

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 2nd December 2024 at 7.30 pm.**

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

Also present: Clerk: Angela Billing
 2 Members of public

		Action
BPC205/ 24-25	To receive apologies. Apologies received from Cllr Field and Cllr Hawkins. The Council resolved to accept the apologies.	
BPC206/ 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 items BPC221/ 24-25 b, d, g and h.	
BPC207/ 24-25	To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 04/11/2024. Approved.	
BPC208/ 24-25	To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only. None noted.	
BPC209/ 24-25	Clerk's report circulated separately. Noted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos of the war memorial sent to conservation@warmemorials.org as per their advice ahead of contacting a contractor to provide a quote for works and completing a grant application. • West Northants Council (WNC) confirmed that they would only be installing one dropped kerb in Chapel Lane (opposite the Baptist Chapel). However, they will have to install tactile paving on both sides of the road and footways at both locations will also have to be re-surfaced to ensure the crossing areas conform with standards. • WNC Urban Highway Grass Mowing form completed and sent to WNC. • Planning Application WNS/2022/1134/MAO Land to the West Northampton Road, Blisworth: Case Officer confirmed that this application will go to committee and that Blisworth Parish Council will be informed of the date. 	
BPC210/ 24-25	Public Session: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. District Councillor Report. No report. b. Members of the public. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Member of the public inquired if the footpath from Buttmead to Courteenhall Road and to the allotments is a bridleway. 	

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BPC211/ 24-25	<p>Response to issues raised in the public session.</p> <p>b. (i) The Council explained that the footpath is a bridleway and as such horses are legally allowed to use the path. The Council will consider options for better signage to warn pedestrians and to contact West Northants Council to renew the ‘keep clear’ road markings at the start of the bridleway on Courteenhall Road.</p>										
BPC212/ 24-25	<p>Planning and Development.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="244 524 1291 723"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="244 524 547 645">Application & Date Comments Due</th> <th data-bbox="547 524 740 645">Location</th> <th data-bbox="740 524 1291 645">Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 645 547 683"></td> <td data-bbox="547 645 740 683"></td> <td data-bbox="740 645 1291 683"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 683 547 723"></td> <td data-bbox="547 683 740 723"></td> <td data-bbox="740 683 1291 723"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Application & Date Comments Due	Location	Description							
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BPC213/ 24-25	<p>Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read. Noted. There have been no direct messages to the social media platform in the period.</p>										
BPC214/ 24-25	<p>Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read. Noted.</p>										
BPC215/ 24-25	<p>Report on data from SID/VAS devices and Traffic Working Group: Update from Cllr Read and Cllr Brown.</p> <p>VAS unit in Courteenhall Road: In the period between 1 November and 1 December (31 days) there were 87,699 vehicle movements (Av2829 per day), consistent with 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 month’s however the unit is recording some unusual results for high speeds.</p> <p>The VAS unit in Stoke Road has stopped working, despite a battery change. Noted some issues with the VAS machine in Towcester Road. Cllr Chandler noted the VAS machine on Stoke Road is now working.</p> <p>Cllr Brown noted that West Northants Council are not able to give a date for the proposed chicane or 20 mph zone but have confirmed that both planned traffic-calming initiatives are on track.</p>										
BPC216/ 24-25	<p>Report on Youth Parish Council: Update from Cllr Read.</p> <p>The Youth Parish Council continues to grow and 5 young people attended this month’s meeting. Matthew Taylor our PCSO attended the meeting to chat to the young people which was well received. Our thanks are continued to be expressed to the Minister of the Baptist Church and the Baptist Church team for their continued support for this project.</p>										
BPC217/ 24-25	<p>Gateway Update. Update from Cllr Wilson. Cllr Wilson has requested a copy of the S106 application form.</p>										

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BPC218/ 24-25	<p>Village Maintenance & Open Spaces:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Play area: Monthly safety inspection report. Update from Cllr Wilson. Monthly check was undertaken. Cllr Wilson noted increased litter, broken glass and dog mess as well as issues with the gate. Cllr Read to highlight litter issues on social media page. Cllr Wilson to propose the type of play equipment needed for the spare area on the playground and Cllr Read to look for possible grants. Clerk to contact Litter Group again. Clerk to obtain quotes for a new gate. b. Defibrillator: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified. c. Allotments: Update from Cllr Ingram and Cllr Read. Noted that the issue of a communal allotment plot to be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting of Blisworth Village. Clerk to obtain quotes for posts to mark the boundary of allotment plots. Noted breakdown of costs for Suited keys including brass shackles and spare keys £302.58. Remaining cost for tenants' keys will be paid by tenants' deposits. Noted Clerk to write to the tenant to maintain their hedge to a manageable height, such that the tenant can easily maintain it and to keep it within their plot boundary. Noted Notice to Clean letters to be sent to tenants not maintaining their plots. d. Closed Cemetery: Update from Cllr Billing. Epicormic pruning of lime trees to begin in the next week depending on weather conditions. 	Cllr Wilson & Read Clerk						
BPC219/ 24-25	<p>Discuss measures to attract new councillor(s) to fulfil current vacancy and future vacancies and agree next steps. RESOLVED to add to January agenda to review progress.</p>	All Cllrs						
BPC220/ 24-25	<p>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.</p>							
BPC221/ 24-25	<p>Finance & Administration Banking Issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bank reconciliation. Checked by Cllr Root. <table style="margin-left: 40px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">01.12.2024</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£9,091.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT</td> <td>01.12.2024</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£97,322.58</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Skipton Building Society is reducing its savings rates from 3.40% gross pa/AER variable to 3.15% gross pa/AER variable as of 09/12/2024.</p> b. Resolution to agree National pay award for Clerks and agree to backdate pay award to April 2024. RESOLVED to agree the National pay award for Clerks and agree to backdate pay award to April 2024. c. Report from Finance Working Group (FWG): Update from Cllr Root. Noted. d. Discuss proposed values for the 2025-2026 Budget and the 2025-2026 Precept and agree next steps. RESOLVED: FWG asked to review 2025-2026 Budget and the 2025-2026 Precept and submit at the January 2025 full Council meeting. e. Discuss utilisation of reserves and discuss future capital projects and agree next steps. 	UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	01.12.2024	£9,091.17	SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT	01.12.2024	£97,322.58	
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	<p>RESOLVED: Cllr Root to submit a list of the shared ideas and Chair to allocate to councillors to pursue costs and requirements for further discussion at the next full Council meeting.</p> <p>f. Discuss option to add a separate budget line for the Youth Parish Council for 2025-2026 Budget and agree an initial fund of £250.00. Agreed.</p> <p>g. Discuss option to postpone CiLCA training for the Clerk and agree next steps. RESOLVED to postpone training until following year. Training costs to be held in ear-marked reserves.</p> <p>h. To note receipts and approve the following payments and any others that arrive after publication of the agenda. RESOLVED to note receipts and agree the payments listed in Appendix I.</p>	
BPC222/ 24-25	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.</p> <p>Cllr Chandler noted overgrown vegetation obscuring some street lights. Cllr Chandler and Clerk to review for next agenda.</p> <p>Clerk noted ongoing issues with current laptop.</p>	Cllr Chandler & Clerk
BPC223/ 24-25	<p>Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for the next Council Surgery.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs Ingram, Chandler, Wilson and Billing to attend.</p>	Cllrs Ingram, Chandler, Wilson & Billing,
BPC224/ 24-25	To agree the date of next meeting 06/01/2025 at 7.30pm. Agreed.	
BPC225/ 24-25	Close. The meeting closed at 8.48 pm.	

Signed: Chairman..... Date:

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

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Appendix I

RECEIPTS December 2024 Meeting

Date	Time	Description	Credit Ref/Debit Ref	Amount	Paid In	Withdrawn	INTEREST	ALLOTMENTS - RENTS	ALLOTMENTS - PLOT DEPOSIT	PRECEPT	GRANTS	VAT REFUND	OTHER	TOTAL	Bank
	Totals			£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	

Payments December 2024 Meeting

Entry No	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT
107	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	8284	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 1 01.11.24 - 30.11.24	UTBT107	148.20	24.70	123.50
108	Open Spaces Act 1906, s14	0000 144 151	Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd	Play Area Operational Inspection Compliance Package (5 yrs-2 visits pa)	UTBT108	478.80	79.80	399.00
109	LGA 1972 s 142	29177	Merland Copy Shop Ltd	Printing of Round & About Dec-Jan Issue 160	UTBT109	170.00	0.00	170.00
110	LGA 1972, Section 111	7860	Barbara Osborne	Payroll Services Oct 2024 - Dec 2024	UTBT110	85.50	0.00	85.50
111	Highways Act 1980, s. 96		2258 CutCrew Ltd	Cut to Closed Cemetery 07/11/2024	UTBT111	209.16	34.86	174.30
112	LGA 1972, s.111		Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 01/10/2024-31/10/2024	UTDD112	6.00	0.00	6.00

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113	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV01965445	SSE Electricity	SSE 01/10/2024-31/10/2024 Site Ref:AGR0143235 & AGR0143236	UTBT113	105.73	6.01	99.72
114	LGA 1972, s.111	12/10/2024	Choice Furnishing	4-Drawer Filling Cabinet	CC- UTDD114	35.00	0.00	35.00
115	LGA 1972, s.111	15/10/2024	British Heart Found.	2-Drawer Filling Cabinet	CC- UTDD115	20.00	0.00	20.00
116	LGA 1973 S137	23/10/2024	Royal British Legion Trading Ltd	Poppy Wreath	CC- UTDD116	24.50	4.08	20.42
117	LGA 1972, s.111	28/10/2024	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee	CC- UTDD117	3.00	0.00	3.00
118	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	Pension Month 08 2024-2025	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/11/2024 - 30/11/2024	UTDD118	38.42	0.00	38.42
119	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	120PF003233662508	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions NOV 2024 Salary Mth 08	UTBT119	33.42	0.00	33.42
120	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary Nov 2024 Mth 08	UTBT120	976.19	0.00	976.19
121	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.11.2024 - 30.11.2024)	UTBT121	37.50	0.00	37.50
122	LGA 1972 s 142	28	Alan North	Round &About Alan North Dec-Jan 2024/25 Iss 160	UTBT122	50.00	0.00	50.00
123	LGA 1972 s 111 (1)	02/10/2024	Blisworth Baptist Church	Youth Parish Council Meeting Equipment	UTBT123	59.98	0.00	59.98
124		422120	N'pton Locksmiths Ltd	Suited Gate Locks, collars x 2 & keys	UTBT124	682.58	0.00	682.58
						£3,163.98	£149.45	£3,014.53