

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 2nd February 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 M Field
Cllr B Ingram
Cllr N Chandler
Cllr C Gardner
Cllr S Dallyn

West Northants Unitary Council:

Cllr F Cole
Cllr A Smith

Also present:

Clerk: Angela Billing
West Northants Youth Councillor: Jack Evans
3 Member of public

BPC/243/2026

To receive apologies.

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

BPC/244/2026

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/263/2026 (a) (b).

BPC/245/2026

To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 12/01/2026.

Approved.

BPC/246/2026

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

BPC/247/2026

Clerk's report circulated separately.

- An update has been requested regarding delivery of the new noticeboard.
- A further update has been sought on the Tidy Bear litter bin and keys; the supplier has advised that stock is currently unavailable, and their purchasing team has been contacted for clarification.

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- Blisworth Football Club has requested further amendments to the lease. Football Club asked to submit their proposed amendments to the solicitors as soon as possible to expedite the process and enable completion. The proposed amendments have been circulated to all Councillors.
- Councillors were reminded that each Zoho Mail account is limited to 5GB of storage.
- Youth Councillor expenses: An enquiry was made on behalf of the Youth Councillor regarding eligibility for travel expenses. WNC has confirmed that travel expenses for voluntary attendance at parish meetings are not permitted.

BPC/248/2026

Public Session:

a. Unitary Councillor(s) Report(s).

Cllr Smith to raise issue of potholes in Blisworth.

Cllr Cole: Noted Blisworth noted at the Local Plan briefing. Requested further discussion regarding rural parishes needs with regard to increased dwellings planned. Cllr Cole proposed an option for a 'light' Neighbourhood Plan at the Local Plan briefing meeting.

b. Members of the public.

- (i) The West Northants (WNC) Youth Councillor noted: School expansion is planned for Sponne School, Towcester, and an independent special school is proposed for Northamptonshire. Elections for Youth Councillors are proceeding.
- (ii) A member of the public noted the potholes in High Street and other major routes in the village.

BPC/249/2026

Response to issues raised in the public session.

a. Councillors expressed concern that plans for further housing and development are exacerbating the degradation of road surfaces and increasing the use of small village roads as rat-runs. It was further noted that the Local Plan does not adequately recognise the infrastructure impact on small rural villages such as Blisworth. Councillors considered the potential benefits of developing a Neighbourhood Plan and the possibility of coordinating with neighbouring villages to submit shared concerns collectively. Concerns were also raised regarding the costs involved and the lengthy consultation and referendum process associated with producing a Neighbourhood Plan. **Action:** Clerk to research the benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan through discussions with other councils.

b. Response to Members of the public:

- (i) Councillors expressed their thanks to the Youth Councillor for his attendance and recorded their appreciation to his parents for transporting him to meetings.
- (ii) **ACTION:** Cllr Brown and Cllr Chandler to attend Kier Transportation (Highways) drop-in and report pothole faults on 12/02/2026.

BPC/250/2026

Planning and Development.

a. Application No. 2026/0043/MAR: Land North Of The Bell Plantation Watling Street Towcester.

Proposal: Reserved Matters Application pursuant to planning permission WNS/2021/1819/EIA seeking approval for the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the erection of employment units at Plots 2 and 3 at Land North of Bell Plantation, Towcester comprising employment and distribution floorspace (Use Class B8), with ancillary office space, associated landscaping, service yard, parking and other infrastructure.

ACTION: Clerk to resubmit previous objection.

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BPC/251/2026

Discuss Tree Project and agree next steps. Deferred. Awaiting meeting with Kier (Highways).

BPC/252/2026

Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read.

No direct messages were received during the period. Social media followers increased by three to a total of 383, with 53% identified as Blisworth residents. Posts reached 23,842 views, with 89 direct engagements, including 80 reactions, eight comments and one share. The top-performing post related to winter water-safety advice, which received 2,565 views. Since the last meeting, further updates were issued on road closures, burglaries, community safety alerts and the latest edition of *Road and About*, and the agenda for the February Parish Council General Meeting was published.

BPC/253/2026

Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read.

Crime data for December was not yet available. The parish continues to receive updates through the Northamptonshire Talking alert system, with 79 local subscribers, and key information was shared via Parish Council channels. During the period, distraction-crime advice was circulated to vulnerable residents. An alert was issued regarding a burglary on High Street on 21 January 2026, and residents were encouraged to report any relevant information to the Police or Crimestoppers.

The parish's PCSO is temporarily unable to provide a physical presence due to injury but continues to offer remote support. During the period, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner proposed the maximum permitted increases to the Police and Fire precepts. The proposals included a £15 annual increase for policing and a £12 annual increase for fire services for a Band D property. Despite these increases, significant savings would still be required to balance budgets. The proposals were scheduled for discussion at the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel meeting on 4 February 2026 and were subject to public consultation. It was noted that concerns had been raised regarding whether consultation feedback would meaningfully influence the final budget decisions.

BPC/254/2026

Report on data from SID/VAS devices and Traffic Working Group:

a. Update from Cllr Read and Cllr Brown.

VAS unit in Stoke Road (Solar Unit)

Data from the village VAS units for the period 10 January to 1 February (22 days) was reviewed. The Stoke Road unit recorded 57,264 vehicle movements (avg. 2,603 per day), a slight increase on the previous month. Average speed was 20.3mph, with 85% of vehicles at or below 27mph; the maximum recorded speed was 65mph within a 20mph zone.

VAS unit in Towcester Road (Solar Unit)

The Towcester Road unit recorded 107,986 movements (avg. 4,908 per day), consistent with previous reports. Average speed was 35.0mph, with 85% at or below 43mph; the maximum recorded speed was 90mph in a 30mph zone.

VAS unit in Courteenhall Road (Solar Unit)

The Courteenhall Road unit recorded 67,396 movements (avg. 3,063 per day), showing a slight increase. Average speed was 30.9mph, with 85% at or below 40mph; the maximum recorded speed was 78mph.

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VAS unit opposite Ladybridge Road (Battery Unit)

The unit opposite Ladyfield recorded 45,864 movements (avg. 2,085 per day). Average speed was 26.7mph, with 85% at or below 32mph; the maximum recorded speed was 79mph. This unit sits just outside the 20mph zone in a 30mph area.

Cllr Wilson requested the data from the VAS devices to be analysed to show traffic volumes during peak rush-hour periods. **ACTION:** Cllr Read to review the data.

b. **Review quotes for hi-vis jackets for Community Speed Watch team and agree next steps.**

RESOLVED Clerk authorised to purchase Hi-vests up to £80.00. **ACTION:** Cllr Chandler to notify volunteers of Community Speed Watch updates.

BPC/255/2026

Report on Youth Parish Council: Update from Cllr Read and Cllr Dallyn.

There was no Youth Parish Council meeting in December. The Baptist Church reopened the Chapel for youth activities on 23 January, attended by eight young people, with adults remaining for refreshments. It was agreed that sessions would run twice monthly on the second and fourth Fridays. A member volunteered to complete DBS and safeguarding checks, with parents offering support. Thanks were expressed to the Baptist Church team for their continued support of the youth project and wider community activities. Cllr Read and Cllr Dallyn to volunteer their time to provide adult supervision for the group.

BPC/256/2026

Discuss Grand Union Transfer Scheme updates and agree next steps. Update from Cllr Root.

Concerns were raised regarding the volume and quality of water. Councillors further noted that the project will bypass the Unitary Council's planning process entirely; as a national infrastructure scheme, it will not be determined locally but will instead require a Development Consent Order issued directly by central government. **ACTION:** Cllr Root to attend the consultation for Phase 2 of the scheme and raise questions regarding the quantity and quality of the water to be transported through the local canal system.

BPC/257/2026

Gateway Update: Update from Cllr Wilson.

Action: Cllr Wilson will resubmit the following issues at the next Gateway meeting:

- That parish councils require a seat on the site's management board.
- That the management board should review data on any contraventions and apply appropriate levels of penalties.

It was noted that, at the time of the original request, the Parish Council was informed that it was too early for these arrangements to be put in place. Cllr Smith noted that should the site be sold, these specifications may not be transferable. Cllr Read noted that this is a concern that should be highlighted as part of the Local Plan consultation.

BPC/258/2026

Discuss West Northamptonshire Local Plan and agree next steps. **ACTION:** Cllr Brown and Clerk to attend Local Plan consultation on 06/02/2026. Cllr Read to attend one of the other dates if possible.

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BPC/259/2026

Football Club lease: Discuss further amendments requested by Blisworth Football Club and agree next steps. Deferred. Blisworth Football Club have still not sent back the lease for completion. **ACTION:** Clerk to request that the lease be sent to solicitors for completion.

BPC/260/2026

Village Maintenance & Open Spaces:

- a. **Play area: Monthly safety inspection report: Update from Cllr Wilson.** Cllr Wilson completed a visual check. Nothing material to report.
- b. **Defibrillators: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read.** Monthly defibrillator checks undertaken and both units are fully serviceable.
- c. **Allotments (Blisworth Parish Council Allotments, off Courteenhall Road). Update from Cllr Ingram and Cllr Read.**
The next working group of the allotment holder tenants will be held on 09/02/2026. Noted: The requirement to plot the perimeters of each plot. **Action:** Work scheduled to proceed in the spring.
- d. **Closed Cemetery: Update from Cllr Billing. Ash Tree work completed.** Clerk and Cllr Billing moved chippings onto main path. **ACTION:** Volunteer group to use ash tree stumps to create a log-pile habitat area and for seating. Clerk to investigate options to sell remaining ash tree stumps.
- e. **Street lighting: Update from Cllr Chandler. Noted:** Two streetlights required repair. The unit on Ladyfield falls under the responsibility of the Housing Association. Repairs to the streetlight on Connegar Leys were approved on health and safety grounds. **ACTION:** Cllr Chandler is keeping a log of details of repairs.
- f. **Discuss proposed closure of BT phone box (High Street, Blisworth) and agree next steps. Deferred:** Cllr Read awaiting further information.

BPC/261/2026

Strategic Plan Projects: To discuss projects progress reports from all Councillors and agree next steps. ACTION: Cllr Read and Cllr Wilson to submit quotes for a new play area equipment. Cllr Root noted that proposed project on Canal & River Trust land would require using their contractors and their permission. Cllr Brown noted that the landowner is going to install a drainage pipe in the spring to aid drainage in the field.

BPC/262/2026

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.

BPC/263/2026

Finance & Administration

Banking Issues:

a. **Bank reconciliation.**

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	31.01.2026	£15,046.37
SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT	31.01.2026	£122,907.28

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Noted: Change in Skipton savings account interest rate 2.35% gross pa/AER variable down to 2.05% gross pa/AER variable. Unity Trust increasing monthly fee to £7.00 effective from 01/02/2026. Budget versus Actual Agreed. No issues to report.

- b. **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.
- c. **Precept demand 2026-2027.** Noted precept amendment: Precept demand for 2026/2027 of £45,480.83 as agreed but West Northants Council form would allow whole pounds only, so amendment to precept demand for 2026/2027 of £45,480.00 submitted. **RESOLVED** to agree the amendment.
- d. **Grass-cutting contract 2026-2028.** Contractor No.5 confirmed able to meet with Councillors or Clerk at least once a month. **RESOLVED:** Contractor No. 5 appointed.

BPC/264/2026 Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda.

Cllr Wilson and Cllr Ingram: Request to add the ownership of the Village Hall to the March agenda.

Cllr Gardener: Requested an update RE: Installation of the Chicane. Information received from WNC that the planned start date for the February half-term has been postponed. **ACTION:** Cllr Cole to investigate reasons for delay.

Cllr Root: Requested an update RE: Kalvec Development on Northampton Road.

Cllr Field: Parking issues on main route through the village.

BPC/265/2026

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/266/2026

To agree the date of next meeting 02/03/2026 at 7.30pm. Agreed.

BPC/267/2026

Close. The meeting closed at 9:29 pm.

Signed:

Chairman..... Date:

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

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Appendix I

RECEIPTS FEBRUARY 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
09-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
14-Jan-26	WNC FINANCE Urban Grass Mowing 2025	1140000618	1285.17						£1,285.17				£1,285.17	UT
				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,285.17	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,285.17	

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PAYMENTS FEBRUARY 2025-2026 MEETING

Entry No	Meeting date	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT
166	02/02/2026	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV03927225	SSE	SSE 01/12/2025 to 31/12/2025 Site Ref:AGR3804337	UTDD166	£188.20	£8.96	179.24
167	02/02/2026	LGA 1972 s 142	35	Alan North	R&A Alan North Feb-Mar 2026 Iss 167	UTBT167	£50.00	£0.00	50.00
168	02/02/2026	LGA 1972 s 142	29756	Merland Copy Shop Ltd	Printing of Round & About Feb-Mar 2026 Issue 167	UTBT168	£170.00	£0.00	170.00
169	02/02/2026	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	9854	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 3 01.01.26 - 31.01.26	UTBT169	£198.89	£33.15	165.74
170	02/02/2026	LGA 1972, s.111		Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 01/12/2025 and 31/12/2025	UTDD170	£6.00	£0.00	6.00
171	02/02/2026	LGA 1972, s. 215	6147	Browns Tree Solutions Ltd	Reduce Ash Tree at Closed Cemetery to 5m monolith and chip all arisings	UTBT171	£1,440.00	£240.00	1,200.00
172	02/02/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2) Open Spaces Act 1906, s14	83444	The Play Inspection Company	Eastfield Annual Play Inspection	UTBT172	£186.00	£31.00	155.00
173	02/02/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	BVH-2024-222	BVH&PFA	Village Hall Hire Council Meetings 07/04/2025 - 01/12/2025 - 9 wks	UTBT173	£117.00	£0.00	117.00
174	02/02/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	BVH-2024-223	BVH&PFA	Village Hall Hire Council Meetings 05/01/2026 - 02/03/2026 - 3 wks	UTBT174	£39.00	£0.00	39.00
175	02/02/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	BVH-2024-224	BVH&PFA	Village Hall Hire AWG Meeting 28/07/2025 - 1 wk	UTBT175	£13.00	£0.00	13.00
176	02/02/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	BVH-2024-225	BVH&PFA	Village Hall Hire AWG Meeting 09/02/2026 - 1 wk	UTBT176	£13.00	£0.00	13.00

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177	02/02/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	120PF003233662610	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions Jan 2026 Salary Mth 10	UTBT177	£99.94	£0.00	99.94	
178	02/02/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	Pension Month 10	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/01/2026 - 31/01/2026	UTDD178	£44.08	£0.00	44.08	
179	02/02/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary Jan 2026 Mth 10	UTBT179	£1,041.61	£0.00	1,041.61	
180	02/02/2026	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.01.2026 - 31.01.2026)	UTBT180	£27.65	£0.00	27.65	
181	02/02/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	26/01/2026	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee	CC-UTDD181	£3.00	£0.00	3.00	
182	02/02/2026	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, Section 30	20/01/2026	N'ptonshire Police	Hand-held traffic monitoring device for Community Speed Watch initiative	CC-UTDD182	£150.00	£0.00	150.00	
Totals								£3,787.37	£313.11	£3,474.26