

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 6th January 2025 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

Also present: Clerk: Angela Billing
4 Members of public

BPC226/24-25

To receive apologies. Apologies received from Cllr Brown, Cllr Field and Cllr Hawkins.
The Council **resolved** to accept the apologies.

BPC227/24-25

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 BPC246/ 24-25 (c), (d) and (e).

BPC228/24-25

To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 02/12/2024.
Approved.

BPC229/24-25

To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only. None noted.

BPC230/24-25

Clerk's report circulated separately. Noted.

- **Allotment Water bill:** BPC Allotment Gardens' share of the water bill for 2024-2025 calculated and Blisworth Football Club and Blisworth Scouts informed. Invoice to be processed and authorised at January 2025 meeting.
- Clerk to transfer £4000.00 from Skipton account to Unity Trust Account.
- **Budget 2025-2026** finalised and **Precept demand** calculation finalised for January meeting.
- **Draft joint Asset Register for AGAR and Insurance** purposes created and reviewed with Finance Working Group team.
- **Free trees:** Appointment with West Northants Council (WNC) representative arranged for initial discussion to be part of their trial.
- **Play Area Gate Quotes:** Issue with non-standard size of the current gate and width between the position of the gate posts.

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BPC231/24-25

Public Session:

- a. District Councillor Report. No report received.
- b. Members of the public.
 - (i) Three members of the public noted concerns regarding application 2024/5534/FULL (Item BPC233/24-25).
 - (ii) A member of the public noted that a 20 mph advisory sign needs to be repositioned/fixed and that West Northants Council have yet to complete work on the bridle path between Courteenhall Rd and Buttmead.

BPC232/24-25

Response to issues raised in the public session.

- a. Clerk to contact West Northants Council and ask for representation and support with ongoing issues within the Parish of Blisworth from a representative at District Councillor level. **Action: Clerk**
- b. (i) The Council noted the comments by the members of public.
(ii) The Council noted the information. **Action: Clerk**

BPC233/24-25

Planning and Development.

Application &

Date Comments Due

Location

Description

2024/5534/FULL

Ext confirmed for 10/01/2025

Land west of the Barn 3A
off Gayton Road Blisworth

Construction of single
detached dwelling.

RESOLVED to submit an Objection to this application.

BPC234/24-25

Discuss Save Towcester Now request for support with reference to the implications of the proposed developments in Towcester for Blisworth residents and agree next steps.

The Council agreed to submit a letter of support. **Action: Clerk**

BPC235/24-25

Discuss the new proposed Harworth development at Junction 15 off M1 and agree next steps.

RESOLVED to await the formal submission of this planning application but to send an interim letter to West Northants Council with regards to this proposed application highlighting concerns. **Action: Cllr Read**

BPC236/24-25

Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read. Noted. There have been no direct messages to the social media platform in the period.

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BPC237/24-25

Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read. There were 10 offences reported in the parish, 3 were report in one residential location. Violence and Sex Offence – 3, Anti-Social Behaviour – 2, Other Theft – 2 and Other Crimes – 2.

BPC238/24-25

Report on data from SID/VAS devices and Traffic Working Group: Update from Cllr Read and Cllr Brown. VAS unit in Courteenhall Road

In the period between 1 December and 4 January (35 days) there were 92,577 vehicle movements (Avg. 2645 per day). 6% 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 the previous month with average speeds to 31.9 mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 41 mph and the maximum speed recorded was 82mph.

VAS unit in Stoke Road

In the period between 1 November and 4 January, note that the unit was not working between 22 November and 1 December (55 days) there were 132,168 vehicle movements (Avg. 2403 per day), consistent with the volumes experienced over recent periods however not near the peak volumes in December 2023 where c3200 vehicle movements a day were experienced. Speeds are consistent with the previous month's Avg. 28.7mph and 85% of vehicles traveling at or below 33mph. The maximum speed recorded was 96mph. The unit is now working as Cllr Read cleaned the battery terminals. When the new pole is installed by WNC in Stoke Road, Cllr Read recommended this unit is moved further up Stoke Road.

VAS unit in Towcester Road

This is the oldest of the three units and the display seems to be failing. Cllr Read recommended its replacement and disposal of the old unit. As Towcester Road and the Gayton Road Junction is where we experience the most speeding traffic, Cllr Read recommended that the unit be retained in its current location. Clerk to obtain quotes for a replacement. **Action: Clerk**

BPC239/24-25

Report on Youth Parish Council: Update from Cllr Read. No updates this month.

BPC240/24-25

Gateway Update. Update from Cllr Wilson. No update this month. Next meeting due in February 2025.

BPC241/24-25

Village Maintenance & Open Spaces:

- a. **Play area: Monthly safety inspection report:** Update from Cllr Wilson. Monthly check was undertaken. Cllr Wilson noted continued deterioration of the gate at the play area.
- b. **Discuss quotes for new Play Area gate and agree next steps.**
Quotes received to date highlighted the non-standard measurement of the current gate and distance between the posts either side of the gate.
Clerk to pursue quotes which will include repositioning the gate posts to allow the installation of a new gate of a standard width designed to meet play area safety standards. **Action: Clerk.**
- c. **Defibrillator:** Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified.
- d. **Allotments.** Update from Cllr Ingram and Cllr Read. Gate locks and keys have been purchased. Cllr Billing to obtain chains for the locks. Cllr Ingram and Cllr Read to set up the next Allotment Working Group meeting.

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Action: Cllr Billing, Cllr Read & Cllr Ingram.

- e. **Closed Cemetery.** Update from Cllr Billing. Epicormic pruning has started and will be completed in stages.
- f. **Discuss quotes for cutting back hedges and vegetation around notice board at the entrance of the footpath from Buttmead to Courteenhall Road and agree next steps.**
RESOLVED to appoint contractor A: £160.00 (plus VAT).

BPC242/24-25

Discuss measures to attract new councillor(s) to fulfil current vacancy and future vacancies and agree next steps. Councillors to continue to advertise vacancies by word of mouth as well as social media and website. Action: All Cllrs & Clerk.

BPC243/24-25

Discuss Community Speed Watch options and agree next steps.

RESOLVED Clerk to approach interested residents with the aim to gain a leader and vice-leader for a Community Speed Watch in addition to asking for volunteers on social media.

BPC244/24-25

Discuss overgrown vegetation obscuring street lights: Update from Cllr Chandler.

Cllr Chandler outlined issues in the village to the Council. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Chandler to submit his report to the Clerk and Clerk to seek quotes for the work.

BPC245/24-25

Internal Control:

- a. **Internal Control Checklist:** Update from Cllr Chandler. Quarterly check was undertaken by Cllr Chandler with no issues to report.
- 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.

BPC246/24-25

Finance & Administration

Banking Issues:

- a. **Bank reconciliation.** Checked by Cllr Root.

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT 20491615	03.01.2025	£7,978.90
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SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT 921190089	03.01.2025	£ 97,322.58
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- b. **Report from Finance Working Group (FWG):** Update from Cllr Root. Noted. Agreed to review Asset Register at the next FWG meeting and to also review options for a Capital Projects budget in addition to the expenditure budget for 2025-2026.
- c. **Budget 2025-2026: Review figures for Budget for 2025-2026 and agree next steps.**
RESOLVED to agree the proposed 2025/2026 budget of £47,845.17.
- d. **Review the figures for the Precept demand for 2025-2026 and agree next steps.**
RESOLVED to approve the proposed 2025/2026 Precept demand of £45,495.00.
- e. **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.

BPC247/24-25

To consider the government's consultation on strengthening the Standards and Conduct framework for local authorities in England and agree next steps.

Clerk to review recommendations for actions and training from Northants CALC. Action: Clerk

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BPC248/24-25

Councillors' reports and items for future agenda. Cllr Billing asked for a volunteer to prepare a report on the parish notice boards. Cllr Ingram volunteered to conduct a survey and produce a report for the Council.

BPC249/24-25

Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for the next Council Surgery.
RESOLVED: Cllrs Billing, Chandler, Ingram and Wilson to attend.

BPC250/24-25

To agree the date of next meeting 03/02/2025 at 7.30pm. Agreed.

BPC251/24-25

Close. The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed: Chairman..... Date:

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

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Appendix I

RECEIPTS JANUARY 2025 MEETING

Date	Description	Credit Ref/Debit Ref	Amount	Paid In	Withdrawn	INTEREST	ALLOTMENTS - RENTS	ALLOTMENTS - PLOT DEPOSIT	PRECEPT	GRANTS	VAT REFUND	OTHER	TOTAL	Bank
03-Dec-24	HMRC VTR	XAV126000101876	£1,997.48	£0.00							£1,997.48		£1,997.48	UT
Totals			£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,997.48	£0.00	£1,997.48	

Payment List January 2025 Meeting

Ref	Meeting date	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT
125	06/01/2025	LGA 1972, s.111		Rock Bottom	Key tags £1.00, Light padlock £6.00 Play Area Gate, Chain £7.99 Play Area Gate, Allotments water meter padlock £1.49.	CC-UTDD125	17.47	2.91	14.56
126	06/01/2025	LGA 1972 s 142 LGA 1972, s111 (1)	2030 4512 1211	IONOS	Website Fee 18/11/2024-18/12/2024	UTDD126	7.80	1.30	6.50

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127	06/01/2025	LGA 1972, s.111		Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 01/11/2024-30/11/2024	UTDD127	6.00	0.00	6.00
128	06/01/2025	LGA 1972, s.111	26/11/2024	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee	CC- UTDD128	3.00	0.00	3.00
129	06/01/2025	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV02168155	SSE Electricity	SSE 01/11/2024-30/11/2024 Site Ref:AGR0143235 & AGR0143236	UTBT129	102.32	5.82	96.50
130	06/01/2025	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	11/12/1922	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 1 01.12.24 - 31.12.24	UTBT130	148.20	24.70	123.50
131	06/01/2025	Allotments Act 1908, s26	2024-2025	WAVES water via Blisworth Football Club	Allotments Water Bill 2024-2025	UTBT131	233.74	0.00	233.74
132	06/01/2025	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary Dec 2024 Mth 09 & Back Pay for National Pay rise	UTBT132	1,271.29	0.00	1,271.29
133	06/01/2025	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.12.2024 - 31.12.2024)	UTBT133	20.00	0.00	20.00
134	06/01/2025	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	120PF003233662509	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions NOV 2024 Salary Mth 09 & backdated National pay rise.	UTBT134	102.59	0.00	102.59
							£1,912.41	£34.73	£1,877.68