

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Cllr S Billing, Chair
Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chair
Cllr D Wilson
Cllr M Field
Cllr B Ingram
Cllr N Chandler
Cllr C Gardner
Cllr S Dallyn

West Northants Unitary Council: No representatives

Also present: Clerk: Angela Billing
4 Members of public

BPC/268/2026

To receive apologies.

Apologies received from Cllr Hawkins, Cllr Brown and Cllr Root. The Council resolved to accept the apologies.

BPC/269/2026

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/294/2026 (a) and (b).

BPC/270/2026 To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 02/02/2026. Approved.

BPC/271/2026

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

BPC/272/2026

To note an error to the signed minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 01/12/2025 and agree an addendum to note a correction to the signed minutes to record that minute point BPC/216/2025 (d) should read: *RESOLVED: To adopt a precept demand for 2026/2027 of £45,480.83.*

RESOLVED: To agree the correction as noted in the addendum.

BPC/273/2026

Clerk's report circulated separately.

- **Kalvec Development (Land West of Northampton Road):** All documentation has been sent to the Unitary Councillor, including material previously provided to MP Sarah Bool.

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- **Chicane delays:** Information has been forwarded to the Unitary Councillor with a request to obtain a confirmed start date from Kier Highways.
- **Potholes:** Photographs and locations have been sent to the Unitary Councillor. A resident has also reported them via Fix My Street. The pothole at the junction of Stoke Road and High Street has been re-submitted, noting that this pothole and several recent repairs have already begun to deteriorate.
- **Neighbourhood Plans:** Summary information obtained regarding likely costs, Cllr/clerk hours and options for scope with examples from other parish councils.
- **Grand Union Canal Transfer - Phase Two Public Consultation:** Consultation details have been circulated. The current feedback deadline is 02/04/2026. A request has been submitted for an extension to the end of April to allow consideration at the next full council meeting on 13/04/2025, and the Unitary Councillor has been asked to support this.
- **Volunteer enquiry:** An email has been received from a young resident seeking volunteer opportunities in support of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- **Ash tree logs and rounds:** No interest has been received regarding purchase. Some logs have been repositioned to create a habitat feature; others retained for children's seating and for the shady border.
- **Lime tree inspection:** The arborist advised pollarding one of the lime trees to prevent instability and recommended planting a replacement lime tree nearby. Additionally, pollarding schedule for other lime trees is now due.
- **Buttmead noticeboard:** The noticeboard has been installed. The contractor omitted to supply magnets, which the Clerk has requested.

BPC/274/2026

Public Session:

- a. **Unitary Councillor(s) Report(s).** No representation from unitary councillors for this month.
- b. **Members of the public.**
 - (i) A member of the public asked that the details of the Police Safe and Sound Community funds grant should be shared with village groups.
 - (ii) A member of the public highlighted continued speeding on Courteenhall Road.
 - (iii) A member of the Blisworth Baptist Chapel thanked the Parish Council for the donation towards their project to repair the stairs leading to the rooms used by the Blisworth Youth Parish Council, which has now been completed.

BPC/275/2026

Response to issues raised in the public session.

- a. **Unitary Councillor(s) Report(s).** The Council recorded its concern regarding the absence of representation and noted that this is contributing to delays in progressing matters that require the involvement or support of Unitary Councillors.
- b. **Members of the public.**
 - (i) Cllr Read noted that the Parish Council has successfully applied for and received funding from the Police Safe and Sound Community Fund for the past two years. **ACTION:** Clerk to advertise details for this funding application on the Parish Council website and include it in the next edition of the Parish Council newsletter. **ACTION:** Cllr Read will submit an application in the next funding round for a replacement VAS machine.
 - (ii) Cllr Chandler noted that Courteenhall Road is among the locations scheduled for monitoring by the Community Speed Watch team, which is due to commence operations this month.
 - (iii) The Parish Council thanked the Baptist Chapel for its continued support in facilitating the Blisworth Youth Parish Council.

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BPC/276/2026

Planning and Development.

- a. **Application No. 2026/0518/FULL: 78 High Street Blisworth NN7 3BJ.** Proposal: Single storey side extension, garden room and trellis to boundary wall (part-retrospective) & proposed front boundary wall with sliding access gate to driveway. Comments by 04/03/2026.
RESOLVED: No objection.

- b. **Application No. 2026/0524/FULL: Boxtree Cottage 39 Stoke Road Blisworth NN7 3BZ.** Proposal: Removal of existing rear extensions, raising of existing roof, new roof dormers, rear extensions and porch. Comments by 04/03/2026.
RESOLVED: No objection.

- c. **Application No. WNS/2022/1134/MAO: Land to the West Northampton Road, Blisworth, NN7 3DW.** Proposal: Redevelopment of Site to Provide Commercial Units (up to 182,000 sq. Ft of floorspace) for Use Class E(g), B2 and B8 Purposes and associated works. Outline Application with all Matters Reserved aside from Access.
ACTION: As the Parish Council is still awaiting updates from the Unitary Councillors, the Clerk will continue to pursue their input and advice

BPC/277/2026

Discuss West Northamptonshire Local Plan and agree next steps.

RESOLVED: Parish Council to submit a formal response. **ACTION:** All Councillors asked to submit their views. **ACTION:** Cllr Read to submit the response.

BPC/278/2026

Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read.

No direct messages were received during the period. The Parish Council's social media following has increased by two, bringing the total to 385, of whom 52% are recorded as residing in Blisworth and the remainder in Northampton, Roade, Towcester and Hartwell. During the period, posts reached 11,370 views, with 44 direct engagements. The top-performing post was a winter warning regarding rogue traders, which received 2,976 views. Since the last meeting, further posts have been issued regarding road closures, rogue trader alerts, the village newsletter, and publication of the agenda for the March Ordinary Meeting.

BPC/279/2026

Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read.

The crime data for December recorded six offences within the Parish, each arising from a different residential address: four categorised as Violence and Sexual Offences, one as Anti-Social Behaviour, and one as Burglary. The community continues to benefit from the Northamptonshire Talking neighbourhood alert system, which currently has 79 Blisworth subscribers and provides GDPR-compliant updates on local crime trends and policing priorities across South Northamptonshire; these updates are also shared via the Parish Council's social media channels. During the period, information on rogue traders was circulated. Northamptonshire Police has announced a pilot initiative on its social media platforms aimed at addressing and reducing misinformation, similar in approach to the BBC's "BBC Verify" fact-checking model and is seeking feedback from residents regarding policing related misinformation they have encountered and topics they would find valuable for fact-checking. Cllr Read noted newsletters from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, an update for PLRs from the neighbourhood policing team, and an

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update from Northamptonshire Talking; these documents are largely generic in nature and not specific to Blisworth.

BPC/280/2026

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

Data from the VAS units for 1–27 February (27 days) is summarised as follows:

- **Stoke Road** (Solar Unit) — 68,087 vehicle movements (avg. 2,521/day). Average speed 19.9mph; 85% at or below 27mph; maximum 74mph. Unit is within the 20mph area.
- **Towcester Road** (Solar Unit) — 133,552 vehicle movements (avg. 4,946/day). Average speed 34.9mph; 85% at or below 43mph; maximum 83mph.
- **Courteenhall Road** (Solar Unit) — 83,214 vehicle movements (avg. 3,082/day). Average speed 31.5mph; 85% at or below 40mph; maximum 81mph.
- **Opposite Ladyfield** (Battery Unit) — 56,417 vehicle movements (avg. 2,089/day). Average speed 26.8mph; 85% at or below 32mph; maximum 77mph. Located just outside the 20mph area.

The Towcester Road unit's "Slow Down" display has failed; the screen has been replaced using the battery unit from Ladyfield.

Cllr Wilson requested that the VAS data include a breakdown of traffic volumes during peak hours.

ACTION: Cllr Read to review the data to include a breakdown of traffic volumes during peak hours.

Knock Lane: The Traffic Working Group requested that a VAS unit be installed on Knock Lane to record traffic volumes in both directions; speed data is not a priority at this stage. The optimal location will be identified by Cllr Chris Read.

The Parish Council will seek the support of Unitary Councillors in requesting amendments to signage on the Roade bypass to address the funnelling of through-traffic down Knock Lane.

The Parish Council will approach Kier Highways/WNC to request that Knock Lane be designated as a single-track road with passing places. The road already functions as single-track in parts, and this change will reduce repair costs and improve safety.

20mph area: The Parish Council will seek the support of Unitary Councillors to make the roads with 20mph restrictions effective and request again for painted roundels on the roads, as current signage is insufficient.

Community Speed Watch: Volunteers, speed watch camera and all safety equipment are prepared and the first session is expected to take place within the next two weeks, subject to the weather. Sessions can take place throughout the year but there must be good visibility. The Traffic Working Group approves the proposed speed watch locations. Cllr Chandler to review options, with the Police, for further locations. The local PCSO has agreed to join the volunteers when he is able.

The Parish Council thanked Cllr Chandler for his work setting up the voluntary group.

Pond Bank/Chapel Lane junction: A proposal is under consideration to introduce double yellow lines at the Pond Bank/Chapel Lane junction, where parked vehicles are restricting visibility. Consultation with residents is required before the matter can be referred to WNC/Highways. **ACTION:** The Clerk, together with Cllrs Brown, Billing, Field and Chandler, to deliver consultation letters to residents of Pond Bank, Chapel Lane and Westbrook.

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BPC/281/2026

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

The Youth Parish Council club is now meeting twice monthly on the second and fourth Fridays at 7.00 pm. The new BYPC website has been established at <https://bypc.blisworthbc.net/>. It is noted that the club is now affiliated with NAYC, a Northamptonshire charity supporting youth work across the county, at <https://www.naycacuk.co.uk>. The Blisworth Baptist Chapel will also be hosting Maths and English learning sessions on Wednesdays to support children who are being homeschooled.

BPC/282/2026

Football Club lease: Discuss further amendments requested by Blisworth Football Club and agree next steps.

RESOLVED: To sign off the lease, subject to further amendments from Blisworth Football Club.

ACTION: Clerk to pursue Blisworth Football Club for final agreement and add to April agenda.

BPC/283/2026

Discuss West Northants Council fees for future uncontested elections and agree next steps.

RESOLVED to submit a response to West Northants Council (WNC) noting preferred option: Option C: £28.00 administration fee with the additional fee of £16 per parish ward and a further 15% of the cost of poll cards.

BPC/284/2026

Gateway Update: Update from Cllr Wilson.

Plot 7 is due to be handed over to Amazon in May 2026. Cllr Read asked for confirmation of dates for the opening of each unit so that the Parish Council can show changes in traffic volume over time. **ACTION:** Cllr Wilson to liaise with the SEGRO Community Liaison Group to confirm operational unit opening dates once available and provide these to the Parish Council.

BPC/285/2026

Village Maintenance & Open Spaces:

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

Cllr Wilson completed a visual check and no material concerns were reported. The grass now requires its initial cut for the commencement of the grass-cutting season. **ACTION:** Clerk to confirm the start date for grass-mowing with the contractor.

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. Allotment Working Group meeting held.** Tenants attending the Allotment Working Group meeting were in agreement with increase in rent for 2026-2027 to £12.50 per plot. They noted that the Blisworth Parish Council allotments will remain one of the lowest-cost allotment providers in Northamptonshire on a per-plot basis. The Group expressed a wish to keep tenants regularly informed about allotment finances to ensure full transparency. It was agreed to establish and clearly mark the perimeter of each plot. Councillors are to meet tenants on site to stake out individual plots to ensure clarity and maintain unobstructed pathways. The tenants voiced concern regarding the maintenance of some plots. Notice will be given in advance of allotment plot inspections.

i. **Review Allotment annual rents 2026-2027 and agree next steps.**

RESOLVED to agree increase for annual rents 2026-2027 to £12.50 per plot.

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ii. **Review fees for annual National Allotment Society and agree next steps.**

RESOLVED to agree annual National Allotment Society subscription fees for 2026-2027 up to £80.00.

iii. **Review Allotment Tenancy Agreement 2026-2027 and agree next steps.**

RESOLVED to amend the Allotment Tenancy Agreement 2026–2027 to state explicitly that the tenant will be liable for, and the Council will recover from the tenant, all costs incurred in removing any rubbish, waste materials, or personal belongings left on a plot upon termination of the tenancy.

d. **Closed Cemetery: Update from Cllr Billing.**

No material concerns were reported. Volker Rail volunteered a day of free labour and cleared away ripped tarpaulin, degraded weed-suppression matting, collected waste vegetation, prepared more of the long bed and moved ash-tree rounds and logs to the shady area. **ACTION:** Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Volker Rail. **ACTION:** Cllr Read to post images on social media.

e. **Street lighting: Update from Cllr Chandler.**

Street light No.77 has been repaired. No other updates to report. Cllr Chandler is awaiting quotations for the proposed solar-powered lighting at Eastfield Play Area as a trial scheme, with a view to installing similar lighting elsewhere in the parish should the trial prove successful.

f. **Discuss proposed adoption of BT phone box (High Street, Blisworth) and agree next steps.**

RESOLVED to pursue the adoption of the telephone kiosk. **ACTION:** Cllr Read to confirm the costs associated with refurbishment and insurance.

g. **Review costs for installation of noticeboard at Buttmead and agree next steps.**

RESOLVED to approve the revised installation cost of £125.00 (increased from £90.00) to cover the removal of a section of tree/hedging and the clearance of all waste vegetation required to facilitate the proper installation of the noticeboard. **ACTION:** Monitor resident feedback on the new closable, magnet-based noticeboard.

BPC/286/2026

Strategic Plan Projects: To discuss projects progress reports from all Councillors and agree next steps.

ACTION: Clerk to add to the April agenda the Blisworth Football Club quotations for works relating to the security shutters and the girls' goal posts.

ACTION: All Councillors to finalise quotations for their respective project areas for consideration at the April meeting.

BPC/287/2026

Discuss Urban Mowing Contract with West Northants Council for 2026 and agree next steps.

RESOLVED to agree Urban Mowing Contract with West Northants Council for 2026.

BPC/288/2026 Discuss Asset Register Health and Safety checklist and agree next steps.

RESOLVED to agree updates. Cllr Read to review checklist again once the Clerk has finalised all new asset additions at the end of March 2026. **ACTION:** Clerk to add to the April agenda.

BPC/289/2026

Discuss Blisworth Parish Council deeds and agree next steps.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with the secretary of the Blisworth Village Hall to seek clarification.

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BPC/290/2026

Discuss plans for Annual Parish Meeting of Blisworth residents and agree next steps.

ACTION: The Chair asked if Cllr Field and Cllr Hawkins would take responsibility for planning the Annual Parish Meeting for Blisworth residents. The meeting is confirmed for 13 May 2025, commencing at 6:30pm.

BPC/291/2026

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/292/2026

Review amendments for draft IT and Communication Policy and agree next steps.

RESOLVED to agree the amendments. **ACTION:** Clerk to post policy on Parish Council website.

BPC/293/2026

Review amendments for draft BPC Internal Controls Checklist and agree next steps.

RESOLVED to agree the amendments.

BPC/294/2026

Finance & Administration

Banking Issues:

a. Bank reconciliation.

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	02/03/2026	£11,248.00
SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT	02/03/2026	£122,907.28

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.

BPC/295/2026

Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.

Cllr Field: Highlighted issues with ivy growing from Canal and River Trust land which is beginning to encroach footpath. **ACTION:** Clerk to inform Canal and River Trust and request clearance.

Cllr Field: Missing postcode on the new defibrillator. Cllr Read confirmed that the postcode is not necessary as the unit has been registered. **ACTION:** Cllr Read, however, will add the postcode to the unit display.

Cllr Wilson: Highlighted need to monitor pothole repairs as a number of repairs have begun to degrade after just one day.

Cllr Gardner: Requested an update regarding new play area equipment. Cllr Wilson confirmed that they are awaiting quotes including installation from a variety of play equipment companies.

BPC/296/2026

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

RESOLVED: Cllrs Gardner, Wilson and Ingram to attend.

BPC/297/2026

To agree the date of next meeting 13/04/2026 at 7.30pm. Agreed.

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BPC/298/2026

Close. The meeting closed at 9:28 pm.

Signed: Chairman..... Date:

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

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Appendix 1

RECEIPTS MARCH 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
15-Feb-26			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
02Mar2026	BLISWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	Feb26/05 (Underspent Funds returned by Blisworth Baptist Chapel from S137 grant for works on stairs for BYPC)	17.27									£17.27	£17.27	UT
Totals				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£17.27	£17.27	

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PAYMENTS MARCH 2025-2026 MEETING

Entry No	Meeting date	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT	
183	02/03/2026	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	INV-0916		Electricity Network Contractors (East) Ltd	Repairs to Street Light 77	UTBT183	£117.60	£19.60	£98.00
184	02/03/2026	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	SI931503		Glasdon UK Ltd	Spare Door Tidy Bear bin and Keys x 2	UTBT184	£124.31	£20.72	£103.59
185	02/03/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	4410444678		Viking Office UK Ltd	Batteries x 3 PK, Laminating Pouches	CC-UTDD185	£39.49	£6.58	£32.91
186	02/03/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	4410449187		Viking Office UK Ltd	Hi-Vis vests X 12	CC-UTDD186	£57.40	£9.57	£47.83
187	02/03/2026	LGA 1972 s112(2)	120PF003233662611		HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions Feb 2026 Salary Mth 11	UTBT187	£99.94	£0.00	£99.94
188	02/03/2026	LGA 1972 s112(2)	Pension Month 11		Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/02/2026 - 28/02/2026	UTDD188	£44.08	£0.00	£44.08
189	02/03/2026	LGA 1972 s112(2)			A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary Feb 2026 Mth 11	UTBT189	£1,041.61	£0.00	£1,041.61
190	02/03/2026	LGA 1972, s.111			Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 01/01/2026 and 31/01/2026	UTDD190	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
191	02/03/2026	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV04065201		SSE	SSE 01/01/2026 to 31/01/2026 Site Ref:AGR3804337	UTDD191	£182.47	£8.69	£173.78
192	02/03/2026	Open Spaces Act 1906, s14			Bartley's Landscaping & Maintenance	Installation of Noticeboard & Vegetation clearance at Buttmead/Bridleway junction	UTBT192	£125.00	£0.00	£125.00
193	02/03/2026	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	9970		Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 3 01.02.26 - 28.02.26	UTBT193	£198.89	£33.15	£165.74

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194	02/03/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2) Open Spaces Act 1906, s14	7619/S2	NoticeboardsOnline	Post Mounted Nimbus External Notice board (50% Balance invoice)	UTBT194	£729.69	£121.61	£608.08	
195	02/03/2026	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)	Data Protection Officer Fee ICO Certificate - Subscription to 18.02.2027	UTDD195	£47.00	£0.00	£47.00	
196	02/03/2026	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, Section 30		Friends of Blisworth Primary School	School Crossing Patrol Officer	UTBT196	£1,270.05	£0.00	£1,270.05	
197	02/03/2026	LGA 1972 s 111 (1)		Blisworth Baptist Chapel	Room hire/Staff costs for BYPC meetings 2025-2026	UTBT197	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00	
198	02/03/2026	LGA 1972 s 142		WNC Hunsbury Library	Colour Printing	CC-UTDD198	£15.75	£2.63	£13.12	
199	02/03/2026	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.02.2026 - 28.02.2026)	UTBT199	£27.65	£0.00	£27.65	
200	02/03/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	26/02/2026	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee	CC-UTDD200	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00	
TOTALS								£4,429.93	£222.55	£4,207.38