

## BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Billing, Chair  
 Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chair  
 Cllr D Wilson  
 Cllr W Root  
 Cllr B Brown  
 District Cllr K Cooper

Also present: 3 Members of the public  
 Clerk: Angela Billing

		Action
1.	To receive apologies. Apologies received from Cllr Gardner, Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Field. 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 5th December 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.	Electricity charging points – presentation from Char.gy. Char.gy delivered their presentation to install 5 charging points for electric cars (via standalone charging posts or via charging points attached to lampposts). The presentation itemised the potential benefits for electric car owners in the village and any income that the scheme would potentially generate for Blisworth Parish Council. Councillors highlighted possible issues with the locations Char.gy had already identified in Blisworth. It was agreed to firstly seek residents’ opinions via Blisworth Council’s website, social media and Round and About newsletter. Char.gy to provide supplementary information for residents and provide opportunity for residents to attend a further presentation if there is demand.	Clerk Cllr Read Cllr Billing
7.	Public Session: a. District Councillor Report. (i) West Northants Council Councillor Covid Support Fund 2022/23 Blisworth Baptist Church has benefited from £1166.78 to purchase heating panels to replace inefficient and failing panels. The heaters were installed before Christmas and have made a huge difference.  (ii) Proposed development at land west of Northampton Road WNS/2022/1134/MAO	

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	<p>A date for this planning application to be heard by the Strategic Planning Committee has not been set as yet. Cllr Cooper will notify the Council once a date has been assigned.</p> <p>(iii) West Northants Council Draft Budget 2023/24 Consultation There is the link for all residents/community groups to respond to West Northants Council’s Draft Budget 2023/24 Consultation. <a href="https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/budget-2023-24/">https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/budget-2023-24/</a></p> <p>b. Members of the public. A member of public outlined progress on the Village Directory. It is hoped that the amendments can be updated and be ready for printing at the end of March. The Blisworth Community Projects Group proposes to ask group(s) to support the organisation of celebrations for the coronation of King Charles III.</p>										
8.	<p>Response to issues raised in the public session.</p> <p>a. (ii) Proposed development at land west of Northampton Road WNS/2022/1134/MAO. Once a date has been allocated, the Council will seek to submit representation at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting.</p> <p>a. (iii) West Northants Council Draft Budget 2023/24 Consultation – Clerk to post link on Blisworth Parish Council website.</p> <p>b. Noted.</p>	Clerk									
9.	<p>Planning and Development.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="199 1030 1356 1624"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="199 1030 518 1108"><b>Application &amp; Date Comments Due</b></th> <th data-bbox="518 1030 726 1108"><b>Location</b></th> <th data-bbox="726 1030 1356 1108"><b>Description</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="199 1108 518 1344">WNS/2022/2392/FUL  Comments by <b>10/01/2023</b></td> <td data-bbox="518 1108 726 1344">12 Stoke Road Blisworth NN7 3BZ</td> <td data-bbox="726 1108 1356 1344">Remove existing stone wall, reduce garden level to create off road parking and access to the highway.  <b>No Objections.</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="199 1344 518 1624">WNS/2022/2425/DCO R  <b>For information only</b></td> <td data-bbox="518 1344 726 1624">NGRFI Land west of M1-J15</td> <td data-bbox="726 1344 1356 1624">Proposal Requirement 25,(1) - Land Contamination Risk Assessment Works No. 12 and 13 Works No.14 [Approval of details pursuant to Schedule 2 Requirement of The Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order 2019]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Application &amp; Date Comments Due</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	WNS/2022/2392/FUL  Comments by <b>10/01/2023</b>	12 Stoke Road Blisworth NN7 3BZ	Remove existing stone wall, reduce garden level to create off road parking and access to the highway.  <b>No Objections.</b>	WNS/2022/2425/DCO R  <b>For information only</b>	NGRFI Land west of M1-J15	Proposal Requirement 25,(1) - Land Contamination Risk Assessment Works No. 12 and 13 Works No.14 [Approval of details pursuant to Schedule 2 Requirement of The Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order 2019]	
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10.	<p>Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read.</p> <p>Over the last 28 days there has been 83 direct engagements (clicks) on our social media pages. The total number of followers is 218 people (70% of our followers are listed as women and 95 are listed as resident in Blisworth, the remainder listed in Northampton/Road/Towcester). There has been a post reach of 363 people. The top performing post in the period was the post concerning parking complaints around the primary school. Residents were advised not to post on social media and report to the police non-emergency channels. This led to 264 people reached and 64 direct engagements, 7 comments, 5 likes and 5 click throughs to the police (operation snap) link.</p>										
11.	<p>Police &amp; Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read.</p>										

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	<p>Crime data for October 2022: 5 crimes were reported in the Blisworth Parish: 2 Antisocial Behaviour and 3 Violence and Sexual Offences</p> <p>Crime data for November 2023: 14 crimes were reported in the Blisworth Parish 6 Violence and Sexual Offences, 3 Antisocial Behaviour, 2 Criminal Damage and arson, 1 Public Order, 1 Vehicle Theft and 1 Other Crime.</p> <p>6 crimes were reported at two residential properties. There were 6 crimes reported at Blisworth Tunnel Boats during October and November.</p> <p>The grant from the Police Community Foundation for the additional VAS machine has now been expended and the machine installed in Courteenhall Road. Blisworth Parish Council would like to express its thanks to the Police Community Foundation for this support. There are 66 residents registered with the Neighbourhood alert system an increase in 1 resident over the month. There have been no crime alerts applicable to the parish. Regular updates about local crime and matters of priority within South Northants are available on Neighbourhood Alert: <a href="http://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk/">www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk/</a>.</p> <p>These are also published on Blisworth Parish social media. Cllr Read noted that cybercrime is not the police statistics. Cllr Read will attend the South Northants Neighbourhood Watch meeting and will raise the issue of cybercrime and ask for suggestions regarding how residents can protect themselves against cybercrime.</p>	<p>Cllr Read</p>
12.	<p>Report on data from SID/VAS devices: Update from Cllr Read.</p> <p>Thanks to the Police Community Grant there are now three VAS units across the village. These are sighted at Towcester Road and the units listed below:-</p> <p>VAS unit in Stoke Road</p> <p>This unit was installed on 20/12/2022. In the period between 20 December and 8 January (19 days) there were 38,564 vehicle movements (2,030 per day) with an average speed of 30.1 mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 35 mph. This means that over 300 vehicles daily speed on Stoke Road adjacent the doctor’s surgery and through the restricted residential area. The top speed recorded was 91 mph.</p> <p>VAS unit in Courteenhall Road</p> <p>This unit ran out of battery on 24 December so readings were not achieved after this. In the period between 4 December and 24 December (20 days) there were 73,120 vehicle movements (3,656 per day) with an average speed of 33.2mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 35 mph. This means that approximately 550 vehicles daily speed down Courteenhall Road adjacent residential properties. The top speed recorded was 78 mph. All data is submitted to the police. Cllr Read stated that there is a need to organise the data to support applications with Highways and also planning applications. Cllr Read also noted the need to share skills with regard to maintaining the VAS units. Cllr Root and Cllr Brown volunteered to support Cllr Read with the data and Cllr Billing volunteered to support Cllr Read with the maintenance of the VAS units.</p>	<p>Cllr Read Cllr Root Cllr Brown Cllr Billing</p>
13.	<p>Gateway Update: Update from Cllr Wilson.</p> <p>Agreed that Cllr Brown to canvas opinion of residences in Knock Lane regarding the impact of traffic as a result of the new roundabout and the new road layout on the Blisworth Road and Knock Lane.</p> <p>Cllr Wilson to raise the issue of whether the date for the 9-day blockade for work on the SRFI has been confirmed with Network Rail. Cllr Brown reported that SEGRO were still not able to provide information relating to the future level of fines for vehicles exiting</p>	<p>Cllr Brown Cllr Wilson</p>

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	the site and using the roundabout to access the A508. SEGRO did say that they would be monitoring the number of breaches and number of fines. Cllr Brown has asked SEGRO to confirm in writing that they are willing to share that data with Blisworth Parish Council. Cllr Wilson to check, at the SEGRO liaison meeting, if there will be local representation on their management board (during the operational phase of the site).	
14.	Discuss water supply arrangements and agree next steps. Deferred.	
15.	Provision of 'warm spaces': Update from Cllr Brown and Cllr Billing. Noted that the 'warm spaces' initiative could not be implemented at the Village Hall. This was due to a clash with commercial users of the Village Hall. The Parish Council has sought a grant from West Northants Council to support Blisworth Baptist Church with its current provision of a 'warm space' and also to extend its provision. Postcards have been ordered to promote the 'warm space' provision at the Blisworth Baptist Church. Councillors volunteered to help deliver the postcards.	Cllr Read Cllr Root Cllr Brown Cllr Billing Clerk
16.	Discuss street lights and car park in Ladyfield and agree next steps. Agreed that the Clerk will contact West Northants Council and the Ladyfield housing association to determine which group is responsible for all sections of the Ladyfield housing development and which sections have been adopted so that any future issues can be directed to the correct party.	Clerk
17.	Discuss car parking issues on roads adjacent to Blisworth Primary School and agree next steps. Cllr Hawkins had passed on her readiness to continue to liaise with the school.	Cllr Hawkins
18.	Discuss option to move to new website host provider and agree next steps. Deferred.	

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19.	<p><b>Village Maintenance &amp; Open Spaces:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Play area: Monthly safety inspection report: Update from Cllr Wilson. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified. A slab cut to size has been installed by Wicksteed under the play car. This raises the car off the ground without causing a trip hazard around the car.</li> <li>b. Defibrillator: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified.</li> <li>c. Allotments &amp; Closed Cemetery: Update from Cllr Billing. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified at the Closed Cemetery. There has been an issue of fly-tipping at the allotments. Cllr Billing will look to clear the area. Clerk to notify West Northants Council.</li> </ul>	Clerk														
20.	<p><b>Internal Control:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Internal Control Checklist: Update from Cllr Root. Satisfactory check undertaken.</li> <li>b) Financial &amp; Management Risk Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To receive declarations of gifts/hospitality and review record of gifts/hospitality received by Councillors or the Clerk to date. None received.</li> <li>ii. Discuss financial &amp; management risk assessment with regard to Blisworth Village Hall and agree next steps. Chairman suspended Standing Orders. Chairman resumed Standing Orders. Clerk to liase with Blisworth Village Hall and Playing Field Association to obtain copies of insurance and public liability documents. Clerk to seek clarification regarding deeds that Blisworth Parish Councils holds with regard to the Village Hall and/or the Playing Fields.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Clerk														
21.	<p><b>Finance &amp; Administration</b></p> <p><b>Banking Issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Finance Working Group Update from Cllr Root. Attendees for the Finance Working Group meeting on 19/12/2022: Cllr Root, Cllr Wilson and the Clerk. Items covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviewed Draft Budget for 2023-2024.</li> <li>2. Opened tenders for the grass contract.</li> </ul> Notes of the meeting and data circulated to all councillors ahead of full Blisworth Parish Council meeting. </li> <li>b. Budget 2023-2024: Review and approve Budget for 2023-2024. Update from Cllr Root. Agreed to maintain a flat budget and not increase the precept from last year. Agreed a precept demand of £43,400.00 for 2023-2024, in-line with last year's precept demand.</li> <li>c. Cutting and Maintaining areas within the village of Blisworth: Report on tender returns and recommendation for appointment of contractor for 2023-2025. Agreed to appoint Cut Crew.</li> <li>d. Bank reconciliation to date.</li> </ul> <p><b>CLOSING BANK POSITION AS AT 20/12/2022</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Nat west</b></td> <td><b>CURRENT ACCOUNT 08684642</b></td> <td><b>20/12/2022</b></td> <td><b>£46,112.39</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>NatWest</b></td> <td><b>RESERVE ACCOUNT 40578429</b></td> <td><b>20/12/2022</b></td> <td><b>£37,586.02</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Uncashed cheques/Payments:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>3169</td> <td>Flower Craft Nursery</td> <td>£63.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3176</td> <td>NCALC VAT Recovery Process</td> <td>£92.20</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Nat west</b>	<b>CURRENT ACCOUNT 08684642</b>	<b>20/12/2022</b>	<b>£46,112.39</b>	<b>NatWest</b>	<b>RESERVE ACCOUNT 40578429</b>	<b>20/12/2022</b>	<b>£37,586.02</b>	3169	Flower Craft Nursery	£63.00	3176	NCALC VAT Recovery Process	£92.20	
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3177	RBL The Poppy Appeal Poppy Wreath	£25.00
3182	Hassett Plant Centre	£164.89
3183	Alan North	£62.00
3184	Truvelo (UK) Ltd	£4,426.80
3185	Shire Lumsden Ltd	£140.00
3186	B J Osborne	£67.50
3187	Northants CALC Ltd	£160.80
3188	A Billing - Salary	£783.50
3189	A Billing - Expenses	£20.00
DD	IONOS	£6.00
DD	Waves	£88.00
3190	Blisworth Litter Group	£353.33
3191	Wicksteed Invoice	£9,514.80
3192	Merland Print & Copy Warm Room Postcards	£132.00
<b>Total Uncashed payments</b>		<b>£16,099.82</b>
<b>Closing Balance as at 09/01/2023</b>		<b>£67,598.59</b>
<p>e. Actual versus Budget for 2022-2023. Circulated ahead of meeting. Noted. Finance Working Group to discuss further options for interest only account(s) and reserves and feedback at the next full Blisworth Parish Council meeting with a view to plan future projects for the village.</p> <p>f. To note receipts and approve the following payments and any others that arrive after publication of the agenda: Noted that invoices from Wicksteed Leisure Ltd and Merland Copy &amp; Print shop received after publication of the agenda.</p>		

<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
30.11.2022	NatWest	Interest	£21.61*
			*BR Account

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PAYMENTS						
Invoice	PAYEE	PURPOSE	CHQ/ DD	Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount Excluding VAT
018	Alan North	Round & About Issue 148, Dec 2022 -Jan 2023	3183	£62.00	£0.00	£62.00
November 2022/0018	SSE	Electricity Supply 02.11.2022 - 01.12.2022	DD	£103.44	£4.92	£98.52
18426	Truvelo (UK) Ltd	Trusign 30CR Battery Power Kit, extra batteries, pole clamp & back plate	3184	£4,426.80	£737.80	£3,689.00
00022195	Shire Lumsden Ltd	R+A Leaflets	3185	£140.00	£0.00	£140.00
7246	B J Osborne	Barbara Osborne Business Services Payroll Services Oct 2022 - Dec 2022	3186	£67.50	£0.00	£67.50
INV-2622	Northants CALC Ltd	NCALC Courses: Budgeting for Clerks, Off to a flying start for Cllrs, Finance for Cllrs x 2	3187	£160.80	£26.80	£134.00
	A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary December 2022	3188	£783.50	£0.00	£783.50
	A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses December 2022 (30.11.2022 - 31.12.2022)	3189	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
01/01/2023 203034224550	IONOS	Website Fee - 31/12/2022- 31/01/2023	DD	£6.00	£1.00	£5.00
	Waves	Water Supply - 04/01/2023	DD	£88.00	£0.00	£88.00
	Blisworth Litter Group	S137 Grant for Blisworth Litter Group	3190	£353.33	£0.00	£353.33
DU837238*	WICKSTEED LEISURE LTD	Eastfield Play Area - Play Equipment	3191	£9,514.80	£1,585.80	£7,929.00
27834*	Merland Copy & Print shop	Warm Room Postcards	3192	132.00	22.00	£110.00
<b>Totals</b>				<b>£15,858.17</b>	<b>£2,378.32</b>	<b>£13,479.85</b>

\*Where Invoice/Receipt received after agenda was published

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3.	Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for <b>Tuesday, 10th January 2023</b> . Cllr Wilson and Cllr Billing volunteered to attend.	Cllr Billing Cllr Wilson
4.	To agree the date of next meeting: Monday, 6th February 2023 at 7.30pm. Agreed.	
5.	Close. Meeting closed at 10:00 pm.	

Signed: Chairman..... Date:

Please contact the Clerk for a copy of the signed minutes.