

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Email: blisworthparishcouncil@gmail.com

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

Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.30 pm.**

Present:

Cllr Billing, Chair
Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chair
Cllr D Wilson
Cllr M Field
Cllr W Root
Cllr B Brown
District Cllr K Cooper

Also present: 1 Member of the public
Clerk: Angela Billing

		Action
1.	To receive apologies. Apologies received from Cllr Gardner and Cllr Hawkins. The Council resolved to accept the apologies.	
2.	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. None received.	
3.	To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 7th November 2022. Approved	
4.	To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only. None noted.	
5.	Clerk's report circulated separately. Noted	
6.	<p>Public Session:</p> <p>a. District Councillor Report. Circulated ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>i) Cllr Cooper had attended the Blisworth Friendship Group. She congratulated the group organisers for the wonderful services they provided; including organising the collection of residents so that residents could attend.</p> <p>ii) West Northants Council (WNC) can award a Warm Welcoming Spaces Grant to support the creation and/or development of Warm Welcoming Spaces across West Northamptonshire to support residents struggling with fuel costs. These awards can now be made to parish councils as well as community/voluntary organisations and registered charities (£500 up to £1500). The grant process will close on 1 March 2023.</p> <p>iii) The Local Government Boundary Commission have proposed that West Northants Council should have 77 councillors for West Northamptonshire from the election in 2025. West Northants Council proposes 35 wards with either one, two or three councillors per ward. The proposals were reviewed in November 2022. The review is expected to end in July 2023.</p> <p>iv) Cllr Cooper asked about the plans for the funds available to Blisworth Parish Council as a result of the impact of the SEGRO Gateway development.</p> <p>b. Members of the public.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A member of the public reported on the Blisworth Directory: They are currently asking groups/organisations to check the contact details they hold are correct and also checking that they have permission to publish all contact details, in particular personal contact details. It is hoped that the information will have been received in time to publish early in 2023. ii. The Village Hall have applied for the Gigaclear Hub for free internet access (as suggested by Blisworth Parish Council) and they are awaiting a response. iii. Concerns raised with regard to the footpaths particularly those outside the bungalows at Connegar Leys. These bungalows have built-in facilities to aid mobility access however the footpaths are not fit for use for mobility scooters, pushchairs or for any residents with mobility issues and in addition there are no dropped kerbs to allow access to cross the roads. 	
7.	<p>Response to issues raised in the public session.</p> <p>With regard to the funds from the impact of the SEGRO Gateway development, Blisworth Parish Council are prioritising the traffic issues in the village as this is a major cause of concern for residents. It was noted 655 speeding vehicles in High Street were recorded in Blisworth with a top speed of 61 mph. Blisworth Parish Council are seeking full engagement with Highways and asking for their professional advice to ascertain what options, with the available funds, will have the most impact in terms of traffic calming. Another major concern is the footpaths and this will be addressed once a working response from Highways has been received.</p>	Clerk

8.	Planning and Development.					
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Application & Date Comments Due</th><th>Location</th><th>Description</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>WNS_2022_2138_FUL Comments by 9/12/2022.</td><td>4 Pond Bank, Blisworth, Northamptonshire, NN7 3EL</td><td>Rear single and side garage extension. No objection.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Application & Date Comments Due	Location	Description	WNS_2022_2138_FUL Comments by 9/12/2022.	4 Pond Bank, Blisworth, Northamptonshire, NN7 3EL
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20/00076/WASFUL Comments by 13/12/2022.	Old Blisworth STW, Northampton Road, Blisworth	The proposed construction of an inert waste recycling facility. Additional information has been received in respect of the above application upon which you have previously been consulted. A copy of the amended details is available at: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/planningapplications Cllr Wilson reported that the supplementary information for this application does not refer to Blisworth's concerns about level, volume and quality of traffic through the village and does not note Blisworth's original objection, though it makes reference to objections submitted by other parish councils. The planning department				

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			<p>dealing with this application have acknowledged that they did receive Blisworth Parish Council's original objection 10th February 2021 (confirmed by the Clerk at Cllr Read's request).</p> <p>Objection Clerk to submit a further objection stating that the supplementary information does not address the issues initially raised in Blisworth Parish Council's original objection with regard to the level, volume and quality of traffic through the village.</p>
	<p>Comments by 15/12/2022.</p>	<p>86 Connegar Leys Blisworth NN7 3DF</p>	<p>Two storey side extension, single storey front and rear extension, render/external wall insulation finish</p> <p>No objection.</p>

<p>9. Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read.</p> <p>This month we have had one resident contact us through social media. The resident had approach West Northamptonshire Council Highways Department on road safety issues in Stoke Road and received the below reply.</p> <p>Thank you for your enquiry relating to safety concerns on the Stoke Road, Blisworth. I am sorry to hear of the recent issues you have experienced whilst walking the route between the village and the tunnel car park. I can advise that some engineering measures have been introduced in recent years; namely in the form of a 30mph speed limit extension and gateway features, along with a vehicle activated sign and several hazard-warning signs.</p> <p>Having checked the collision history for this particular stretch of carriageway I can advise that none have been recorded in a 5-year period. It is therefore considered that no immediate engineering intervention is required and we are unable to justify the diversion of funding away from sites with a history of collisions.</p> <p>However, it may be prudent to contact the Parish Council who could have some funding from the nearby Gateway development at junction 15 of the M1. It is our understanding that they are considering a number of options for traffic calming at the entrances to the village. It may be that your suggestion is something they are willing to consider as part of this fund.</p> <p>Of interest to you - Whilst footways linking villages with other communities and amenities are beneficial, they require complex construction in order to ensure they meet current design requirements. For example, there may well be sections of the verge which are not wide enough to accommodate a 1.8m width footway, this would then necessitate works to pipe and fill sections of adjacent ditches. In addition, comprehensive drainage works would be required along the length of the road to allow rain water to drain from the road. As I am sure you can appreciate, this can require a huge level of funding which may not be easy to secure.</p> <p>Over the last 28 days we have had 594 direct engagements (clicks) on our social media pages and 3 new followers, bringing the total number of followers to 218 (70% of our</p>	
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	<p>followers are listed as women and 95 are listed as resident in Blisworth, the remainder listed in Northampton/Roade/Towcester). We have had a post reach of 3560 people (people who have our messages on their social media feeds). Our top performing post in the period was the posting of the grass cutting tender on 15 November which had an engagement of 239 people and a reach of 2,219 people.</p>	
10.	<p>Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read.</p> <p>A page to the main parish web site has been added with contact details for the Police and access links to the Neighbourhood Watch communication system. https://parish.blisworthvillage.org/neighbourhood-watch-and-police/</p> <p>Crime data for October has not been released at the time of this report.</p> <p>We still have 65 residents registered with the Neighbourhood alert system an increase in 3 residents over the month. There has been one crime alert. On Tuesday 29th November between 7:45pm and 8:15pm a male was seen on a doorbell camera attempting to open the door of a vehicle parked on a driveway in Buttmead, Blisworth. It is believed that the same male may have tried to access other vehicles in the village during the same time frame. Officers are actively investigating this crime and are appealing for any witness information.</p> <p>If you noticed anything suspicious in the area or have any CCTV , Doorbell Camera or Dash Camera footage covering the area between these times please contact Northamptonshire Police on 101 or follow the below online reporting link, quoting the occurrence number 220000699619.</p> <p>https://www.northants.police.uk/.../how-to-report-a-crime/ Anyone with CCTV will be sent a link once they have contacted the force control room so that it can be added to the occurrence report. Residents can provide confidential information should you wish to remain anonymous. These calls can be made to the Independent Charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org.</p>	
11.	<p>Report on data from SID/VAS devices: Update from Cllr Read.</p> <p>Data for the machine sited outside the Church on the High Street: In the period between 5 November and 4 December there were 126,641 vehicle movements (4,367 per day) with an average speed of 27.3 mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 31 mph. This means that 655 vehicles daily speed through High Street. The top speed recorded was 61 mph. The VAS has been relocated to the new pole in Courteenhall Road. When the new machine funded by the Community Police fund arrives, it will be positioned in Stoke Road.</p>	Cllr Read
12.	<p>Gateway Update. Update from Cllr Wilson.</p> <p>The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 10th January 2023.</p>	
13.	<p>Finance Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Discuss and agree Terms of Reference. Agreed. b) Discuss and agree appointment of attendees. Agreed. c) Discuss and agree appointment of Lead Councillor. Agreed. <p>A Finance Committee was initially considered however Blisworth Parish Council is a small parish council and a finance committee would incur further costs to the residents (Clerk's hours and hire of a public meeting space). This may be an option in the future but it was agreed to have a Finance Working Group initially. The Finance Working Group will have no powers and will monitor the Council's finances and make recommendations only. All decisions and actions must be agreed at a Full Council</p>	Clerk

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	<p>meeting. To ensure transparency for the public, the Working Group will report fully to Full Council meetings about all discussions, recommendations and reports. Core members to include Cllr Root, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Brown and attendance by the Clerk, with Cllr Root as the Lead Councillor. All meetings will be advertised to all Councillors well in advance so that any Councillors can attend meetings.</p> <p>Clerk to update attendees and Lead Councillor details on the TOR and publish on the website.</p>	
14.	<p>Discuss S137 grant application on behalf of Blisworth Litter Group and agree next steps. A S137 grant for £353.33 was approved for the Blisworth Litter Group as per advice received from Cllr Moody from NCALC. Blisworth Litter Group will provide updates and receipts as agreed in their grant application for the Council's information.</p>	Clerk
15.	<p>Discuss provision of 'warm spaces' and agree next steps.</p> <p>The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to take opinion from the public. District Cllr Cooper stated that she would be happy to volunteer. It was noted that the Village Hall has parking which eases access issues and has the benefit of proximity of the school for parents in addition to proposing to supply free use of the rooms.</p> <p>The Chairman resumed standing orders.</p> <p>It was agreed to approach West Northants Council for further funding which is now open to parish councils (initially only other groups/organisations/registered charities could apply for 'warm room' grants from WNC).</p> <p>Cllr Brown and Cllr Billing to liaise with the Village Hall and the Baptist Chapel and District Cllr Cooper with the view to:</p> <p>Support the Baptist Chapel to advertise the provision that they are currently providing, to liaise with the Baptist Chapel in order to extend their hours of provision where possible and to also advertise for volunteers in order to enable a pilot scheme at the Village Hall.</p>	Cllr Billing Cllr Brown
16.	<p>Village Maintenance & Open Spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Play area: Monthly safety inspection report: Update from Cllr Wilson. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified. We are still waiting for Wicksteed to agree works for the small car. Cllr Read reported that until the invoice is cleared, the Parish Council cannot apply for future lottery grants. Clerk to submit payment for the new play equipment (equivalent to the Lottery Fund) and withhold payment for the small car until issues are resolved. b. Defibrillator: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified. c. Allotments & Closed Cemetery. Update from Cllr Billing. Final requests for outstanding allotment fees submitted. Cllr Billing to discuss further with allotment holders. Cllr Billing suggested that the conditions of the tenancy agreement be changed to state no livestock in the future. Cllr Field raised the option of positioning slabs at the start of the Closed Cemetery steps (Pond Bank exit). Cllr Billing to obtain quotes for slabs/gravel to improve drainage and level. 	Clerk Clerk Cllr Billing
17.	<p>Internal Control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Internal Control Checklist: Checks completed by Cllr Field. Noted. b) Financial & Management Risk Assessment: 	

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	To receive declarations of gifts/hospitality and review record of gifts/hospitality received by Councillors or the Clerk to date. None received.																																											
18.	<p>Finance & Administration</p> <p>Banking Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Budget 2023-2024: Review and discuss Draft Budget for 2023-2024 and agree next steps. Strategy not to increase the precept demand agreed. Draft budget to be reviewed once grass tenders opened. Final budget to be agreed at January 2023 Full Council meeting. b. Bank reconciliation to 05/12/2022: £83,435.15 <p>CLOSING BANK POSITION AS AT 18/11/2022</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nat west</td> <td>CURRENT ACCOUNT:</td> <td>£50,762.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NatWest</td> <td>RESERVE ACCOUNT:</td> <td>£37,564.41</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Uncashed cheques/Payments:</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr><td>3168 Shire Lumsden Inv 00022190</td><td>£140.00</td></tr> <tr><td>3169 Flower Craft Nursery</td><td>£63.00</td></tr> <tr><td>3171 A Billing October Salary</td><td>£733.50</td></tr> <tr><td>3174 NP Garden Service w/c 03/10/2022 & w/c 24/10/2022</td><td>£1,482.00</td></tr> <tr><td>3175 Clerk's Expenses October 2022</td><td>£35.75</td></tr> <tr><td>3176 NCALC VAT Recovery Process</td><td>£92.20</td></tr> <tr><td>3177 RBL The Poppy Appeal Poppy Wreath</td><td>£25.00</td></tr> <tr><td>3178 N&P Garden Services</td><td>£744.00</td></tr> <tr><td>3179 A Billing November Salary & Back pay</td><td>£1,123.24</td></tr> <tr><td>3180 A Billing Expenses November 2022</td><td>£20.00</td></tr> <tr><td>3181 HMRC Nat Insurance Contributions</td><td>£62.08</td></tr> <tr><td>3182 Hassett Plant Centre</td><td>£164.89</td></tr> <tr><td>Unprocessed DD SSE October 2022</td><td>£100.10</td></tr> <tr><td>Unprocessed DD Website September 2022</td><td>£5.65</td></tr> <tr><td>Unprocessed DD Website October 2022</td><td>£6.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Unprocessed DD Website December 2022</td><td>£6.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Unprocessed DD Water Supply December 2022</td><td>£88.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: right;">Total Uncashed payments</td><td>£4,891.41</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Closing Balance as at 05/12/2022 £83,435.15</p> <p>c. To note receipts and approve the following payments and any others that arrive after publication of the agenda:</p>	Nat west	CURRENT ACCOUNT:	£50,762.15	NatWest	RESERVE ACCOUNT:	£37,564.41	3168 Shire Lumsden Inv 00022190	£140.00	3169 Flower Craft Nursery	£63.00	3171 A Billing October Salary	£733.50	3174 NP Garden Service w/c 03/10/2022 & w/c 24/10/2022	£1,482.00	3175 Clerk's Expenses October 2022	£35.75	3176 NCALC VAT Recovery Process	£92.20	3177 RBL The Poppy Appeal Poppy Wreath	£25.00	3178 N&P Garden Services	£744.00	3179 A Billing November Salary & Back pay	£1,123.24	3180 A Billing Expenses November 2022	£20.00	3181 HMRC Nat Insurance Contributions	£62.08	3182 Hassett Plant Centre	£164.89	Unprocessed DD SSE October 2022	£100.10	Unprocessed DD Website September 2022	£5.65	Unprocessed DD Website October 2022	£6.00	Unprocessed DD Website December 2022	£6.00	Unprocessed DD Water Supply December 2022	£88.00	Total Uncashed payments	£4,891.41	
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RECEIPTS			
Date	Payee	Detail	Amount
31/10/2022	NatWest	Interest	£12.24*
			*BR Account

PAYMENTS						
Invoice	PAYEE	PURPOSE	CHQ/ DD	Total Amount including VAT	VAT	Amount Excluding VAT
October 2022/0017	SSE	Electricity Supply 04.10.2022 - 01.11.2022	DD	100.10	4.76	95.34
INV-2355	Northants CALC Ltd	VAT Recovery Process	3176	92.20	92.20	0.00
	RBL The Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath	3177	25.00	0.00	25.00
4273	N&P Garden Services	Grass cutting village verges and Play Area w/c 21/11/2022 Plus Cheque Payment fee	3178	744.00	124.00	620.00
	Waves	Water Supply	DD	88.00	0.00	88.00
	IONOS	Website Fee	DD	6.00	1.00	5.00
	A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary November 2022 Plus Back dated pay	3179	1,123.24	0.00	1,123.24
	A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses November 2022 (01.11.2022 - 29.11.2022)	3180	20.00	0.00	20.00
120PF00323366230 8	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Contributions November Salary plus back dated pay rise	3181	62.08	0.00	62.08
40097	Hassett Plant Centre	Prunus Accolade Jubilee Tree	3182	164.89	27.48	137.41
Total				£2,425.51	£249.44	£2,176.07

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19.	Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for Tuesday, 13th December 2022 .	Cllr Wilson Cllr Hawkins
20.	Councillors' reports and items for future agenda. a) Leaves on High Street by Canal Bridge b) Position of prunus accolade	Cllr Field Cllr Billing
21.	To agree the date of next meeting: Monday, 9th January 2023 at 7.30pm. Agreed.	
22.	Close. The meeting closed at 9.14 pm.	

Signed: Chairman..... Date:

Please see the Clerk for a copy of the signed minutes