended height of unit(s) which will therefore impact on the environment (light and noise) and should require that relevant surveys/modelling be re-done. It was noted that Andrea Leadsom MP has reported on her website that she will not agree with any change to the planning specification allowing SEGRO to amend the Development Consent Order to allow movement of goods ahead of the completion of the</p>	Cllr Wilson

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	<p>rail/freight terminal. <a href="https://www.andrealeadsom.com/news/srfi-northampton-gateway-update-june-2022">https://www.andrealeadsom.com/news/srfi-northampton-gateway-update-june-2022</a>.</p> <p>Cllr Wilson will update the council at the next Blisworth Parish Council meeting.</p>																									
14.	<p><b>Discuss approach to planning development for land west of Northampton Road.</b> Cllr Read and Cllr Brown to complete an objection for the planned development. Blisworth Parish Council to report on the details of the proposed development via the next Round &amp; About to ensure all affected residents (including those without access to online resources) are aware of the details. District Cllr Cooper to include a section to advise residents with regard to the planning process at West Northants Council. A bulleted point list of the Council’s objections to be included in the Round &amp; About to inform residents.</p>	<p>Clerk Cllr Read &amp; Cllr Brown District Cllr Cooper</p>																								
15.	<p><b>Discuss outcomes from parish councils meeting on 28.06.2022.</b> Agreed that the way forward was to continue to facilitate 2-way collective approach working with the parishes, District Councillors and West Northants Council.</p>																									
16.	<p><b>Finance &amp; Administration</b> <b>Banking Issues:</b> <b>Option to set up a credit card for the Council in the light of growing number of companies that will not accept cheques as payment. Update from Clerk.</b> Auditor advised we move to internet banking as cheques will soon be phased out. Clerk to seek further information from a range of banks with regard to internet banking, credit cards, pre-loaded cards and associated bank charges and to seek further advice from auditor.</p> <p>a. Bank reconciliation to <b>20.06.2022.</b></p> <p><b>CLOSING BANK POSITION AS AT 20/06/2022</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Nat west</b></td> <td><b>CURRENT ACCOUNT 08684642</b></td> <td><b>20/06/2022</b></td> <td><b>£33,470.32</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>NatWest</b></td> <td><b>RESERVE ACCOUNT 40578429</b></td> <td><b>20/06/2022</b></td> <td><b>£37,535.92</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Uncashed cheques:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>3052 Alan North</td> <td align="right">62.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3060 A Billing</td> <td align="right">733.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3063 A Billing</td> <td align="right">40.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3065 A Billing</td> <td align="right">41.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3066 B Osborne</td> <td align="right">67.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3068 BVH&amp;PFA</td> <td align="right">55.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3069 A Billing</td> <td align="right">6.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="right"><b>Total Uncashed cheques</b></td> <td align="right"><b>1,006.45</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Closing Balance As At 20/06/2022</b></p> <p align="right"><b>£69,999.79</b></p>	<b>Nat west</b>	<b>CURRENT ACCOUNT 08684642</b>	<b>20/06/2022</b>	<b>£33,470.32</b>	<b>NatWest</b>	<b>RESERVE ACCOUNT 40578429</b>	<b>20/06/2022</b>	<b>£37,535.92</b>	3052 Alan North	62.00	3060 A Billing	733.50	3063 A Billing	40.46	3065 A Billing	41.99	3066 B Osborne	67.50	3068 BVH&PFA	55.00	3069 A Billing	6.00	<b>Total Uncashed cheques</b>	<b>1,006.45</b>	<p>Clerk</p>
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	<p><b>b. To note receipts and approve the following payments and any others that arrive after publication of the agenda:</b> Invoice from Northants CALC, Off to a Flying Start Training Course (£52.80 including £8.80 VAT) received after publication of the agenda (see below).</p>	
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<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
31/05/2022	NatWest	Interest	£2.91*
			*BR Account
21/05/2022 to 13/06/2022	Various	Allotment Rents 2022 – 2023	£480.00**
			**Current Account

<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
<b>Invoice</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>CHQ/DD</b>	<b>Total Amount Including VAT</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Amount Excluding VAT</b>
015	Alan North	Production of master copies of Round and About Issue 145, June – July	3073	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
May 2022	SSE	Electricity Supply 04.05.2022 - 01.06.2022	DD	£100.10	£4.76	£95.34
	Waves	Water Supply	DD	£88.00	£0.00	£88.00
203031695061	IONOS	Website Fee 03/07/2022	DD	£10.80	£1.80	£9.00
2866	AG Sign & Display	Sign for Eastfield Play Area x 2 £85.00 each	3074	£170.00	£0.00	£170.00
J Steeper	Janet Steeper	Materials and patches for queen's cloak and Banner - Jubilee Event	3075	£31.79	£0.00	£31.79
R J Kennedy	Rodney John Kennedy	Essential Hand Towels - Jubilee Event	3076	£19.37	£0.00	£19.37
1886	Northants CALC Ltd	NCALC Subscription YE 2023 & Data Protection Officer Fee	3077	£983.70	£59.00	£924.70
P Kennedy	Paulette Kennedy	Plants & compost for village planters	3078	£125.00	£0.00	£125.00
4129	N&P Garden Services	Grass Cut inclu Eastfield Park w/c 06/06/22 £615.00 & w/c 20/06/22 £615.00 Plus £5.00 cheque fee	3079	£1,482.00	£247.00	£1,235.00
	A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses June 2022 (25.05.2022 - 28.06.2022)	3080	£54.18	£0.00	£54.18
	A Billing	Reimburse Payment: Litter Group 3 x £15.00 National Book Tokens	3081	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00
MY17613518	My-Accessories.co.uk	38mm Pin Badges x 200 for Litter Group	3082	£31.67	£5.28	£26.39

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	A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary June 2022	3083	£733.50	£0.00	£733.50
	Blisworth Friendship Group	S137 Grant towards boat trip	3084	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
2102*	Northants CALC Ltd	Off to a Flying Start Course	3085	£52.80	£8.80	£44.00
				<b>£4,227.91</b>	<b>£326.64</b>	<b>£3,901.27</b>

\*Where Invoice/Receipt received after agenda was published

17.	<b>Discuss approach to the Litter Group funds. Resolve to agree ring fencing of £460.05 for the Litter group subject to the proviso that any funds released will be used to pay invoices directly related to Litter group activity. Update from Clerk. Agreed. Clerk to check with auditor if this should be allocated to the S137 budget.</b>	Clerk
18.	<b>Resolve to consider and approve annual subscription to SNAST NHW for the year covering 1st June 2022 to 31st May 2023 at an annual subscription of £25.00. Approved</b>	Clerk
19.	<b>Resolve to amend and approve the Performance Management Appraisal and Development plan to read: 'One or more member(s) of the HR Committee will conduct the review, with input from other members of the Council (using Performance Review Form 2).' This will deal with any valid concern about conflict of interests and uses the HR Committee as devolved by the Parish Council. Approved.</b>	Clerk

20.	<b>Planning &amp; Development.</b>		
	<b>Application &amp; Date Comments Due</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
	WNS_2022_1075_FUL  Comments due: <b>19 July 2022</b>	Land Adjacent 11 Greenside Blisworth	2-bedroom bungalow
	Amendment to Application WNS_2022_1075_FUL, Land Adjacent 11 Greenside, Blisworth received post Agenda: Deferred to August Council Meeting. Extension obtained: Comments by <b>3 August 2022.</b>		
	WNS_2022_1141_FUL  Comments due: <b>6 July 2022</b>	25 Courteenhall Road, Blisworth, Northamptonshire, NN7 3DD	Proposal 1 x New dwelling.
	Agreed to send a comment stating no objections to the build itself but expressing concerns regarding the delivery and removal of materials, including the demolition process, given that the side entrance is on a single-track lane leading to other properties and onto the congested Courteenhall Road opposite the school. Cllr Billing to Action.		
	WNS_2022_1230_FUL  Comments due: <b>13 July 2022</b>	30 Pond Bank Blisworth NN7 3EL	Proposed two storey extension to side together with alterations to garage.

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Amendment to Application WNS_2022_1230_FUL, 30 Pond Bank Blisworth NN7 3EL, received post Agenda: Deferred to August Council Meeting. Extension obtained: Comments by <b>3 August 2022</b> .		
WNS_2022_1134_MAO  Comments due: <b>5 August 2022</b>	Land to the west Northampton Road Blisworth Northants Towcester NN7 3DW	Proposed Redevelopment of Site to Provide Commercial Units (up to 182,000 sq. Ft of floorspace) for Use Class E(g), B2 and B8 Purposes and associated works. Outline Application with all Matters Reserved aside from Access.
Agreed to submit an objection. Cllr Read and Cllr Brown to finalise objection.		

21.	<p><b>Village Maintenance &amp; Open Spaces:</b></p> <p>a. <b>Play area:</b></p> <p>i. <b>Monthly safety inspection report:</b> Update from Cllr Wilson. No issues to report other than slight amount of litter and also concerns regarding the bolts on the benches which are slightly loose. Agreed that Cllr Billing would check the bolts.</p> <p>ii. <b>Signage for Eastfield Play Area:</b> Update from Clerk. New signs installed. Agreed Cllr Wilson and Cllr Billing would inspect other signs at the Play Area with a view to removing surplus signs. Signage relating to Covid information to be stored.</p> <p>b. <b>Defibrillator: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues.</b> Update from Cllr Read. Visual safety check undertaken and no issues noted.</p> <p>c. <b>Allotments &amp; Closed Cemetery:</b> Update from the Chairman. Chairman to get quotes for overgrown vegetation. Some allotments rent outstanding. Chairman to speak to allotment holders.</p>	<p>Cllr Billing</p> <p>Cllr Billing &amp; Cllr Wilson</p> <p>Cllr Billing</p>
22.	<p><b>Feedback from Council Surgery held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022.</b> A resident reported an abandoned van - Notice from Environmental Health served. Separate issues concerning accumulation of overgrown vegetation and rubbish from private properties reported – with residents’ permission, details passed onto EnvironmentAnimalandPestServices.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk.</p>	
23.	<p><b>Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative from the Council for 12th July 2022.</b> Cllr Wilson and District Cllr Cooper volunteered to attend. Police representative to also attend. Cllr Read to advertise on Facebook. Clerk to add notice to website.</p>	<p>Cllr Wilson Cllr Read Cllr Cooper Clerk</p>
24.	<p>Request for a 25–30-year lease of allotment land from Blisworth Football Club Limited. Update from Clerk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Football Club have asked for support with their project via the Gateway grant.</li> <li>• Local solicitors have confirmed that they hold deeds for land at Blisworth (may not be deeds to the allotments).</li> </ul> <p>Agreed that Clerk should write to the Football Club asking them to provide a written proposal outlining the benefit of their project to the residents of Blisworth Parish and their commitments to support the local residents. Clerk authorised to collect deeds from solicitors.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
25.	<p><b>Resolve to include an extra page in the next Round and About.</b> Agreed to add an extra colour page to go in the November/December issue to mark the end of the Queen’s Jubilee. Note to be added in the next issue and a request from residents for photos from the Jubilee events. Clerk to contact Round and About editor. The price for an extra page for the Jubilee pictures is £150 in colour and for black and white is £70.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
26.	<p><b>Public Session:</b></p>	

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	<p>a. District Councillor Report. (Report circulated separately ahead of the meeting). Cllr Cooper proposed reporting back to parish councils, key points of immediate relevance to the local community from cabinet meetings and full council meetings at WNC. She will be discussing with colleagues at WNC the need for WNC to engage with local parishes and district councillors to share expertise and engagement, and how can we best achieve this. Councillors responded that the immediate challenge was the lack of a strategic planning policy that recognised the impact of all the developments on local roads and communities particularly given the lack of resources available to Highways. Councillors recognised the expertise of district councillors and the need to engage around the local plan and that the voice of local parish councils representing the residents' concerns needed to be heard.</p> <p>b. Members of the public.</p> <p>(i) Member of the public provided further insight into the proposal of an extra leaflet to be added to the Round and About to include photographs to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee events including confirmation of costs.</p> <p>(ii) A member of the public offered to be co-opted onto the Council and gave a short personal introduction. They went on to comment on two planning issues which had been considered during the Council meeting. Firstly, on the planning application for land west of Northampton Road (Planning Application: WNS_2022_1134_MAO), they had already commented on a personal basis. They observed it was not easy to find relevant information among the myriad of documents that had been submitted on the planning portal. The document titles were unhelpful and some of the information they contained was contradictory. A particularly worrying matter was that it was proposed that the sizes of units was to be a "reserved matter" for later decision. However, if large units were given permission this would likely increase HGV movements through Blisworth compared with a larger number of smaller units. Secondly, regarding Northampton Gateway, they regarded the likely proposal to start trading before construction of the rail freight facility as tantamount to abuse of process. Northampton Gateway had been given permission on the basis that it was "Strategic Infrastructure." HM Planning Inspectorate were warned during public hearings that there was little spare capacity on the railway and Network Rail did not give evidence. Many local people suspected that the strategic element was just a ploy to bypass local planning processes and this is how it seems to be turning out. HMG policy was aimed at reducing road freight, The Northampton Gateway proposal would increase it, particularly locally.</p>	
27.	<p><b>Response to issues raised in the public session.</b></p> <p><b>Members of the Public</b></p> <p>(i) Agreed as noted Minute Point: 25. Cllr Read suggested looking for sponsors to cover the costs. Clerk to investigate possibility of local sponsorship.</p> <p>(ii) The Council noted comments regarding the planning application for land west of Northampton Road (Planning Application: WNS_2022_1134_MAO) and issues regarding SEGRO's amendment to the Northampton Gateway development. Councillors thanked and welcomed the application for parish councillor. Clerk to process the application.</p>	Clerk  Clerk
28.	<p><b>To agree the date of next meeting Monday, 1st August 2022 at 7.30pm. Agreed</b></p>	
29.	<p><b>Close. The meeting closed at 10:10 pm.</b></p>	

**Signed:**

**Chairman..... Date:**

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**Please see the clerk for a copy of the signed minutes.**