

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Cllr S Billing, Chair
 Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chair
 Cllr D Wilson
 Cllr B Brown
 Cllr M Field
 Cllr J Hawkins
 Cllr B Ingram
 Cllr N Chandler
 Cllr C Gardner

Also present: Clerk: Angela Billing
 3 Members of public

		Action
BPC/1/24-25	To receive apologies. Apologies received from District Councillor Cooper. The Council resolved to accept the apologies. The Chair recorded Cllr Cooper's resignation as a Parish Councillor and thanked her for her help and support. A vacancy has been noted.	
BPC/2/24/25	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. Cllr Billing declared an interest in item BPC/21/24/25 (e). Cllr Ingram declared an interest in item BPC/8/24/25 Application No 2024/1564/FULL.	
BPC/3/24-25	To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 04/03/2024. Approved.	
BPC/4/24-25	To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only. None noted.	
BPC/5/24-25	Clerk's report circulated separately. Noted.	
BPC/6/24-25	Public Session: a. District Councillor Report. No report this month. b. Members of the public. (i) A member of the public noted that they had contacted Fix My Street about the pothole in the bridleway from Buttmead to Courteenhall Road. The repair of the pothole was inadequately executed. (ii) A member of the public asked for an update with regard to the issues of speeding traffic on Stoke Road. They pointed out the main areas of concern were where vehicles turned into Stoke Road from High Street. The resident had completed a survey of residents in Stoke Road and the majority were in favour of speed bumps to reduce the speed of traffic. The resident asked the Parish Council if we could ask for speed bumps as well as a 20 mph zone.	

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<p>BPC/7/ 24-25</p>	<p>Response to issues raised in the public session.</p> <p>(i) Cllr Brown explained that the issue with the bridleway had been raised with Highways by Blisworth Parish Council. Highways had agreed to fix sections of the bridleway but the main issue, where water and mud accumulates will take longer to fix as this is a drainage issue. Cllr Brown will continue to pursue this to ensure the issue is remedied.</p> <p>(ii) Cllr Brown explained that she has asked about speed bumps on numerous occasions both of West Northants Council (WNC) and Highways but WNC now has a policy which states they will not install any new vertical traffic calming measures and this includes all types of speed bumps. Cllr Brown reported that the Parish Council had been successful in their application for a 20 mph speed zone through the village but Blisworth Parish Council had not been informed as to the extent of the 20 mph speed zone. There will be a statutory consultation, followed by a public consultation. Cllr Brown will continue to pursue options for vertical traffic calming measures on behalf of the residents. The Chair asked the resident if he could persuade residents to also petition WNC to consider the use of speed bumps on Stoke Road. Cllr Read thanked the resident for their hard work and enthusiasm and asked if they would consider joining the Parish Council.</p>							
<p>BPC/8/ 24-25</p>	<p>Planning and Development.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="272 864 1300 1373"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="272 864 595 943">Application & Date Comments Due</th> <th data-bbox="603 864 858 943">Location</th> <th data-bbox="866 864 1300 943">Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 954 595 1373"> <p>2024/1564/FULL</p> <p>Comments by 11 April 2024.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="603 954 858 1373"> <p>Old Telephone Exchange Little Lane, Blisworth, NN7 3BS</p> </td> <td data-bbox="866 954 1300 1373"> <p>Conversion of the Old Telephone Exchange to One bed single storey Dwelling house</p> <p>RESOLVED to: Comment on the parking issues and non-compliance with NCCs Car Parking Standards.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Application & Date Comments Due	Location	Description	<p>2024/1564/FULL</p> <p>Comments by 11 April 2024.</p>	<p>Old Telephone Exchange Little Lane, Blisworth, NN7 3BS</p>	<p>Conversion of the Old Telephone Exchange to One bed single storey Dwelling house</p> <p>RESOLVED to: Comment on the parking issues and non-compliance with NCCs Car Parking Standards.</p>	
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<p>BPC/9/ 24-25</p>	<p>Review Football Club Draft lease and agree next steps. The legal team are still awaiting a response from the Secretary of State. Finance Working Group to review the lease to resubmit at the May meeting.</p>							
<p>BPC/10/ 24-25</p>	<p>Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read.</p> <p>We have had two messages through direct messaging on social media: Request for a Blisworth Parish Council allotment. Cllr Read directed them to the Clerk. Issue of behaviour from HGV drivers towards residents trying to park on High Street and Stoke Road. Cllr Read thanked the resident for sharing this and emphasised that the Councillors share their concerns and continue to lobby the relevant authorities. Clerk to write to the company of the HGV and Cllr Read to pass the issue onto the police. Total number of followers on Social Media is 298 people, an increase of four since last month (68.1% of our followers are listed as women and 119 are listed as resident in Blisworth, the remainder listed in Northampton/Road/Towcester/Hartwell). The highest age demographic is the 35-44 year old age group. We have had a post reach of 1933 people (people who have our messages on their social media feeds) and a direct engagement (clicks)</p>	<p>Clerk Cllr Read</p>						

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	<p>of 996 people. Top performing post in the period was the post publishing the Round and About newsletter. This led to 858 people reached (on feeds) and 296 direct engagements (clicks to look at content), 20 reactions, 3 comments and 4 shares. All posts are now shared automatically to Blisworth Notice Board and Blisworth Community Page. Since the last meeting we have posted information on the WNC community support, the Community Police annual update and further details on the many road closures and highways disruptions. Also, the agenda for April meeting has been shared.</p>	
<p>BPC/11/ 24-25</p>	<p>Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read. Crime data for January; Vehicle Crime – 2, Other Crime – 1. The Neighbourhood alert / Neighbourhood watch system "Northamptonshire Talking" has 83 members registered with 2 members pending. Despite advertising in Round and About Blisworth Parish Council newsletter, we have not seen an increase in this engagement. Regular updates about local crime and matters of priority within South Northants are issued through this portal https://northamptonshiretalking.co.uk/. These alerts are also published on the Parish social media page. Using this system complies with GDPR. No alerts have been issued relevant to the village in the period. Attached is the annual update to Parishes from the South Northamptonshire Community Policing team. This is a useful update which I have published on the village social media page. The beat bus visit was held on 27 March at the Royal Oak Car Park. On 23 March there was a report on anti-social behaviour in the Eastfield Play Area which our PCSO took up with Roade School to identify the youths involved and speak to the those concerned. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner election is due 2 May 2024 and the recruitment period is open for Emergency Service Cadets which is open to young people between 13 and 18 years. Details are on the link, https://www.northants.police.uk/police-forces/northamptonshire-police/areas/northamptonshire-force-content/ca/careers-and-volunteering/northamptonshire-emergency-services-cadets/?utm_source=PLR+Update+-+March+2024&utm_medium=Email. The next South Northants Neighbourhood Watch meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th May at 7.30 pm. Councillors were asked that if there are any matters of concern, to please inform Cllr Read.</p>	<p>Cllr Read</p>
<p>BPC/12/ 24-25</p>	<p>Report on data from SID/VAS devices: Update from Cllr Read. VAS unit in Stoke Road: In the period between 3 March and 29 March (26 days) there were a total of 70,342 vehicle movements (Avg. 2705 per day), which is consistent with last month. This reflects the settling of traffic flows after the opening of the junction at Courteenhall Road, however as shown last month this is still higher than before the road alterations where c2400 vehicle movements were experienced daily. The average speed is similar to previous months of 30.2mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 35mph. The maximum speed recorded was 87mph. General speeds remain consistent with previous months. VAS unit in Courteenhall Road: In the period between 3 March and 22 March (19 days) there were 37,994 vehicle movements (Avg.1999 per day), which is consistent with last month's report and represents traffic now being able to access the A508 junction and traffic becoming familiar with that route. However, this is still nowhere near the volumes before the junction alterations, which exceeded c3000 per day, showing the deflection of traffic onto the Stoke Road route. The speeds are consistent with last month; with average speeds to 33.2</p>	

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	<p>mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 42 mph. The top speed recorded was 83mph. The batteries for both units are now degrading and require replacement and recharging approx. every 4-6 weeks, it would be useful if the second solar unit could be purchased as this would reduce the effort to maintain these units. Clerk noted that the solar panel has been ordered. Also, consideration via the Traffic Working Group should be undertaken to perhaps relocate the units elsewhere in the village (note that an appropriate lamppost or pole is required for the fixing of the units). Traffic working Group (TWG) to advise.</p>	<p align="center">TWG</p>
<p>BPC/13/24-25</p>	<p>Gateway Update. Update from Cllr Wilson. Cllr Wilson recorded he had raised questions regarding the modelling criteria for traffic and had been directed to a public website with 69 documents (many with documents exceeding 79 pages each). Cllr Wilson to contact SEGRO to ask them to extract the data the Parish Council requires regarding traffic on Knock Lane. SEGRO have offered to help with the issue of the signage on Knock Lane and the connecting roundabout on the A508 by liaising with WNC. Cllr Wilson to forward drawings of the current signs to Cllr Brown. A number of the 7 plots on the Gateway SEGRO site have been taken up. Cllr Wilson noted that one occupier will have 220 electric vehicle charging points with the expectation of 1500 small vehicles to enter and leave the site. The connection with the railway has been completed but will not be activated until occupation of the plots.</p>	<p align="center">Cllr Wilson and Cllr Brown</p>
<p>BPC/14/24-25</p>	<p>a. Traffic Working Group update. Update from Cllr Brown. Cllr Brown noted the tremendous help from Cllr Cooper who has been liaising with WNC and Highways. Her input will be missed now that she has had to stand down. Cllr Brown attended a meeting with Kier (Highways) to identify priority potholes. Some of the potholes have been addressed now. They discussed the bridleway between Buttmead and Courteenhall Road. The two patches will be fixed immediately but the larger pothole in the middle where the water pools will be fixed in the summer due to the wider drainage issues. WNC can only deal with some road issues in the summer months due to the weather but he agreed to prioritise the section of road between Windmill Ave/Eastfield. The issues of the pavements in Connegar Leys will possibly take a further year to complete. Cllr Brown to arrange to meet with Kier (Highways) again in the summer to review progress. The Parish Council have been notified informally that the 20 mph in the village has been approved but the scope of the 20 mph limit is still to be agreed. The Parish Council has also been notified informally that the application for a 40 mph buffer speed limit on Towcester Road joining the A43 has been rejected. The reason the panel gave was that the road 'did not look and feel sufficiently like a 40 mph speed limit' and therefore the panel did not feel that there would be compliance. Cllr Brown has responded by petitioning Highways about the footway on Towcester Road. The rejection of the 40 mph speed limit makes the need to improve and repair the footway on Towcester Road now urgent due to the risk posed by the speeding traffic. With regard to the dropped kerbs, Cllr Brown is waiting to hear from Highways and also awaiting further meetings regarding the options/costings of a chicane on Stoke Road and signage on Knock Lane. Cllr Brown also raised the issue of the potholes along</p>	

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	<p>Stoke Road (outside the village). The representative from Highways was not aware of the planned closure of Stoke Road to address the subsiding section and has agreed to look into the possibility of repairing the potholes on Stoke Road at the same time as the closure. Agreed that the Council should feedback about these developments at the annual May meeting and also to add a section in the Round and About Blisworth Parish Council newsletter.</p> <p>b. Resolve to appoint a councillor to the Traffic Working Group. RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Ingram to the Traffic Working Group.</p>	
BPC/15/ 24-25	<p>Discuss quotes for emptying litter bin at Eastfield Play area and dog waste bins and agree next steps. RESOLVED that Clerk to check the exit options with the view to move to the new contractor, The Shield Group.</p>	Clerk
BPC/16/ 24-25	<p>Review Climate Change and Biodiversity and agree next steps. Update from Clerk. Noted options for other areas for No Mow area. Clerk to add discussion about No Mow May to May agenda to canvass public opinion.</p>	Clerk
BPC/17/ 24-25	<p>Discuss option to apply to Land Registry for ownership of land on High Street and agree next steps. RESOLVED to apply to Land Registry for ownership of land on High Street.</p>	Clerk
BPC/18/ 24-25	<p>Discuss parking on village green areas and agree next steps. Ascertained that the green on Connegar Leys belongs to WNC and therefore is outside the remit of the Parish Council. Clerk to contact the Police and WNC with regard to parking on the green at the end of Pond Bank as it obstructs sight lines for traffic.</p>	Clerk
BPC/19/ 24-25	<p>Village Maintenance & Open Spaces:</p> <p>a. Play area: Monthly safety inspection report: Update from Cllr Wilson. Cllr Wilson completed a visual check. No obvious visual items to report. Two items are loose on one of their fixings - the small car on the ground and one of the benches. These have already been reported. Cllr Chandler to obtain tools to fix the bolt on the car.</p> <p>b. Defibrillator: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified. RESOLVED: Clerk to order new battery pads.</p> <p>c. Allotments & Closed Cemetery. Update from Cllr Billing. Two new plots have been rented. Concerns raised regarding pollarding of trees in the Closed Cemetery by an unknown member of the public. Clerk to investigate further.</p>	<p>Cllr Chandler</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
BPC/20/ 24-25	<p>Internal Control:</p> <p>a. Internal Control Checklist: Update from Cllr Read. No issues to note.</p> <p>b. 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.</p>	
BPC/21/ 24-25	<p>Finance & Administration</p> <p>a. Note additional late payments paid in 2023-2024. Noted.</p> <p>b. To note checks between Payment Lists against Minutes and bank statements. Error in minutes for 05/06/2023, Appendix I Receipts and Payments, Payment for Payment Ref: 23, HMRC Nat Ins should read Contributions for May 2023 Salary (not April 2023). The Council resolved to return £1.00 opening fee from Skipton Savings account back to the Clerk in</p>	

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	<p>the 07/08/2023 minutes. The payment of the initial £1.00 and later deduction of £1.00 should have been recorded in the payment and receipts file. Clerk to amend error in 2023-2024 records.</p> <p>c. To note end of financial year 2023-2024 bank reconciliation to 31/03/2024: Checked by Cllr Field.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="368 327 962 506"> <tr> <td>Closing NatWest Balance</td> <td>£257.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closing Skipton Balance</td> <td>£72,446.73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closing Unity Trust Balance</td> <td>£7,106.61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closing Total Accounts</td> <td>£79,811.04</td> </tr> </table> <p>d. Bank reconciliation to 02/04/2024: Checked by Cllr Field.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="360 584 954 763"> <tr> <td>Closing NatWest Balance</td> <td>£287.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closing Skipton Balance</td> <td>£72,446.73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closing Unity Trust Balance</td> <td>£7,326.61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closing Total Accounts</td> <td>£80,061.04</td> </tr> </table> <p>e. To note receipts and approve the following payments and any others that arrive after publication of the agenda. NatWest transferred £1,811.97 into Unity Trust account but failed to close the account. Compensation fee claimed and received (further £257.70). As of 02/04/2024, the NatWest account remains open. Skipton Building Society has transferred £2000.00 to Unity Trust account. RESOLVED: To note receipts and agree the payments listed in Appendix I.</p> <p>f. Receive Finance Working Group Report. Update from Cllr Wilson. Noted. RESOLVED to review the reserves allocations for presentation at the May 2024 meeting.</p> <p>g. Review membership to South Northants Area Support Team (SNAST) Neighbourhood Watch and agree next steps. RESOLVED to renew membership to South Northants Area Support Team.</p> <p>h. Discuss SEGRO Gateway funds and agree next steps. Deferred to May meeting pending further clarity from Highways and WNC regarding costs of traffic calming initiatives.</p>	Closing NatWest Balance	£257.70	Closing Skipton Balance	£72,446.73	Closing Unity Trust Balance	£7,106.61	Closing Total Accounts	£79,811.04	Closing NatWest Balance	£287.70	Closing Skipton Balance	£72,446.73	Closing Unity Trust Balance	£7,326.61	Closing Total Accounts	£80,061.04	<p>Clerk</p> <p>FWG</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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<p>BPC/22/24-25</p>	<p>a. To agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting (of Blisworth village residents). RESOLVED to agree date of the Annual Parish Meeting to be 13/05/2024 at 6:30 pm.</p> <p>b. Discuss agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting (of Blisworth village residents) and agree agenda items. Clerk to contact the village organisations for their feedback.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>																
<p>BPC/23/24-25</p>	<p>Discuss and agree a budget for planters in the village. RESOLVED to agree a budget of £80.00 for plants and compost.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>																
<p>BPC/24/24-25</p>	<p>To consider options to celebrate D-Day 80 commemorations 06/06/2024 and agree next steps. Agreed that this is being commemorated by other village groups.</p>																	
<p>BPC/25/24-25</p>	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agenda. Cllr Ingram noted that a resident with mobility issues was tipped out of his mobility scooter due to the camber of the road while crossing at the junction of</p>	<p>Cllr Brown</p>																

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	High Street and Stoke Road. Cllr Brown reported that the Parish Council is awaiting action by Highways on the dropped kerbs. Cllr Brown will pursue.	
BPC/26/ 24-25	To consider Training options and agree next steps. No new training for this month.	
BPC/27/ 24-25	Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for the next Council Surgery. RESOLVED that Cllrs Biling, Chandler, Wilson and Ingram to attend.	Cllrs Biling, Chandler, Wilson and Ingram
BPC/28/ 24-25	To agree the date of next meeting 6th May 2024 at 7.30pm. RESOLVED that date of next meeting to be 13th May 2024 at 7.30 pm.	
BPC/29/ 24-25	Close. The meeting closed at 9.28 pm.	

Signed: Chairman..... Date:

Please see the clerk for a copy of the signed minutes

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Appendix 1

RECEIPTS									
DATE	DETAILS	INTEREST	ALLOTMENTS - RENTS	PRECEPT	GRANTS	VAT REFUND	OTHER	TOTAL	BANK ACCT
28/03/2024	NatWest Compensation						£257.70	£257.70	NWCA
02/02/2024	Allot Fee/47		£20.00					£20.00	NWCA
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/44		£10.00					£10.00	NWCA
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/56		£20.00					£20.00	UT
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/48		£20.00					£20.00	UT
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/9		£20.00					£20.00	UT
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/12		£20.00					£20.00	UT
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/38		£20.00					£20.00	UT
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/42		£30.00					£30.00	UT
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/1		£10.00					£10.00	UT
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/21		£40.00					£40.00	UT
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/31		£20.00					£20.00	UT
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/34		£10.00					£10.00	UT
02/04/2024	Allot Fee/4		£10.00					£10.00	UT
03/04/2024	Allot Fee/40		£10.00					£10.00	UT
		£0.00	£260.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£257.70	£517.70	

PAYMENTS							
Ref:	Invoice	PAYEE	PURPOSE	CHQ/DD	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount Excluding VAT
141	7564	Barbara Osborne	Payroll Services Oct 2023 - Dec 2023	UTBT141	£84.00	0.00	84.00
142		Waves	Water Supply - Amended Closing Balance	UTBT142	£20.65	0.00	20.65
143	2030 4093 9333	IONOS	Website Fee - 08/03/2024-08/04/2024	DD UT	£6.00	1.00	5.00
144		Unity Trust	Bank Charges 31/03/2024	DD UT	18.00	0.00	18.00
1	1867	CutCrew Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x 2 & Area 1 x 2 06/03/2024 and 19/03/2024	UTBT1	837.02	139.50	697.52
2	28772	Merland Copy Shop Ltd	Printing of Round & About Apr-May Issue	UTBT2	170.00	0.00	170.00
3	24	Alan North	Invoice 24 for R&A Alan North Apr-May 2024 Iss 156	UTBT3	50.00	0.00	50.00
4	7640	Barbara Osborne	Payroll Services Jan 2024 - Mar 2024	UTBT4	84.00	0.00	84.00

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5		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary March 2024 Mth 12	UTBT5	976.19	0.00	976.19
6	Pension Month 12 2023-2024	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/03/2024 - 31/03/2024	DD UT	38.42	0.00	38.42
7	120PF003233 662412	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions March 2024 Salary Mth 12	300004	33.42	0.00	33.42
8		NSALG National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Ltd	Local Authority Membership Fees 2024-2025	UTBT8	67.00	12.00	55.00
9	19179	Truvelo (UK) Ltd	TruSign Solar Panel Mk2 (50W) c/w bracket	UTBT9	516.00	86.00	430.00
10		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.03.2024 - 31.03.2024)	UTBT10	20.00	0.00	20.00
Totals					£2,920.70	£238.50	£2,682.20