

## 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 6th February 2023 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Billing, Chair  
 Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chair  
 Cllr D Wilson  
 Cllr W Root  
 Cllr B Brown  
 Cllr M Field

**Also present:** Clerk: Angela Billing

		Action						
1.	To receive apologies. Apologies received from Cllr Gardner, Cllr Hawkins and District Councillor Cooper. 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 9th January 2023. Approved.							
4.	To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only. None received.							
5.	Clerk's report circulated separately. Noted.							
6.	Public Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. District Councillor Report. Not received.</li> <li>b. Members of the public. None present.</li> </ul>							
7.	Response to issues raised in the public session. Blisworth Parish Councillors expressed their thanks to District Cllr K Cooper for volunteering at the Blisworth Baptist Church 'Warm Room' sessions.							
8.	Planning and Development. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 35%;">Application &amp; Date Comments Due</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Location</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <b>WNS/2022/0820/FUL</b>                      Amendment details:                      Additional information provided for Highway consultation.   <b>Response:</b> Agreed to submit concerns regarding safe ingress and exit to the site via Towcester Road.                 </td> <td>                     Oakwood Farm House                      Towcester Road                      Blisworth                      NN7 3DL                 </td> <td>                     Variation of condition 5 (private use of ménage) and the removal of condition 6 (lighting) of S/2018/2275/FUL (Change of use of land from agriculture and the provision of a riding ménage and horse walker) Require permission to be granted for the use of the ménage by third party resident horses/liveries and the installation of external lighting to enable the use of the ménage after dark in the winter months.                 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Application & Date Comments Due	Location	Description	<b>WNS/2022/0820/FUL</b> Amendment details: Additional information provided for Highway consultation.  <b>Response:</b> Agreed to submit concerns regarding safe ingress and exit to the site via Towcester Road.	Oakwood Farm House Towcester Road Blisworth NN7 3DL	Variation of condition 5 (private use of ménage) and the removal of condition 6 (lighting) of S/2018/2275/FUL (Change of use of land from agriculture and the provision of a riding ménage and horse walker) Require permission to be granted for the use of the ménage by third party resident horses/liveries and the installation of external lighting to enable the use of the ménage after dark in the winter months.	
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	<p><b>WNS/2022/0819/MAF</b> Amendment details: Additional information provided for Highway consultation.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Agreed to submit concerns regarding safe ingress and exit to the site via Towcester Road.</p>	<p>Stables at Oakwood Farm House Towcester Road Blisworth NN7 3DL</p>	<p>Change of use of agricultural land to graze a small number of horses and subsequently request the change of use of stables to accommodate non private use.</p>	
9.	<p>Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read. Total number of followers has increased by 2 residents, 220 people (69.5% of our followers are listed as women and 90 are listed as resident in Blisworth, the remainder listed in Northampton/Roade/Towcester). We have had a post reach of 1917 people (people who have our messages on their social media feeds) and a direct engagement (clicks) of 918 people. Top performing post in the period was the post concerning the on-street Char.gy. This led to 1628 people reached and 500 direct engagements, 1 share, 16 comments and 9 likes. Most comments were positive around the proposal indicating that there is a growing requirement for this type of facility. Comments direct on the Blisworth page were as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would use one if available and close enough.</li> <li>• I wonder how long before those copper cables will end up down the scrap yard.</li> <li>• Not needed. There will be no economy after we've followed this net zero rubbish so we'll be going nowhere. I'm pretty sure there are plenty of locations in this village that will lead to confrontation over parking issues when installed.</li> <li>• I would use one also a lot of companies are pushing for their company cars to be electric but living on a main road is restrictive when it comes to charging at home.</li> <li>• Even adding a few to the car park near the oak could be beneficial.</li> </ul> <p>A concerned resident raised the issue of speeding cars on High Street and requested the positioning of a traffic monitoring device next to the Royal Oak pub. Cllr Read explained that unfortunately we only have licence (from the County Council and Police) to place flashing speed signs in certain locations in the village and we not allowed place them near to junctions due to the potential distraction that they may cause.</p>			
10.	<p>Police &amp; Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read. 3 Violence and Sexual Offences, 2 Antisocial Behaviour, 2 Criminal Damage and arson, 2 Other Theft. 3 Crimes were reported at one residential property which has been a victim of crime in previous months. We have 67 residents registered with the Neighbourhood alert system an increase in 1 resident over the month. There was one alert issued on 27 Jan, appealing for information about a theft from a front garden on Pond Bank and Blisworth. The theft happened on 20th January between 8.15am and 8.45am. The offenders accessed the drive of the victim's address and stole three children's bicycles. It is believed they made off in a white Volkswagen van (registration unknown). If anyone</p>			

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	<p>witnessed any vehicle(s) in the area that looked suspicious, please contact Northamptonshire Police on 101 quoting Ref: 23000052099.</p> <p>Regular updates about local crime and matters of priority within South Northants on Neighbourhood Alert: <a href="http://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk/">www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk/</a>. These are also published on the Parish social media. Cllr Read will continue to share relevant Police and Neighbourhood Watch information through the Parish Facebook site.</p>	Cllr Read
11.	<p>Report on data from SID/VAS devices: Update from Cllr Read.</p> <p><u>VAS unit in Stoke Road</u>: In the period between 8 Jan and 30 Jan (23 days) there were 56,297 vehicle movements (2,448 per day) with an average speed of 30.3 mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 35 mph. This means that over 360 vehicles daily speed on Stoke Road adjacent the doctor's surgery and through the restricted residential area. The top speed recorded was 77 mph. Note the batteries were flat between 30 Jan and 5 Feb.</p> <p><u>VAS unit in Courteenhall Road</u>: In the period between 8 Jan and 5 Feb (29 days) there were 92,369 vehicle movements (3,185 per day) with an average speed of 33mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 41 mph. This means that approximately 630 vehicles daily speed down Courteenhall Road adjacent residential properties. The top speed recorded was 82 mph.</p> <p>Cllr Read to liaise with Cllr Root, Cllr Brown and Mr Hennessy to compile the data gathered from the traffic monitoring devices.</p>	Cllr Read Cllr Root Cllr Brown
12.	<p>Gateway Update. Update from Cllr Wilson and Cllr Root.</p> <p>Resolve to review and agree response to the Secretary of State's request for comments in relation to the application for a Non-Material Change to the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Development Consent Order 2019 (TR050006: Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange). Agreed Cllr's Root's draft response. Clerk to format and submit.</p>	Cllr Root
13.	<p>Village Maintenance &amp; Open Spaces:</p> <ol 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.</li> <li>b. Defibrillator: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified. Cllr Read re-registered the defibrillator on 23/01/2023 on The Circuit; which notifies the ambulance service and emergency response organisations that the unit is fully operational.</li> <li>c. Allotments &amp; Closed Cemetery. Update from Cllr Billing. Interest from two possible allotment tenants received. However, Cllr Billing noted the poor state of many of the vacant plots. Agreed that Cllr Billing will research costs for removing brambles, weeds and rubbish from vacant plots.</li> </ol>	Cllr Billing
14.	<p>Resolve to agree to re-register The Royal Oak Pub, Blisworth on West Northants Community Register. Agreed.</p>	Cllr Root Cllr Wilson
15.	<p>Discuss plans for the King's Coronation and agree next steps. Agreed to contact various groups in the village to gather opinions from residents with the view to arranging a meeting to further discuss plans for the King's Coronation.</p>	Clerk
16.	<p>Internal Control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Financial &amp; Management Risk Assessment: To receive declarations of gifts/hospitality and review record of gifts/hospitality received by Councillors or the Clerk to date. None received.</li> </ol>	

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17.	<p>Discuss request for S137 grant on behalf of Blisworth Primary School to support costs for a school crossing-patrol officer and agree next steps. Agreed to grant £500.00. Agreed that Cllr Hawkins would contact the school with any additional questions from other Councillors with the view to revisit the amount of support available for the school at the March 2023 Blisworth Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>Agreed to contact Northamptonshire Highways to request option for a zebra crossing for Blisworth to be registered on the Network Improvement list.</p>	Cllr Hawkins Clerk																														
18.	To review and approve BPC Asset Register Policy. Approved.																															
19.	To review and approve BPC Financial Reserves Policy. Approved.																															
20.	<p>IT and Communications:</p> <p>a) Discuss options to increase cloud storage and agree next steps.</p> <p>b) Discuss IT and Communications policy and agree next steps.</p> <p>Agreed to give access to Dropbox account to all Councillors. Agreed that Councillors to set up new email accounts for Blisworth Parish Council business in line with Cllr Wilson’s email address using the format ‘blisworthparishsurname@gmail.com’. Clerk to amend IT and Communications policy and resubmit for approval at March 2023 Blisworth Parish Council meeting.</p>	All Cllrs Cllr Read Clerk																														
21.	<p>Finance &amp; Administration</p> <p>a. Finance Working Group. Update from Cllr Root.</p> <p>(i) To review general and earmarked reserves and agree next steps. Agreed to approve general and earmarked reserves.</p> <p>(ii) To review and agree options to open a high interest bank account and agree transfer of funds. Agreed to open Skipton Building Society savings account and agreed to transfer £50,000.00.</p> <p>(iii) To review and agree signatories for a high interest bank account. Agreed as signatories to Skipton Building Society savings account: Cllr W Root, Cllr D Wilson, Cllr B Brown and Clerk (Angela Billing). Agreed to approve requirement for two signatories to action any transactions on the account.</p> <p>Banking Issues:</p> <p>b. Bank reconciliation to 06/02/2023.</p> <p><b>CLOSING BANK POSITION AS AT 20/01/2023</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>NatWest</b></td> <td style="width: 60%;"><b>CURRENT ACCOUNT 08684642 20/01/2023</b></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;"><b>£37,075.84</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>NatWest</b></td> <td><b>RESERVE ACCOUNT 40578429 20/01/2023</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£37,610.73</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Uncashed cheques/Payments:</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">3183</td> <td style="width: 70%;">Alan North</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">£62.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3184</td> <td>Truelo (UK) Ltd</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£4,426.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3187</td> <td>Northants CALC Ltd</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£160.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3188</td> <td>A Billing - December Salary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£783.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3189</td> <td>A Billing - December Expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3190</td> <td>Blisworth Litter Group</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£353.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">DD</td> <td>Electricity Supply 02.12.2022 - 03.01.2023</td> <td style="text-align: right;">112.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3193</td> <td>Wicksteed Leisure Ltd Eastfield Play Area - Small Car</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,742.40</td> </tr> </table>	<b>NatWest</b>	<b>CURRENT ACCOUNT 08684642 20/01/2023</b>	<b>£37,075.84</b>	<b>NatWest</b>	<b>RESERVE ACCOUNT 40578429 20/01/2023</b>	<b>£37,610.73</b>	3183	Alan North	£62.00	3184	Truelo (UK) Ltd	£4,426.80	3187	Northants CALC Ltd	£160.80	3188	A Billing - December Salary	£783.50	3189	A Billing - December Expenses	£20.00	3190	Blisworth Litter Group	£353.33	DD	Electricity Supply 02.12.2022 - 03.01.2023	112.82	3193	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd Eastfield Play Area - Small Car	1,742.40	
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3194	Marcus Young Environmental Services	1,797.12
3195	HMRC Nat. Ins. Contributions December Salary	3.52
3196	HMRC Nat. Ins. Contributions January Salary	3.52
3197	Clerk's Salary January 2023	783.50
3198	Clerk's Expenses January 2023 (01.01.2023 - 31.01.2023)	20.00
3199	Alan North	62.00
DD	IONOS Website Fee	6.00
3200	Shire Lumsden Ltd R&A Leaflets	140.00
DD	Water bill 06/02/2023	55.00
<b>Total Uncashed payments</b>		<b>£10,532.31</b>
<b>Closing Balance as at 06/02/2023</b>		<b>£64,154.26</b>
<p>c. Resolve to add Cllr B Root and Cllr B Brown as signatories on NatWest Business Current and Business Reserve account. Agreed.</p> <p>d. To note receipts and approve the following payments and any others that arrive after publication of the agenda:</p>		

<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
30/12/2022	NatWest	Interest	£24.71*
			*BR Account
03/01/2023	Hale/13	Allotment Fee	£30.00**
20/01/2023	WNC	Warm Room Grant	£1226.84**
			**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>
December 2022/0019	SSE	Electricity Supply 02.12.2022 - 03.01.2023	DD	£112.82	£5.37	£107.45
DU837243	WICKSTEED LEISURE LTD	Eastfield Play Area - Small Car	3193	£1,742.40	£290.40	£1,452.00
4014	Marcus Young Environmental Services	Weekly empty of 8 DWBs @ £3.20 per bin per empty from 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023. Weekly empty of 1 Litter bin @ £3.20 per bin per empty from 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023	3194	£1,797.12	£299.52	£1,497.60
120PF003233662309	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Contributions December Salary	3195	£3.52	£0.00	£3.52

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120PF003233662310	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Contributions January Salary	3196	£3.52	£0.00	£3.52
	A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary January 2023	3197	£783.50	£0.00	£783.50
	A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses January 2023 (01.01.2023 - 31.01.2023)	3198	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
019	Alan North	Round & About Issue 149, February – March 2023	3199	£62.00	£0.00	£62.00
01/02/2023	IONOS	Website Fee	DD	£6.00	£1.00	£5.00
00022201*	Shire Lumsden Ltd	R&A Leaflets	3200	£140.00	£0.00	£140.00
DD*	Waves	Water Bill 06/022023	DD	£55.00	£0.00	£55.00
<b>Totals</b>				<b>£4,725.88</b>	<b>£596.29</b>	<b>£4,129.59</b>

\*Where Invoice/Receipt received after agenda was published.

22.	Councillors' reports and items for future agenda. Cllr Field noted the excellent work from Highways regarding clearing the main routes through the village. Cllr Read enquired if there had been any further contact from residents with regard to Char.gy initiative to install electric car charging units in the village. Noted that request for residents' views had been submitted on the Council website, social media account and in recent Round and About. Item to be added to March agenda. Cllr Root proposed reviewing internet banking options as the next topic for the Finance Working Group meeting. Date of meeting not agreed.	
23.	Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for <b>14th February 2023</b> . Resolved that Cllr Wilson will attend on Tuesday, 14th February 2023.	Cllr Wilson.
24.	To agree the date of next meeting <b>Monday, 6th March 2023 at 7.30pm</b> . Agreed.	
25.	Close. The meeting closed at 9.26 pm.	

**Signed:**

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

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