

## BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 6th November 2023 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chair (Acting Chair)  
 Cllr D Wilson  
 Cllr C Gardner  
 Cllr W Root  
 Cllr B Brown  
 Cllr K Cooper  
 Cllr B Ingram

**Also present:** Clerk: Angela Billing  
 5 Members of public

		Action
1.	To receive apologies. Apologies received from Cllr Hawkins, Cllr Field and Cllr Billing (Chairman). 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 02/10/2023. Approved.	
4.	To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only. Update regarding the online meeting with Andrea Leadsom held on Friday 03/10/2023. Meeting attendees: National Highways, WNC Highways, Persimmon but did not include a representative from Winvic. Discussed road closures, lack of coordination, inaccurate diversion signs which have not been removed, need to repair local roads damaged by diversions (including Knock Lane). WNC representative stated they will assess once diversions complete. Andrea Leadsom described Knock Lane as 'lethal' and not suitable for 60mph in its current state. Right-hand turn to Blisworth from A43: being monitored by WNC and National Highways.	
5.	Clerk's report circulated separately. Report circulated ahead of the meeting. Noted. Correspondence received 06/11/2023: (i) Request from reporter for Northamptonshire to meet with a member of the parish council to discuss the traffic situation in and around Blisworth. (ii) Update from West Northants Heritage Team. They are unable to object to the proposed planning application at land west of Northampton Road. (iii) Proof of extension to the 3T weight limit order for Stoke Road, subsiding section sought, received and forwarded to PC Rideout. She confirmed that she is now able to proceed with any contraventions. (iv) Distribution of petition RE: Road Closures In South Northamptonshire: Petition distributed, collected and sent to Andrea's office. Blisworth have the most signatures to date.	
6.	Public Session: a. District Councillor Report. Report circulated ahead of the meeting. Noted.	

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	<p>District Cllr Cooper highlighted the Welcoming Space initiative at the Baptist Church.</p> <p>b. Members of the public.</p> <p>(i) A representative from the Blisworth Baptist Chapel discussed the Welcoming Space initiative at the Blisworth Baptist Chapel and thanked Blisworth Parish Council for its volunteers and asked for further volunteers for future slots to March 2024. The Welcoming Space initiative will be open Tuesdays and Fridays (10:00am to 2:00pm) and Sundays (10:00am to 12:30pm). There are plans to provide transport for residents to attend. The representative also raised the option to facilitate a youth parish council (11-18 yrs.) so that young residents could have their say regarding what they would like in the village. The group would be held at Blisworth Baptist Chapel.</p> <p>(ii) A member of the public raised the issue of the encroaching hedges on High Street. The resident highlighted that the increasing HGV traffic and narrow footways meant that the hedges need to be cut back to their boundaries. They noted that the Blisworth Scouts group had been very helpful with the poppies display around the village and suggested that the Blisworth Primary School children might be able to participate in the youth parish council.</p> <p>(iii) A member of the public noted that they considered that the Police presence in the village had had a positive impact on the reduction of HGVs along Stoke Road, Blisworth.</p> <p>(iv) A member of the public asked about the process for implementing staggered speed limits along Towcester Road (from National Speed limit to 50 mph to 40 mph).</p>	
7.	<p>Response to issues raised in the public session.</p> <p>b. Members of the public.</p> <p>(i) Blisworth Parish Council are fully supportive of the Welcoming Space initiative at the Blisworth Baptist Chapel and a youth parish council.</p> <p>(ii) Councillors praised the display of poppies around the village. Clerk to write a letter to homeowners regarding the encroaching hedges.</p> <p>(iv) Councillors are in the process of requesting a 20-mph zone through the village and will research the options for implementing staggered speed limits along Towcester Road.</p>	Clerk
8.	<p>Gateway Update. Update from Cllr Wilson. Cllr Wilson raised the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The signage on the Roade Bypass roundabouts that the conflicts with the 3T weight limit restriction on Stoke Road, Blisworth</li> <li>• The request for CCTV cameras to safeguard the subsiding section of Stoke Road.</li> </ul>	Clerk and Cllr Wilson to pursue.
9.	<p>Review traffic calming options and consultation with residents and representatives from Highways (Kier), West Northants Council and the Police and agree next steps. Update from Cllr Brown and Clerk.</p> <p>(i) PC K Rideout confirmed more of a presence – mixed reaction from residents (some say it has made a difference and others no difference but she has agreed to continue to monitor and pursue information received from Blisworth Parish Council and the public.</p> <p>Clerk to request a report from PC Rideout asking for details of dates, times and duration of Police monitoring of Stoke Road and subsiding section.</p> <p>(ii) Signage Report completed and issued to all representatives. No response. Signage remains unchanged and contradictory.</p> <p>Clerk to contact Highways, WINVIC and WNC for an update.</p> <p>(iii) Footways Report and Dropped Kerbs Report sent to Highways. Awaiting dates for an on-site meeting with WNC.</p> <p>(iv) Request for donation of CCTV from Scott Martin (WINVIC). Awaiting confirmation.</p>	Clerk          Clerk

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	(v) A43 right-hand turn. National Highways are monitoring the situation and state they may close the turn temporarily if they deem it unsafe.	Clerk						
10.	<p>Planning and Development.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="199 302 1316 840"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="199 302 518 369">Application &amp; Date Comments Due</th> <th data-bbox="518 302 726 369">Location</th> <th data-bbox="726 302 1316 369">Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="199 369 518 840"> WNS/2022/1134/MAO   New Target Decision date:  24/11/2023   Application Type  <b>Outline Planning Permission (Major)</b> </td> <td data-bbox="518 369 726 840"> Land to the west  Northampton Road  Blisworth  Northants  Towcester  NN7 3DW </td> <td data-bbox="726 369 1316 840"> 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.   Location – Land to the West Northampton Road Blisworth Northants NN7 3DW </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="199 840 1316 929"><b>RESOLVED</b> to contact Dame Andrea Leadsom to request support. Clerk to contact Planning Department at WNC to check why contractors are on-site already.</p>	Application & Date Comments Due	Location	Description	WNS/2022/1134/MAO  New Target Decision date: 24/11/2023  Application Type <b>Outline Planning Permission (Major)</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.  Location – Land to the West Northampton Road Blisworth Northants NN7 3DW	Clerk Cllr Root, Cllr Ingram, Cllr Brown
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11.	<p>Resolution to purchase Land Registry documents to show ownership of land off Chapel Lane (Planning Application: S/2014/0431/MAF).</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to purchase Land Registry documents to show ownership of land off Chapel Lane (Planning Application: S/2014/0431/MAF).</p>	Clerk						
12.	<p>Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read. Report circulated ahead of the meeting. Noted.</p> <p>There have been the following direct messages through the social media platform:</p> <p align="center"><i>5 Oct - Very bad accident on A43 tonight - loads of police and ambulances- this is what we were all afraid would happen and now it has . Reply - Sorry to hear that. Never good news</i></p> <p align="center"><i>6 Oct - Resident forwarded issue logged on Fix my street with school speed sign Reply - Thank you</i></p> <p>Social media engagement continues to grow and we have seen greater engagement over the latest period mainly focused on highways and traffic issues. Our total number of followers has increased by 10 residents to 272 people (69% of our followers are listed as women and 120 are listed as resident in Blisworth (increase of 16), the remainder listed in Northampton/Road/Towcester). We have had a post reach of 10,192 people (people who have our messages on their social media feeds) and a direct engagement (clicks) of 2,646 people. It can be seen this is a significant growth on previous periods and month on month this continues to grow.</p> <p>Our top performing post in the period was our post concerning information on road closures from WINVIC including closures to the A509 on 15 October. This led to 10,120 people reached (on feeds) and 2,539 direct engagements (clicks to look at content), 20</p>							

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	<p>comments, 30 reactions and 14 shares (this is people sharing this post to other pages such as the Blisworth Notice Board).</p> <p>Cllr Read discussed merits of Blisworth Parish Council social media page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthParishCouncil/">https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthParishCouncil/</a> , the work involved in maintaining the site and highlighted disadvantages of relying on 3<sup>rd</sup> party social media sites.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Cllr Read to continue maintaining the Blisworth Parish Council Facebook page and to invest time to promote the page. Clerk to direct public to the Blisworth Parish Council Facebook page.</p>	
13.	<p>Police &amp; Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read. Report circulated ahead of the meeting. Noted.</p> <p>Crime data for August included 10 reported crimes and September included 15 reported crimes. This is taken from publicly available police data. The breakdown of the crimes over the two-month period is 9 Violence and Sexual Offences, 4 Antisocial behaviour, 6 Vehicle Crime, 1 Drugs, 1 Public Order, 2 Other Crime and 2 Other Theft.</p> <p>Interestingly we have seen the usual pattern of reporting over the summer period but more unusually one report of a public order offence and one drug offence. There are no particular hot spots across the village but no crimes have been reported in the vicinity of the Royal Oak PH or the village shop one crime at or near the Football Club (Vehicle theft), 2 crimes at or near the Walnut Tree (Vehicle crime) and 3 crimes at or near Ning’s (Drugs and Violence and Sexual Offences). Crimes near village focal points account for six of the 25 reported crimes. It should be noted that these crimes are locations not necessarily under the control of the premise owners.</p> <p>I am organising with support of the Blisworth Baptist Church a presentation from the Northamptonshire Police fraud team on Tuesday 21 November at 10am, for which I will apply for a community action grant. The Fraud department of Northamptonshire Police are offering to deliver fraud/scam presentations to any village groups that you feel your community would benefit from. The presentations usually last around one hour depending on the size of the audience and amount of questions. The bigger the audience the better, so it would be ideal if there are community groups within your local area to whom the presentation could be delivered to. They are good events and beneficial in raising awareness around bank fraud/scams used with increasing frequency since Covid. I would request that we make residents aware of this, particularly our more vulnerable community. I will be producing a poster which I will place on social media, village notice boards and the Parish web site.</p> <p>I am also working with our neighbourhood community policing team to establish a Saturday drop-in session that will allow engagement with residents that work during the Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm period. Proposed venues are the village hall, Baptist Church etc.</p> <p>Community Speed Watch: We now have 12 volunteers so can proceed with the application.</p>	<p>Cllr Read</p> <p>Clerk</p>
14.	<p>Report on data from SID/VAS devices: Update from Cllr Read. Report circulated ahead of the meeting. Noted.</p>	

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	<p>We continue to share this data with the Police, West Northamptonshire and on Social Media.</p> <p>VAS unit in Stoke Road: In the period between 24 September and 4 November (42 days) there were 161629 vehicle movements (3848 per day), which represents very significant decrease in vehicle movements a day due the pressure on stoke road due to closures. Normally volumes are between 2800-3000 vehicles per day so this is a 26% increase in volume The average speed of 31.9mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 34 mph. Note there are a few strange results of records exceeding 200mph.</p> <p>VAS unit in Courteenhall Road: In the period between 24 September and 4 November (42 days) there were 29,532 vehicle movements (703 per day), which represents very significant decrease in vehicle movements a day due the closure of the A508 junction. The speeds have dropped slightly as a high proportion of vehicles slow to turn into the junction with an average speed of 28.6mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 39 mph. The top speed recorded was 89 mph. There is a high volume of slow movements due to the position of the VAS near to the junction as vehicles turn into Buttmead which brings the average down.</p> <p>The solar unit for the VAS in Towcester Road has been delivered and will be fitted in due course. Generally the speed results are consistent with previous reports.</p>	
15.	<p>Discuss street lights and agree next steps.</p> <p>Light no 74 on Courteenhall Road to be fixed free w/c 06/11/2023. Hopefully this will resolve issues of insufficient lighting at this section of Courteenhall Road raised by a resident.</p> <p>Clerk to monitor.</p>	Clerk
16.	<p>Village Maintenance &amp; Open Spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Play area: Monthly safety inspection report: Update from Cllr Wilson. Monthly check was undertaken. Nothing to report. The bin is full.</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. Work on Closed Cemetery is ongoing. Focus is removal of epicormic growth which will save public money and then clearing brambles away from the walls so that the contractor can access weeds near the walls. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Resolution to agree quote for disposal by chipping of woody arisings from Closed Cemetery clearance. £65.00 per hour x 2 hours cheapest quote. Other quote: £420.00 for half a day. <b>RESOLVED</b> to appoint I. Halliday to chip woody arisings from Closed Cemetery clearance at £65.00 per hour x 2 hours.</li> <li>(ii) Resolution to agree quote for treatment of weeds at the Closed Cemetery. <b>RESOLVED</b> to appoint I. Halliday to treat weeds at the Closed Cemetery (£45.00).</li> <li>(iii) Discuss options to install new sub-meter to monitor water usage at the allotments and repositioning of the sub-meter from its current location and agree next steps. <b>RESOLVED:</b> Clerk to investigate options to dig out the area around the old sub-meter (which no longer works) and make good. Clerk to obtain quotes to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	install a new sub-meter, install a ground box (boundary box) with a lockable ball valve attached plus a stainless-steel padlock.	
17.	Internal Control: Financial & 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.	
18.	Finance & Administration Banking Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Bank reconciliation to 20 Oct 2023. Closing NatWest Balance: £15,340.84. Bank reconciliation checked by Cllr Field.</li> <li>b. To note receipt of second tranche of Precept: £21,700 paid into Skipton Building Society. Closing Skipton Balance £74, 447.73.</li> <li>c. Unity Trust Bank Application. Update from Clerk. Application submitted – awaiting signature details.</li> <li>d. Receive Budget versus Actual Report and agree next steps. Update from Cllr Root. Report circulated ahead of the meeting. Noted. Despite some overspends, many budget lines are showing underspending. The Finance Working Group (FWG) concluded that the overall position is currently satisfactory. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To amend water account. Street Lighting: The FWG noted that the repair needed to one streetlight was likely to be within the warranty and would not incur costs. The costs for additional streetlights in the village are unknown. The budget of £2,400.00 for street lighting repair will not cover new lights and the likely maintenance burden on streetlighting is unknown. The FWG recommends that the Council asks an individual Councillor to take a special interest in streetlighting so that future costs can be better anticipated. <b>RESOLVED:</b> Cllr Cooper to review Street Lighting position.</li> <li>e. Resolution to agree to variable direct debits for SSE Electricity monthly payment for street lighting costs. <b>RESOLVED</b> to agree variable direct debits for SSE Electricity monthly payment for street lighting costs</li> <li>f. To note receipts and approve the following payments and any others that arrive after publication of the agenda. <b>RESOLVED</b> to note receipts and agree the payments listed in Appendix I.</li> </ul>	
19.	Resolution to co-opt Nigel Chandler as a Parish Councillor. <b>RESOLVED</b> to co-opt Nigel Chandler as a Parish Councillor. Agreed - Unanimously carried.	
20.	Councillors' reports and items for future agenda. Request to review responsibility of footpath between Connegar Leys and Greenaway Close.	Clerk
21.	To agree the date of next meeting Monday, 4th December 2023 at 7.30pm. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To agree date of next meeting as Monday, 4th December 2023 at 7.30pm.	
22.	Close. The meeting closed at 8:53 pm.	

Signed: Acting Chairman (Vice-Chairman Cllr C Read..... Date:  
Please see the clerk for a copy of the signed minutes.

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**Appendix I BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENT LIST & RECEIPTS NOVEMBER 2023 Meeting**

<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>DATE</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
28/09/2023	Allotment Rent	Tenants' Allotment Fees Various	Current Acct*	£6.00
28/09/2023	Allotment Rent		Current Acct*	£6.00
28/09/2023	NatWest	Interest NatWest	Reserve Acct**	£2.37
	WNC	Precept WNC Final Instalment	Skipton Acct	£21,700.00

\* NatWest Current Account

\*\*NatWest Business Reserve Account

**£21,714.37**

<b>PAYMENTS</b>							
<b>Ref:</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>
72	2030 3848 8639	IONOS	Website Fee - 08/10/2023 - 08/11/2023	DD	£6.00	1.00	5.00
73	21A	Alan North	Invoice 21A for R&A Alan North Oct-Nov Iss 153	3263	£50.00	0.00	50.00
74	1653	CutCrew Ltd	Vegetation clearance High Street	3264	£288.00	48.00	240.00
75		NatWest	Bank charges 05.08.2023 to 01.09.2023	DD	£7.91	0.00	7.91
76	521877620/0028	SSE	Electricity Supply 02.09.2023 - 02.10.2023	DD	£106.36	5.06	101.30
77		NatWest	Bank charges 02.09.2023 to 29.09.2023	DD	£4.55	0.00	4.55
78	18948	Truvelo (UK) Ltd	TruSign Solar Panel Mk2 (50W) c/w bracket	3265	£516.00	86.00	430.00
79	120PF003233662407	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions October 2023 Salary	3266	£25.14	0.00	25.14
80	Pension Month 7 2023-2024	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/10/2023 - 31/10/2023	DD	£33.62	0.00	33.62
81		Waves	Water Supply - October 2023	DD	£143.00	0.00	143.00
82	Month 7 2023-2024	A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary October 2023	3267		0.00	
83		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.10.2023 - 31.10.2023) Including petrol and petrol can for Closed Cemetery Community Pay Back Service team.	3268	£41.45	0.00	41.45
84	1666	CutCrew Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x 2 & Area 1 x 2 6/10/2023 and 20/10/2023	3269	£797.18	132.86	664.32

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85	7488	Barbara Osborne	Barbara Osborne Business Services Payroll Services Jul 2023 - Sept 2023 Plus Pension Administration	3270	£104.00	0.00	104.00
				<b>Totals</b>	<b>£3,042.40</b>	<b>£272.92</b>	<b>£2,769.48</b>