

## BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 4th November 2024 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllr S Billing, Chair  
 Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chair  
 Cllr D Wilson  
 Cllr W Root  
 Cllr B Ingram  
 Cllr N Chandler  
 Cllr C Gardner  
 District Cllr A Addison

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

		Action
BPC182/ 24-25	To receive apologies. Apologies received from Cllr Brown, Cllr Field and Cllr Hawkins. The Council resolved to accept the apologies.	
BPC183/ 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 BPC200/ 24-25 (c).	
BPC184/ 24-25	To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 07/10/2024. Agreed.	
BPC185/ 24-25	To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only. The October Youth Parish Council meeting was attended by three young people and a parent. The young people have continued to settle into the room allocated by the Blisworth Baptist Church. Through engagement, the young people, highlighted the issue of rubbish in the Eastfield play area and asked the Parish Council to consider the purchase of an additional litter bin for this area. Our thanks are expressed to Minister Lee Hillyard who continues to push events forward for the Youth Parish Council on our behalf. The PSCO is planning on visiting the group in November.	
BPC186/ 24-25	Clerk's report circulated separately. Noted. West Northants Council (WNC) agreed TPO for works on the lime trees at the Closed Cemetery. Royal Oak registration confirmed again as an Asset of Community Value as per request from WNC. Notification of vacant allotment plot: Residents on the waiting list have been advised. Additional contractors contacted for quotes for suited keys and epicormic pruning. Requested a replacement sign for No Ball Games. Finalised complaint procedure undertaken on behalf of Blisworth Football Club. Blisworth Football Club confirmed they have received the £500.00.	

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<p>BPC187/ 24-25</p>	<p><b>Public Session:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. District Councillor Report. District Councillor Addison noted that West Northamptonshire Unitary Council is in the process of looking for voluntary redundancies. The inherited debt has been apportioned between North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire, with West Northamptonshire assuming a larger portion of the debt.</li> <li>b. Members of the public. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) A Councillor from Milton Malsor Parish Council outlined concerns regarding the proposed developments opposite the SEGRO site at the M1, Junction 15 and the lack of clarity from West Northants Council with regard to documents and plans pertaining to this area.</li> <li>(ii) A member of the public raised the ongoing issues of speeding traffic through Stoke Road and asked when the 20 mph speed limit will be initiated.</li> <li>(iii) A member of the public noted the work on the pavements around the village carried out by West Northants Council (WNC) at the request of Blisworth Parish Council but also raised the question of leaves and also moss on the footways.</li> <li>(iv) A member of the Blisworth Baptist Church raised the following items: They confirmed that the Warm Space provision at the Baptist Church will start on 05/11/2024 and requested support from Blisworth Parish Councillors to help run the sessions. They requested that the Parish Council review plans by West Northants Council regarding the placement of dropped kerbs on Chapel Lane.</li> <li>(v) A member of the public raised concerns about agenda point BPC197/24-25.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>							
<p>BPC188/ 24-25</p>	<p><b>Response to issues raised in the public session.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Chair and Council noted District Councillor Addison’s report.</li> <li>b. (i) Blisworth Parish Council to contact West Northants Council to request further clarification about any proposed further development of the site(s) adjacent to the M1, Junction 15 and the consultation process with local residents.</li> <li>(ii) The 20 mph speed limit is yet to be implemented by West Northants Council but once it is, then the speed limit can be enforced (currently there are only advisory signs).</li> <li>(iii) The Council pointed out that all footways are the responsibility of WNC and urged members of the public to note issues of concern on Fix My Street.</li> <li>(iv) Councillors to contact the Blisworth Baptist Church if they are able to support the Welcome Spaces initiative. The Council to contact West Northants Council and check plans for dropped kerbs in Chapel Lane.</li> <li>(v) Cllr Billing declared an interest at this point and withdrew from the debate. Cllr Read and Cllr Root declared an interest as canal boat owners. Agreed to encourage future discussion to promote consultation and shared interests.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Read and Cllr Root</p> <p>Clerk &amp; Cllr Brown</p>						
<p>BPC189/ 24-25</p>	<p><b>Planning and Development.</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="245 1771 1369 2040"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="245 1771 571 1850">Application &amp; Date Comments Due</th> <th data-bbox="571 1771 778 1850">Location</th> <th data-bbox="778 1771 1369 1850">Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="245 1850 571 2040">2024/4565/S73</td> <td data-bbox="571 1850 778 2040">Ancillary Building (The Shed) Blisworth Arm</td> <td data-bbox="778 1850 1369 2040">Variation of condition 2 &amp; 8 of WNS/2023/0270/FUL (Change of use of general purpose storage building to holiday let, first floor extension to create habitable space) to amend the internal</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Application & Date Comments Due	Location	Description	2024/4565/S73	Ancillary Building (The Shed) Blisworth Arm	Variation of condition 2 & 8 of WNS/2023/0270/FUL (Change of use of general purpose storage building to holiday let, first floor extension to create habitable space) to amend the internal	
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		Blisworth NN7 3EF	layout, addition of two roof windows and to allow the north facing gable window to be utilised as a fire escape. <b>No further comments.</b>	
BPC190/ 24-25	Planning Application WNS/2022/1134/MAO Land West of Northampton Road. Discuss options and agree next steps. Agreed to contact West Northants Council Planning department to request an update.			Cllr Root and Cllr Read
BPC191/ 24-25	Land near M1 Junction 15 Harworth Group proposal. Discuss options and agree next steps. Agreed Blisworth Parish Council to contact West Northants Council to request further clarification about any proposed further development of the site(s) adjacent to the M1, Junction 15 and the consultation process with local residents.			Cllr Root and Cllr Read
BPC192/ 24-25	Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read. There has been one direct message to the social media platform in the period. A resident enquired about the ownership of the field adjacent to the railway cottages. Cllr Read replied that the Parish Council are not aware of any change of ownership and advised the resident check with the land registry service, which can cost approx. £3.00 to run a check on land ownership. Total number of followers on Social Media remains at 316 people (68% of our followers are listed as women and 129 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. Post reach of 1055 people (people who have our messages on their social media feeds) and a direct engagement (clicks) of 518 people. The top performing post in the period was the information on the M1 Junction 15 closure. Since the last meeting we have posted information on the further road closures, Youth Parish Council, Halloween and bonfire night safety, consultation on the canal water transfer project, Police Beat Bus visit, a reminder of the meeting with Sarah Bool MP and the agenda for November Parish Council meeting.			
BPC193/ 24-25	Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read. Violence and Sex Offence – 4, Anti-Social Behaviour – 1, Other Theft – 3 The Neighbourhood alert/Neighbourhood watch system "Northamptonshire Talking" has 83 members. Regular updates about local crime and matters of priority within South Northants are issued through this portal <a href="https://northamptonshiretalking.co.uk/">https://northamptonshiretalking.co.uk/</a> . These alerts are also published on the Parish social media; Note that using this system complies with GDPR. There has been one relevant alert relating to the village concerning criminal damage to a caravan off of Stoke Road sometime between 1st August and 1st October where the windows were smashed. Did you witness anything? Did you see anyone or any vehicle(s) in the area that looked suspicious? If so, then please contact Northamptonshire Police on 101 quoting Ref: 24000589828. Alternatively you can report online on <a href="https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/">https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/</a> . There has also been notification of the Beat Bus visit on Wednesday 6 November at 3pm at the Royal Oak Public House car park. Both of these alerts have been advertised on social media. The neighbourhood policing team have reconfirmed their priorities which are Road Safety and Road Traffic Offences, Acquisitive Crime and Drug Supply. Information on the police road safety enforcement action from the safer roads team is on the following website ( <a href="http://northantspas.com">northantspas.com</a> ).			

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<p>BPC194/ 24-25</p>	<p>Traffic Update Working Group and Report on data from SID/VAS devices: Update from Cllr Read and Cllr Brown.</p> <p>VAS unit in Courteenhall Road: In the period between 5 October and 1 November (27 days) there were 78,111 vehicle movements (Av2893 per day), 5% decrease on last month's report now similar to the volumes experienced before the junction alterations which exceeded c3000 per day. The speeds are consistent with previous months with average speeds to 32.6 mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 41 mph and the maximum speed recorded was 82mph.</p> <p>VAS unit in Stoke Road: In the period between 5 October and 1 November, note that the batteries ran out between 7 October and 12 October (21 days), there were 59,217 vehicle movements (Av 2,817 per day), this is an increase of 15% on last month's data and similar to the March/April pre closure data of avg. 2422 per day. This is not reflective of the volumes seen previously in Dec 23 when we experienced avg. 3,233 per day. The speeds are consistent with December 2023 and March/April with average speeds to 28.6 mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 34 mph. The top speed recorded was 101 mph. This area is not proposed by West Northamptonshire to be included in the new 20mph zone. Progress on the new pole for an additional VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) unit outside of the village hall is still being pursued by the Clerk with West Northants Council.</p>	
<p>BPC195/ 24-25</p>	<p>Gateway Update. Update from Cllr Wilson. Cllr Wilson advised the Parish Council that allocated S106 money from Northampton Gateway works would be allocated in two tranches. District Cllr Addison to liaise with WNC to obtain the correct forms.</p>	<p>Cllr Addison</p>
<p>BPC196/ 24-25</p>	<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. Nothing to report. Agreed to liaise with the Youth Parish Council in discussions regarding a new bin and new play equipment for discussion at the December Parish Council meeting.</li> <li>b. Discuss quotes for annual inspection at Eastfield Play Area for insurance purposes and agree next steps. <b>RESOLVED</b> to appoint contractor C: £150.00 (plus VAT) for an Annual unaccompanied inspection.</li> <li>c. Defibrillator: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified.</li> <li>d. Allotments: Update from Cllr Ingram and Cllr Read. Cllr Ingram noted the very positive meeting of the Allotment Working Group on 14/10/2024. Agreed Cllr Ingram to review notices to clean plots. Clerk to ascertain number of keys required ahead of ordering locks and keys.</li> <li>e. Closed Cemetery: Update from Cllr Billing. Notification from WNC to proceed with work on lime trees in the Closed Cemetery received.</li> <li>f. Resolution to discuss and agree quote for epicormic pruning of lime trees in the Closed Cemetery. <b>RESOLVED</b> to agree to appoint contractor C: £ 1760.00 to remove basal and stem epicormic growth up to circa 2m above ground level from 24 lime trees and move chip arisings into piles on site (locations to be agreed).</li> <li>g. Update regarding offer of free trees from WNC. Discuss options and agree next steps.</li> </ol>	<p>Cllr Read</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Ingram Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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	Agreed Clerk to obtain confirmation from WNC that trees will still be available, should the Parish Council decide to postpone planting of some trees until October 2025 to allow time for a full consultation with residents at the May 2025 meeting.	Clerk						
BPC197/ 24-25	Noise and Air Pollution issues from canal boats moorings. Discuss options and agree next steps. Agreed no action required. As noted in BPC188/24-25 b (v), Agreed to encourage future discussion to promote consultation and shared interests.							
BPC198/ 24-25	Resolution to co-opt a councillor for the current vacancy. No applications received.							
BPC199/ 24-25	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.							
BPC200/ 24-25	Finance & Administration Banking Issues: a. Bank reconciliation. £108,682.17. Noted Clerk to transfer £5000.00 from Skipton savings account to Unity Trust current account.  <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;"><b>UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT</b></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;"><b>31.10.2024</b></td> <td style="width: 40%; text-align: right;"><b>£6,359.59</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>31.10.2024</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£102,322.58</b></td> </tr> </table> b. To consider plans, budget, and arrangements for the Local Elections in 2025. <b>RESOLVED</b> to consider plants, budget and arrangement for the Local Elections in 2025 at the next Finance Working Group meeting ready for the December 2024 Parish Council meeting. c. 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.	<b>UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>	<b>31.10.2024</b>	<b>£6,359.59</b>	<b>SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT</b>	<b>31.10.2024</b>	<b>£102,322.58</b>	
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BPC201/ 24-25	Councillors' reports and items for future agenda. Cllr Wilson noted that the recent pay award and National Insurance payments would need to be discussed as part of the 2024-2025 budget meetings.							
BPC202/ 24-25	Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for the next Council Surgery. <b>RESOLVED</b> that Cllr Chandler, Cllr Ingram, Cllr Wilson and Cllr Billing will attend.	Cllrs Chandler, Ingram, Wilson & Billing						
BPC203/ 24-25	To agree the date of next meeting Monday, 2nd December 2024 at 7.30pm. Agreed.							
BPC204/ 24-25	Close. The meeting closed at 9.06 pm.							

Signed:

Chairman..... Date:

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

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Appendix 1

RECEIPTS

Date	Time	Description	Credit Ref/Debit Ref	Amount	Paid In	Withdrawn	INTEREST	ALLOTMENTS - RENTS	ALLOTMENTS - PLOT DEPOSIT	PRECEPT	GRANTS	VAT REFUND	OTHER	TOTAL	Bank
02-Oct-24	06:18	IONOS CLOUD LTD.	IONOS Credit V60544620-69187191	£2.60	£2.60	0							£2.60	£2.60	UT
08-Oct-24	06:19	IONOS CLOUD LTD.	IONOS Credit V60544620-62226231	£5.20	£5.20	0							£5.20	£5.20	UT
	<b>Totals</b>						<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£7.80</b>	<b>£7.80</b>	

Payments

Entry No	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT
93	LGA 1973 s137		Blisworth Primary School	S137 Allotment Plot Fund 2024-2025	UTBT93	10.00	0.00	10.00
94	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary Oct 2024 Mth 07	UTBT94	976.19	0.00	976.19
95	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	Pension Month 07 2024-2025	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/10/2024 - 31/10/2024	UTDD95	38.42	0.00	38.42
96	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	120PF003233662507	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions Oct 2024 Salary Mth 07	UTBT96	33.42	0.00	33.42
97	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	2218	CutCrew Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x 2 & Area 1 x 2 10.10.2024 & 25.10.2024	UTBT97	837.02	139.50	697.52

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98	LGA 1972 s 142 LGA 1972, s111 (1)	2030 4460 5834	IONOS	Website Fee 18/10/2024-18/11/2024	UTDD98	7.80	1.30	6.50
99	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	8178	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 1 01.10.24 - 31.10.24	UTBT99	148.20	24.70	123.50
100	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV01770043	SSE Electricity	SSE 01/09/2024-30/09/2024 Site Ref:AGR0143235 & AGR0143236	UTBT100	102.32	5.82	96.50
101	LGA 1972, s.111		Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 04/09/2024-30/09/2024	UTDD101	5.40	0.00	5.40
102	LGA 1972, s.111	4685123	Viking Payments	Toner, Paper & Paperclips	CC-UTDD102	98.08	16.35	81.73
103	LGA 1972, s.111	626015	Currrys Group Ltd	Anti-virus-1 Year	CC-UTDD103	7.99	1.33	6.66
104	LGA 1972 s 142	DPV-546023	Digital Printing	Halloween flyers	CC-UTDD104	55.30	0.00	55.30
105	LGA 1972, s.111	26/09/2024	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee	CC-UTDD105	3.00	0.00	3.00
106	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.10.2024 - 31.10.2024)	UTBT106	26.55	0.00	26.55
					<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2,349.69</b>	<b>£189.00</b>	<b>£2,160.69</b>