

## BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 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

Cllr Andrew Grant: West Northants District Councillor (Unitary Council).

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

### **BPC277/24-25**

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

### **BPC278/ 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 BPC296/ 24-25 (b). Cllr Root declared an interest in item BPC284/24-25 (a).**

### **BPC279/ 24-25**

To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 03/02/2025. Approved.

### **BPC280/ 24-25**

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

### **BPC281/24-25**

**Clerk's report circulated separately. Noted.**

**Small Car:** The installer has escalated this to their complaints department.

**Gateway Community Fund:** Application submitted.

**Plants for Village:** Suitable plants not available at the moment so some of the agreed £130.00 will be carried forward to the 2025-2026 Financial Year and ring-fenced.

**Transfer of funds:** Agreed with Cllr Root and Cllr Brown to transfer £7000.00 from the Skipton account to the Unity Trust account to cover costs for the new laptop, new gate and also SID devices.

**Cash and cheque payments for allotment keys** deposited for Unity Trust Acct Total: £150.00.

**Quotes for extra cut to the Closed Cemetery** – The price for an additional cut for the Closed Cemetery would be the same for 2025 cuts: an additional £219.61 (inc. VAT).

**SID devices:** Contractor has not provided ETA for delivery and invoice not received to date.

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### BPC282/24-25

#### Public Session:

- a. District Councillor Report. No Report. Cllr Andrew Grant introduced himself to the Parish Council Councillors and members of the public.
- b. Members of the public.
- (i) A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work with the pavement improvements, noted the damaged signage on the junction of Stoke Road and High Street has been fixed, noted further potholes in Stoke Road and raised the issue of the poor state of the tunnel hut adjacent to the canal.
- (ii) A member of the public raised the issue of vermin and poor upkeep at the allotments.

### BPC283/24-25

#### Response to issues raised in the public session.

- a. Cllr Grant to liaise with Cllr Brown to discuss traffic issues. **Action: Cllrs Grant & Brown**
- b. (i) Agreed that Cllr Root will identify the key holder for the tunnel hut and contact details for the Canal and River Trust liaison. **Action: Cllr Root**  
(ii) Councillors from the Allotment Working Group do regular visits to monitor the conditions of all plots. Noted that vermin may have been attracted by the chickens, which have now been removed. Agreed a letter to be sent to inform tenants that livestock, other than bees, will not be allowed to be kept at the allotments. **Action: Clerk.**

### BPC284/24-25

#### Planning and Development.

	<b>Application &amp; Date Comments Due</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
a.	2025/0444/FULL Comments by 05/03/2025.	78 High Street Blisworth NN7 3BJ	Single storey side extension, garden room and trellis to boundary wall ( retrospective) & Proposed front boundary wall with sliding access gate to driveway
	<b>RESOLVED: No objections.</b>		
b.	2025/0395/FULL Comments by 05/03/2025.	Hill Farm Gayton Road Blisworth NN7 3BP	Change of use from arable field to wedding and events venue
	<b>RESOLVED: No objections.</b>		
c.	2025/0108/FULL Comments by 17/03/2025.	Farm Cottage, Blisworth Arm, Blisworth, NN7 3EF	Installing air source heat pump to rear of property, and solar panels to roof at the back of the house
	<b>RESOLVED: No objections.</b>		

### BPC285/24-25

**Correspondence from social media:** Update from Cllr Read. Noted.

### BPC286/24-25

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

4 offences reported in the parish: Violence and Sex Offence – 2, Vehicle Crime – 1, Other Theft – 1.

Cllr Read to research costs for Community Watch stickers. **Action: Cllr Read**

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### BPC287/24-25

**Report on data from SID/VAS devices and Traffic Working Group:** Update from Cllr Read and Cllr Brown. Update received from West Northants Council (Highways) are awaiting further information relating to costs of lighting for the chicane.

### VAS unit in Courteenhall Road

In the period between 2 February and 4 March (31 days) there were 82,511 vehicle movements (Avg. 2661 per day), a 4% increase 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 month's with average speeds to 32.8 mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 41 mph and the maximum speed recorded was 96mph.

### VAS unit in Stoke Road

In the period between 2 February and 4 March (31 days) there were 69,390 vehicle movements (Avg. 2,238 per day), This is an increased volume to that experienced last month but consistent with previous months to that. 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. 28.7mph and 85% of vehicles traveling at or below 34mph, the maximum speed recorded was 91mph.

a. **Review updated pricing options for SID/VAS pole (Stoke Road) and agree next steps.**

**RESOLVED** to continue with Contractor 2 and to proceed with the additional payment to West Northants Council for the Section 50 licence with a total cost of up to a maximum value of £1000.00. Action: **Clerk**

### BPC288/24-25

**Report on Youth Parish Council:** Update from Cllr Read. Noted.

Cllr Read thanked the work of the Blisworth Baptist Chapel and noted the Blisworth Litter group attended a session to obtain opinions from the Blisworth Youth Parish Council (BYPC) members. Agreed to ask the BYPC members for their recommendations for a different litter bin at Eastfield Play Area. **Action: Cllr Read**

### BPC289/24-25

**Gateway Update:** Update from Cllr Wilson. Deferred as the Community Liaison Group meeting had to be rescheduled.

### BPC290/24-25

#### Village Maintenance & Open Spaces:

- a. **Play area: Monthly safety inspection report:** Update from Cllr Wilson. Monthly check was undertaken. Nothing new to report. Cllr Wilson cleared the litter and noted some tyre marks which were wider than bike treads.
  - (i) **Discuss Small Car repairs and agree next steps.** Deferred.
- b. **Defibrillator: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues.** Update from Cllr Read. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified.
  - (i) **Discuss new defibrillator quotes and agree next steps.** Deferred. Cllr Read to pursue options for locations.  
**Action: Cllr Read.**
- c. **Allotments.** Update from Cllr Ingram and Cllr Read. Noted report for the Blisworth Parish Council Allotments, off Courteenhall Road. Cllr Billing to review options for clearing remaining rubbish. **Action: Cllr Billing.**
  - (i) **Review Allotment annual rents 2025-2026 and agree next steps.**  
**RESOLVED** to maintain the annual rent for the at £10.00 per plot for 2025-2026.
  - (ii) **Review draft Allotment Tenancy Agreement 2025-2026 and agree next steps.**  
**RESOLVED** to adopt the amendments.
  - (iii) **Review draft Allotment Risk Assessments 2025-2026 and agree next steps.**  
**RESOLVED** to adopt the amendments for the Allotments Risk Assessment including bee-keeping risks.
  - (iv) **Discuss signage at the allotments and agree next steps.** Cllr Read to review options and obtain quotes.  
**Action: Cllr Read.**
  - (v) **Review fees for annual National Allotment Society and agree next steps.**  
**RESOLVED** to agree payment of £70.00 for the annual National Allotment Society.
- d. **Closed Cemetery:** Update from Cllr Billing.

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Graveyard Shift volunteers work and future plans noted. Laurel by the High Street gates has been reduced in size. Cllr Billing noted that a resident has asked for the laurel in the corner adjacent to Pond Bank to be reduced. Cllr Billing to action and to obtain quotes for chipping the offcuts. **Action: Cllr Billing.**

- e. **Discuss option for a bench on junction of Chapel Lane and Little Lane and agree next steps.**  
**RESOLVED** to agree a wooden bench (voluntary group to purchase and maintain). Clerk to complete application and submit.
- f. **Review options for free new trees and hedging and agree next steps.**  
**RESOLVED** to agree amendments to the updated report. Clerk to submit to West Northants Council.
- g. **Discuss Obscured Street Lighting Report and agree next steps:** Update from Cllr Chandler. Noted.  
Cllr Chandler to pursue options and quotes. **Action: Cllr Chandler.**

### BPC291/24-25

**Discuss measures to attract new councillor(s) to fulfil current vacancy and future vacancies and agree next steps.**  
Cllrs to continue to advertise the current vacancy (May elections). **Action: All Cllrs**

### BPC292/24-25

**Discuss promotion of May Elections and agree next steps.** Clerk to support councillors and residents with information to complete nomination forms. **Action: Clerk**

### BPC293/24-25

**Discuss plans for Annual Parish Meeting of Blisworth residents and agree next steps.** Agreed meeting for Annual Parish Meeting of Blisworth residents to be 12/05/2025.

### BPC294/24-25

**Capital Projects Budget Plan: Update.** Councillors progress on capital projects noted.

### BPC295/24-25

**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.

### BPC296/24-25

#### Finance & Administration

#### Banking Issues:

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

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	03.03.2025	£10,199.59
SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT	03.03.2025	£86,322.58
Cash (Allotment Key Deposit payments)		80.00
Total:		£96,602.17

Noted decrease in Skipton interest rates from 3.15% to 2.90%.

- b. **To note receipts and approve payments including any others that arrive after publication of the agenda.**  
Noted increase for laptop from £792.50 (plus VAT) to £813.33 (plus VAT) due to increase in parts since quote.  
**RESOLVED:** To note receipts and agree the payments listed in Appendix I.

### BPC297/24-25

#### Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.

Cllr Root: Date for the next Finance Working Group meeting to be agreed.

Cllr Chandler: Signage options for bridleway.

### BPC298/24-25

**Council Surgery Report.** A number of requests for items to be added to Fix My Street.

### BPC299/24-25

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

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**RESOLVED:** Cllrs Wilson, Ingram and Billing will attend on Tuesday, 11th March 2025. **Action: Cllrs Wilson, Ingram, Chandler & Billing.**

**BPC300/24-25**

To agree the date of next meeting **07/04/2025 at 7.30pm.** Agreed.

**BPC301/24-25**

**Close.** The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed: Chairman

Date:

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

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Appendix I

RECEIPTS MARCH 2025 MEETING													
Date	Description	Credit Ref/Debit Ref	Paid In	INTEREST	ALLOTMENTS - RENTS	ALLOTMENTS - PLOT DEPOSIT	ALLOTMENTS - KEY DEPOSITS	PRECEPT	GRANTS	VAT REFUND	OTHER	TOTAL	Bank
03-Feb-25	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/22	£20.00				£20.00					£20.00	UT
05-Feb-25	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/2A	£10.00				£10.00					£10.00	UT
10-Feb-25	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/33	£10.00				£10.00					£10.00	UT
12-Feb-25	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/56	£10.00				£10.00					£10.00	UT
13-Feb-25	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/BLISWORTH FC	£10.00				£10.00					£10.00	UT
14-Feb-25	Allot/Key Deposit	Allotment Key (Various)	£150.00				£150.00					£150.00	UT
19-Feb-25	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/59	£50.00		£10.00	£30.00	£10.00					£50.00	UT
26-Feb-25	Allot/Key Deposit	Allot/37	£50.00		£10.00	£30.00	£10.00					£50.00	UT
												£0.00	UT
				£0.00	£20.00	£60.00	£230.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£310.00	

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PAYMENTS MARCH 2025 MEETING

Entry No	Meeting date	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT
155	03/03/2025	LGA 1972 s112 (2) Open Spaces Act 1906, s14	10933776	IDVERDE LTD	Play Area Gate and fence amendments Initial 50% payment	UTBT155	1,503.00	250.50	1,252.50
156	03/03/2025	LGA 1972, s.111	2998090	PCSpecialist	Laptop	UTBT156	976.00	162.67	813.33
157	03/03/2025	LGA 1972 s 142 LGA 1972, s111 (1)	2023 4614 7173	IONOS	Website Fee 18/01/2025- 18/02/2025	UTDD157	7.80	1.30	6.50
158	03/03/2025	LGA 1972, s.111		Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 01/01/2025- 31/01/2025	UTDD158	6.00	0.00	6.00
159	03/03/2025	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV02473182	SSE Electricity	SSE 01/01/2025- 31/01/2025 Site Ref:AGR0143235 & AGR0143236	UTBT159	86.38	5.09	81.29
160	03/03/2025	LGA 1972, s111	4208	Northants CALC Ltd	Training - Planning for Elections	UTBT160	42.00	7.00	35.00
161	03/03/2025	Open Spaces Act 1906, s14	3080	AG Sign & Display	Play Area Replacement sign No Ball Games	UTBT161	60.00	0.00	60.00
162	03/03/2025	Open Spaces Act 1906, s14	3081	AG Sign & Display	What3Words Emergency sign x2	UTBT162	35.00	0.00	35.00
163	03/03/2025	LGA 1972 s 111 (1)	28/02/2025	Blisworth Baptist Church	Room hire/Staff costs for BYPC meetings	UTBT163	180.00	0.00	180.00
164	03/03/2025	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	8606	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 1 01.02.25 - 28.02.25	UTBT164	148.20	24.70	123.50

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165	03/03/2025	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary Feb 2025 Mth 11	UTBT165	1,011.53	0.00	1,011.53
166	03/03/2025	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	120PF003233662511	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions Feb 2025 Salary Mth 11	UTBT166	38.56	0.00	38.56
167	03/03/2025	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	Pension Month 11 2024-2025	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/02/2025 - 28/02/2025	UTDD167	41.39	0.00	41.39
168	03/03/2025	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.02.2025 - 28.02.2025)	UTBT168	35.80	0.00	35.80
169	03/03/2025	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	4476	Marcus Young Environmental Services Ltd	DWBs & 1 Litter bin@3.50 each 01.04.2024-30.04.2024	UTBT169	252.00	42.00	210.00
<b>Totals</b>							<b>£4,423.66</b>	<b>£493.26</b>	<b>£3,930.40</b>