

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 12th January 2026 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
Cllr J Hawkins

Also present: Clerk: Angela Billing
0 Members of public

BPC/222/2026

To receive apologies.

Apologies received from Cllr Dallyn and Cllr Field. The Council resolved to accept the apologies.

BPC/223/2026

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 BPC/238/2026 (c).

BPC/224/2026

To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 01/12/2025.

Approved.

BPC/225/2026

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

BPC/226/2026

Clerk's report circulated separately.

- Purchase orders: 20 mph Advisory signs, Tidy Bin new back and key x 2, artwork for new noticeboard confirmed via Cllr Ingram. Delivery date TBC.
- Record of photos of the rubbish left outside the shop.
- Graveyard Shift volunteers have been working to reduce the size of some of the laurel bushes. We have accumulated a large pile of weeds, brambles, laurel branches that need disposing.
- BPC Strategic Plan 2025-2030 added to website.
- Youth Councillor Expenses: Requested support from West Northants Council (WNC) representative.
- Annual Play Area inspection completed. Report issued to all Cllrs.

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BPC/227/2026

Public Session:

- a. **Unitary Councillor(s) Report(s).** No reports and no representation from unitary councillors for this month.
- b. **Members of the public.** No members of the public.

BPC/228/2026

Response to issues raised in the public session. No issues raised in the public session.

BPC/229/2026

Planning and Development. No planning applications to review.

BPC/230/2026

Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read.

No direct messages were received during the period. Social media followers increased by eight, bringing the total to 380, with just over half identified as Blisworth residents. Overall post reach was 18,532 views, with 104 direct engagements comprising reactions, comments and shares. The most viewed post concerned the BT proposal to remove the High Street telephone box, which generated 4,887 views and notable interaction.

Since the previous meeting, further updates have been shared on upcoming road closures and a range of community safety information, including guidance from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue on frozen waterways, NHS advice on accessing emergency dental care and police reminders on securing properties over the Christmas period. The agenda for the January Ordinary Parish Council Meeting was also published.

BPC/231/2026

Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read.

Crime data for October and November recorded seven reported incidents across various residential addresses. October recorded four instances of anti-social behaviour, three of which related to the same property, along with one case of other theft. November saw one report of violence and sexual offences and one of criminal damage and arson. The Northamptonshire Talking neighbourhood alert system continues to support community awareness, with 79 Blisworth residents subscribed. Updates are shared through the Parish Council's social media channels, and information on 'distraction crime' was circulated to vulnerable residents during the period.

A resident raised concerns regarding speed enforcement, and this was referred to the neighbourhood policing team. The policing team has indicated a willingness to deploy mobile enforcement units subject to identification of suitable locations and times. VAS data will be provided to assist.

Police Liaison updates and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's newsletter have been circulated. A response has been submitted to the online consultations on policing priorities and funding, and councillors are encouraged to contribute. Although the documents are generic in nature, regular engagement with the local policing team continues.

BPC/232/2026

Report on data from SID/VAS devices and Traffic Working Group: Update from Cllr Read and Cllr Brown. VAS unit in Stoke Road (Solar Unit)

During the period from 28 November to 10 January, a total of 107,951 vehicle movements were recorded, averaging 2,453 per day. This reflects a consistent volume compared with recent months, though still

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below the peak levels seen in December 2023. Average speeds have continued to show a slight reduction, with an average of 19.5 mph and 85% of vehicles travelling at or below 26 mph. The highest recorded speed was 67 mph. This unit is positioned within the 20-mph zone.

VAS unit in Towcester Road (Solar Unit)

Between 22 November and 6 January, the unit recorded 215,037 vehicle movements over 45 days, averaging 4,779 per day, which is consistent with previous reporting periods. The average speed was 35 mph, with 85% of vehicles travelling at or below 43 mph, and a maximum recorded speed of 100 mph.

VAS unit in Courteenhall Road (Solar Unit)

Between 22 November and 10 January, the unit recorded 138,414 vehicle movements over 49 days, averaging 2,825 per day, which is consistent with previous reporting periods. The average speed was 31.7 mph, with 85% of vehicles travelling at or below 40 mph, and a maximum recorded speed of 84 mph.

VAS unit opposite Ladybridge Road (Battery Unit)

Between 21 November and 2 January, the unit recorded 203,715 vehicle movements over 42 days, averaging 4,850 per day, although there may be an error in the volume data. The average speed was 27.1 mph, with 85% of vehicles travelling at or below 33 mph, and a maximum recorded speed of 79 mph. This unit is located just outside the 20-mph zone.

Temporary repairs have been completed on Stoke Road; contractors are due to return to undertake full replacement works.

It was further noted that another accident has occurred on Knock Lane. Additionally, in areas without kerb stones, the road edges are collapsing in several sections.

Hand-held speed-watch cameras are available through the Community Speed Watch initiative.

RESOLVED to purchase two hand-held speed watch cameras through the Police Community Speed Watch initiative at £150.00 each. **ACTION:** Cllr Chandler to confirm application process with Clerk and to also obtain quotes for hi-vis vests for volunteers.

BPC/233/2026

Report on Youth Parish Council: Update from Cllr Read and Cllr Dallyn. No update available this month.

BPC/234/2026

Gateway Update: Update from Cllr Wilson.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 2026.

BPC/235/2026

Village Maintenance & Open Spaces:

a. **Play area: Monthly safety inspection report: Update from Cllr Wilson.**

Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified.

Reviewed annual play inspection report: Moderate risk noted for the multi-play area equipment.

ACTION: Cllr Read and Cllr Wilson to review replacement equipment.

b. **Defibrillator: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read.**

The monthly check was completed with no issues identified and both units were confirmed to be fully serviceable. The quarterly records on The Circuit were also updated on 2 January 2026 to ensure alignment.

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- c. **Allotments (Blisworth Parish Council Allotments, off Courteenhall Road). Update from Cllr Ingram and Cllr Read.** One remaining plot to let. It was observed that several plots now contain an increasing amount of equipment and miscellaneous items, which may present difficulties for removal should the tenant(s) vacate the site. **ACTION:** Clerk to inform tenants of the date of the next Allotment Working Group meeting. Tenants to be given notice of inspections.
- d. **Closed Cemetery: Update from Cllr Billing.** Clerk notified WNC Natural Environment Officer of error on planning application (RE:2025/5160/TCA) for work on the ash tree and we are awaiting confirmation of the correction.
- e. **Street lighting: Update from Cllr Chandler.**
ACTION: Cllr Chandler to pursue option for a temporary pilot for solar-powered lighting at Eastfield play area.
- f. **Discuss proposed closure of BT phone box (High Street, Blisworth) and agree next steps.**
ACTION: Cllr Read to review the liabilities and costs associated with adopting the phone box and to seek input from the Blisworth Heritage Society

BPC/236/2026

Discuss option to take on the insurance for the bench situated on Chapel Lane and agree next steps.

Decision deferred pending further information from the Blisworth Community Projects Group.

BPC/237/2026 Internal Control:

- a. **Internal Control Checklist. Update from Cllr Root.** Internal Control Checklist undertaken. Cllr Root reported detailed records 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.

BPC/238/2026

Finance & Administration

Banking Issues:

- a. **Bank reconciliation.**

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	£6,215.38
SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT	£132,907.28
- b. **Discuss quotes for Grass Contract and agree next steps.**
RESOLVED to appoint contractor No. 5 from five tenders received, subject to further checks.
- c. **To note receipts and approve payments including any others that arrive after publication of the agenda.**
RESOLVED: To note receipts and agree the payments listed in Appendix I.

BPC/239/2026

Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.

Cllr Read: Requested that discussion of the revised Local Plan be added to the February agenda.

Cllr Root: Noted that Phase 2 of the Grand Union Transfer scheme is due and will notify the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda.

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Cllr Gardner: Noted that streetlight No:77 is not working. **ACTION:** Cllr Chandler to explore repair options.

Cllr Wilson: Enquiry about the Parish Council's salt supplies for grit bins. Cllr Read confirmed that spare salt/rock is available. **ACTION:** Councillors to review the grit bins within their areas and Cllr Billing will refill as required.

Cllr Chandler: Sought an update on the chicane; the Clerk confirmed that no further correspondence has been received from WNC.

BPC/240/2026

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

RESOLVED: Cllrs Billing, Chandler, Wilson and Ingram to attend.

BPC/241/2026

To agree the date of next meeting 02/02/2026 at 7.30pm. Agreed.

BPC/242/2026

Close. The meeting closed at 8:42 pm.

Signed:

Chairman..... Date:

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

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Appendix 1

PAYMENTS DECEMBER 2025-2026 MEETING

Entry No	Meeting date	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT
152	12/01/2026	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	2701	CutCrew Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x1 & Area 1 x1 15/10/2025	UTBT152	£439.43	£73.24	£366.19
153	12/01/2026	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967	NORD-21543-1-lnv-1	Kier Nordis	20 mph Advisory Signs x 5	UTBT153	£74.34	£12.39	£61.95
154	12/01/2026	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	9749	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 3 01.12.25 - 31.12.25	UTBT154	£198.89	£33.15	£165.74
155	12/01/2026	LGA 1972, Section 111	8263	Barbara Osborne	Payroll Services Oct 2025 - Dec 2025	UTBT155	£90.00	£0.00	£90.00
156	12/01/2026	Highways Act 1980, s. 43 (1)	2164	Mowerman Grounds Maintenance	Rock Salt x 8 bags for Grit bins	UTBT156	£90.26	£15.04	£75.22
157	12/01/2026	LGA 1972, s.111		Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 01/11/2025 and 30/11/2025	UTDD157	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
158	12/01/2026	Allotments Act 1908, s26		Waves via Blisworth Football Club	Allotment Water fees 01/04/2025 - 30/10/2025	UTBT158	£485.81	£0.00	£485.81
159	12/01/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	29/12/2025	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee	CC-UTDD159	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
160	12/01/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	4410116836	Viking Office UK Ltd	Toner x 3, Plastic Pockets, Paper x 5	CC-UTDD160	£156.13	£26.02	£130.11
161	12/01/2026	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV03802705	SSE	SSE 01/11/2025 to 30/11/2025 Site Ref:AGR3804337	UTDD161	£171.47	£8.17	£163.30
162	12/01/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary Dec 2025 Mth 9	UTBT162	£1,041.61	£0.00	£1,041.61

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163	12/01/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	Pension Month 9	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/12/2025 - 31/12/2025	UTDD163	£44.08	£0.00	£44.08
164	12/01/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	120PF003233662609	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions Dec 2025 Salary Mth 9	UTBT164	£99.94	£0.00	£99.94
165	12/01/2026	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.12.2025 - 31.12.2025)	UTBT165	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
Totals							£2,920.96	£168.01	£2,752.95

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RECEIPTS JANUARY 2025-2026 MEETING

Date	Description	Credit Ref/Debit Ref	Paid In	INTEREST	ALLOTMENTS - RENTS	ALLOTMENTS - PLOT DEPOSIT	ALLOTMENTS - KEY DEPOSITS	PRECEPT	GRANTS	VAT REFUND	SEGRO S106 FUNDS	OTHER	TOTAL	Bank
02-Dec-25			0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	UT
08-Jan-26			0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	UT
				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	