

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 3rd February 2025 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 M Field
Cllr B Ingram
Cllr N Chandler
Cllr C Gardner

Also present: Clerk: Angela Billing
1 Member of public

BPC252/24-25

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

BPC253/24-25 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 BPC272/24-25 (c).

BPC254/24-25

To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 06/01/2025.
Approved.

BPC255/24-25

To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only. Cllr Ingram to inform the church warden and clean the war memorial as per the War Memorial Trust's recommendations.

BPC256/24-25

Clerk's report circulated separately. Noted.

Precept demand: Issued to West Northants Council (WNC) and acknowledgement received.

Harworth Proposed Development: Letters issued to WNC representatives and local Parish Clerks.

Blisworth Football Club Lease Update: The lease is still with the Football Foundation's solicitor awaiting their comments.

National Grid street lights inventory: Updated.

BPC257/24-25

Public Session:

a. District Councillor Report. No report submitted.

b. Members of the public. A member of the public discussed the Stoke Road sign and Blisworth footpaths.

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BPC258/24-25

Response to issues raised in the public session.

- a) No District Councillor report.
- b) Cllr Brown noted that she will discuss the issues raised with a West Northants Council representative at their next meeting. **Action: Cllr Brown.**

BPC259/24-25

Planning and Development.

Application & Date Comments Due	Location	Description
a. 2025/0204/LBC Comments by 06/02/2025	Church House, 1 Church Lane, Blisworth, NN7 3BX,	Removal of conservatory, erection of single storey extension replacement porch, loft conversion, replacement windows, and alterations.

RESOLVED: No Comment

BPC260/24-25

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

BPC261/24-25

Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read. Noted.

BPC262/24-25

a. Report on data from SID/VAS devices and Traffic Working Group: Update from Cllr Read and Cllr Brown.

Cllr Brown to pursue 20 mph signage and noted that that there have been more repairs to footpaths through the village, in addition to works on the verges along Towcester Road. Cllr Read noted that the road markings on Pond Bank need to be renewed. **Action: Cllr Brown & Clerk.**

VAS unit in Courteenhall Road

In the period between 4 January and 2 February (29 days) there were 74,153 vehicle movements (Avg. 2,557 per day), a further small decrease on last month's report and still 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 32.1 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 4 January and 11 January, note that the unit was not working between 11 January and 2 February due to flat batteries (11 days), there were 16,867 vehicle movements (Avg. 1,533 per day), This is a considerably reduced volume to that 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 previous month's Avg. 27.5mph with 85% of vehicles traveling at or below 33mph. The maximum speed recorded was 99mph.

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VAS unit in Towcester Road

This is the oldest of the three units and the display seems to be failing. With the proposed two new (reconditioned) units with solar panels, Cllr Read recommended that the unit in Stoke Road is relocated to Towcester Road and when the new pole is installed to the new location on Stoke Road, that the new unit is moved further up Stoke Road as it is very close to the WNC speed sign which is now in operation. The additional unit will be placed on the High Street at the boundary of the proposed 20mph limit to slow incoming vehicles approaching the shop and High Street/Stoke Road junction.

b. Discuss quotes for SID/VAS Pole for Stoke Road and agree next steps.

The Council received two quotes and **RESOLVED** to appoint contractor 2: £533.42 (plus VAT).

c. Discuss quotes for SID/VAS devices and agree next steps.

The Council received two quotes and **RESOLVED** to appoint contractor 2 for the purchase of two SID devices. Clerk to query delivery costs. The Council approved costs to a maximum of £6000.00 to cover the costs for both units.

BPC263/24-25

Report on Youth Parish Council: Update from Cllr Read. Numbers for the Youth Parish Council continue to grow.

BPC264/24-25

Gateway Update: Update from Cllr Wilson. No update this month.

BPC265/24-25

Village Maintenance & Open Spaces:

a. Play area:

(i) Monthly safety inspection report: Update from Cllr Wilson. Monthly check was undertaken. No additional items to report other than the issue of litter especially around the gate and bench. Clerk to contact installer of the small car to discuss repairs. Clerk to obtain quotes for a small sign with What3Words to record the site location of the play area as the postcode does not take you to the play area. **Action: Clerk.**

(ii) Discuss quotes for Eastfield play area gate and fencing and agree next steps.

Clerk contacted nine contractors but only received one quote from contractor 4.

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint contractor 4: £2,505.00 plus VAT.

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. Clerk to amend Allotment Tenancy Agreement and submit for approval at the next Parish Council meeting. **Action: Allotment Working Group & Clerk.**

d. Closed Cemetery: Update from Cllr Billing. The laurel hedge by the sign needs pruning and some wood has been left near the compost bin area. **Action: Cllr Billing.**

Clerk noted that new advice states that the wildflower areas should be strimmed and cleared twice a year. Clerk to obtain quotes. **Action: Clerk**

e. Discuss options for free new trees and hedging and agree next steps. Reviewed plans for new trees. Cllr Gardner and Clerk to look at other locations in the village and prepare a report for the next Parish Council meeting and a copy to be sent to WNC in preparation for consultation with residents in May.

Action: Clerk & Cllr Gardner

f. Discuss West Northants Council's proposal for wildflowers verges on Towcester Road and agree next steps. WNC has agreed to ensure that they side-out the full length of the path along Towcester Road and

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that they will ensure that the wildflower area adjacent to the path is cut to ensure that flowers do not fall onto the path causing obstructions.

g. Discuss plants for village planters and agree next steps. New volunteers have been found for some of the village planters. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve a budget of £132.00 to cover the cost of plants for the spring/summer. **Action: Clerk**

BPC266/24-25

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. Clerk advised the Council of election regulations. **Action: All Cllrs & Clerk.**

BPC267/24-25

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.

BPC268/24-25

Discuss quotes to replace laptop and update software and agree next steps.

The Council received three quotes and **RESOLVED** to approve option 2 for £792.50 (plus VAT).

BPC269/24-25

Northampton Gateway Community Fund Application and village improvements long-term plan: Discuss options and agree next steps. Update from Cllr Root. The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the application. Clerk to submit application to WNC. **Action: Clerk.**

BPC270/24-25

Capital Projects Budget Plan Update: Update from Cllr Root. Noted. Finance Working Group (FWG) to review the figures for a Capital Projects Budget at the end of 2024-2025 financial year.

Agreed responsibilities for feasibility studies:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Footways/Dropped Curbs/traffic calming | Cllr Brown and Traffic Working Group |
| • Street Lighting Improvements/Additions | Cllr Chandler |
| • Stoke Road Chicane | Cllr Brown and Traffic Working Group |
| • Improved drainage of the footpath | Cllr Root |
| • New Defib/Bleed Kit | Cllr Read |
| • Eastfield Play Area Improvements | Cllrs Chandler and Wilson |
| • Accessible Path through Cemetery | Cllr Billing and Clerk |
| • Restoration of War Memorial | Cllr Ingram |
| • Notice boards | Cllr Ingram |
| • Teenage Youth Project | Cllr Read |

BPC271/24-25

To approve amendments and readopt BPC Asset Register Policy.

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy with the approved amendments.

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BPC272/24-25

Finance & Administration Banking Issues:

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

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	02.02.2025	£10,088.76
SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT	02.02.2025	£93,322.58

b. **Actual versus Budget Update:** Update from Cllr Root. Noted.

c. **To note receipts and approve payments and any others that arrive after publication of the agenda.**

RESOLVED to note receipts and agree the payments listed in Appendix I.

BPC273/24-25

Councillors' reports and items for future agenda. Courteenhall Road footpath issues rejected on Fix My Street.

BPC274/24-25

Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for the next Council Surgery.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Billing, Ingram and Wilson to attend.

BPC275/24-25

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

BPC276/24-25

Close. The meeting closed at 9.24 pm.

Signed: Chairman..... Date:

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

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Appendix I

RECEIPTS February Meeting 2025

Date	Time	Description	Credit Ref/Debit Ref	Amount	Paid In	Withdrawn	INTEREST	ALLOTMENTS - RENTS	ALLOTMENTS - PLOT DEPOSIT	ALLOTMENTS - KEY DEPOSITS	PRECEPT	GRANTS	VAT REFUND	OTHER	TOTAL	Bank
27-Jan-25	11:58	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/21	£30.00	£30.00	£0.00				£30.00					£30.00	UT
28-Jan-25	18:33	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/4	£10.00	£10.00	£0.00				£10.00					£10.00	UT
30-Jan-25	12:39	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/1	£10.00	£10.00	£0.00				£10.00					£10.00	UT
31-Jan-25	08:19	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/23	£10.00	£10.00	£0.00				£10.00					£10.00	UT
31-Jan-25	15:48	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/33	£10.00	£10.00	£0.00				£10.00					£10.00	UT
03-Feb-25	03:10	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/31	£20.00	£20.00	£0.00				£20.00					£20.00	UT
03-Feb-25	11:39	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/6	£20.00	£20.00	£0.00				£20.00					£20.00	UT
03-Feb-25	11:39	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/40	£10.00	£10.00	£0.00				£10.00					£10.00	UT
							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	

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PAYMENTS February 2025 Meeting

Entry No	Meeting date	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT
135	03/02/2025	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	Pension Month 09 2024-2025	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/12/2024 - 31/12/2024	UTDD135	65.20	0.00	65.20
136	03/02/2025	LGA 1972 s 142 LGA 1972, s111 (1)	2030 4563 6375	IONOS	Website Fee 18/12/2024- 18/01/2025	UTDD136	7.80	1.30	6.50
137	03/02/2025	LGA 1972, s.111	27/12/2024	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee	CC- UTDD137	3.00	0.00	3.00
138	03/02/2025	LGA 1972, s.111		Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 01/12/2024-31/12/2024	UTDD138	6.00	0.00	6.00
139	03/02/2025	Local Government Act 1972 s 214 (6)	88	Ian Halliday	Epicormic Pruning All Lime Trees at Closed Cemetery	UTBT139	1,450.00	0.00	1,450.00
140	03/02/2025	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	8486	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 1 01.01.25 - 31.01.25	UTBT140	148.20	24.70	123.50
141	03/02/2025	LGA 1972 s 142	29	Alan North	Invoice 29 for R&A Alan North Feb-Mar 2025 Iss 161	UTBT141	50.00	0.00	50.00
142	03/02/2025	LGA 1972 s 142	29253	Merland Copy Shop Ltd	Printing of Round & About Feb-Mar Issue 161	UTBT142	170.00	0.00	170.00
143	03/02/2025	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV02252644	SSE Electricity	SSE 01/12/2024-31/12/2024 Site Ref:AGR0143235 & AGR0143236	UTBT143	83.22	5.04	78.18
144	03/02/2025	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	2313	CutCrew Ltd	Hedge work junction of Buttmead and RD2 footpath	UTBT144	192.00	32.00	160.00
145	03/02/2025	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	Pension Month 10 2024-2025	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/01/2025 - 31/01/2025	UTDD145	41.39	0.00	41.39

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146	03/02/2025	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary Jan 2025 Mth 10	UTBT146	1,011.53	0.00	1,011.53
147	03/02/2025	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	120PF003233662510	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions Jan 2025 Salary Mth 10	UTBT147	38.56	0.00	38.56
148	03/02/2025	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5	0000 827348	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Eastfield Play Area Annual Inspection	UTBT148	180.00	30.00	150.00
149	03/02/2025	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.01.2025 - 31.01.2025)	UTBT149	28.75	0.00	28.75
150	03/02/2025	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)	Data Protection Officer Fee ICO Certificate - Subscription to 18.02.2026	UTDD150	47.00	0.00	47.00
151	03/02/2025	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, Section 30		Friends of Blisworth Primary School	School Crossing Patrol Officer	UTBT151	1,270.05	0.00	1,270.05
152	03/02/2025	LGA 1972, s.111	27/01/2025	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee	CC-UTDD152	3.00	0.00	3.00
153	03/02/2025	LGA 1972 s 111 (1)	6668755818	Argos	Wireless speakers for BYPC	CC-UTDD153	29.99	5.00	24.99
154	03/02/2025	Allotments Act 1908, s26		Reimburse S Billing	Chains x 2 for Allotment Gates	UTBT154	12.68	0.00	12.68
Totals							£4,838.37	£98.04	£4,740.33