

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 3rd August 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 T Davenport

Also present: Clerk: Angela Billing
5 Members of public

BPC/88/2026

To receive apologies.

Apologies received from Cllr A Coles, Cllr N Chandler and Unitary Cllr F Cole. The Council resolved to accept the apologies. No apologies received from Unitary Cllr L Weston or from Cllr C Gardner.

BPC/89/2026

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/107/2026.

BPC/90/2026

To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 06/07/2026.

Approved.

BPC/91/2026

To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only.

None noted.

BPC/92/2026

Clerk's report circulated separately. Noted.

- **S106 applications Update:** The Football Club shutter application has been completed with three quotes and submitted to West Northants Council, with a response awaited. The Baptist Chapel Coffee House refurbishment application has been submitted following receipt of a single quote; WNC has requested further clarification, which has been provided. Quotes for the Play Area equipment have been sourced, and the Parish Council is awaiting confirmation of support from both unitary councillors. Closed Cemetery seating area, an additional quote is required due to amended ground-works costs.

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- **VAT claim:** submission for £4,160.77 received.
 - **Ability Bus replacement service:** Talks continues with West Northants Council representatives and local transport providers to pursue a suitable replacement service for the Ability Bus.
- Record of Miscellaneous Actions raised at previous meeting(s):**
- **BPC/68/2026:** Register of Interests form for Mrs Tracey Davenport submitted to WNC and Parish Council website updated.
 - **BPC/80/2026:** Section 137 Policy amended to allow applications to be submitted throughout the year.
 - **BPC/81/2026:** Church Warden to review ivy growth on the High Street wall as part of their October works.

BPC/93/2026

Public Session: Unitary Councillor(s) Report(s).

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

Cllr Cole sent a report ahead of the meeting. Noted. No report received from Cllr Weston.

b. Members of the public.

- (i) Members from the Stoke Road Allotments attended to confirm the boundary between the Stoke Road Allotments and the footway on Stoke Road.
- (ii) A member of the public enquired about the Welcome letter for the village directory and about the possibility of establishing a community response group.
- (iii) A member of the public confirmed “Jim’s Bench” replacement on the canal towpath was ready to instal and Councillors were invited to look at it when it was in place. Canal and River Trust have provided permission to install fixing into the ground.

BPC/94/2026

Response to issues raised in the public session.

The Council expressed their thanks regarding the confirmation to the boundary for the Stoke Road Allotments and confirmed that plans were in place for works to reduce the vegetation and improve the footway.

The Council noted that the Welcome Letter was ready for printing and that emergency response plans would be considered under item BPC/104/2026 of this meeting.

The Council thanked the residents for their hard work in restoring the bench. **Action:** Cllr Read to share progress via the Parish Council’s social media channels and to assist the residents by publicising their request for donations from other members of the community.

BPC/95/2026

Planning and Development.

a. 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: 13/07/2026. Extension requested: No confirmation received to date.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed a “No Comment” response.

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BPC/96/2026

Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read.

There were no direct messages during the period. The top-performing post related to the road closure on Courteenhall Road. Since the last meeting, further posts have been issued on community grants, summer activities for young people, road closures, and the agenda for the August General Meeting.

BPC/97/2026

Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read.

The Council noted the continued benefit of the Northamptonshire Talking neighbourhood-alert system, which can be accessed at <https://northamptonshiretalking.co.uk/>, with key updates also shared via the Parish Council's social media channels. An update was received regarding PSCO Matt Taylor, who is currently undertaking restricted duties following an off-duty injury. This leaves the village without a dedicated Neighbourhood Policing officer for the foreseeable future. The community remains supported by the Towcester Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Crime data for May and June shows nine offences reported in May and four in June, each at different residential addresses. Overall, reported crime remains very low in the parish compared with the wider Northamptonshire area.

BPC/98/2026

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

The data download from the VAR units remains consistent with previous months. Traffic monitoring across Blisworth's four main roads shows a clear and consistent daily pattern in vehicle volumes, revealing how heavily the village is used during commuter periods. Although total volumes differ - Towcester Road recorded 153,823 vehicles, Knock Lane 143,212, Courteenhall Road 113,681, and Stoke Road 90,304, the shape of traffic flow over the day is almost identical across all routes.

During the night, between 00:00 and 05:00, traffic volumes fall to their lowest levels, often close to zero. From 05:00 onwards, volumes rise sharply. By 06:30, most roads show a five- to ten-fold increase compared with overnight levels. The morning peak begins around 07:30 and is the most intense period of the day. On Towcester Road, the busiest route, the charts record approximately 250–300 vehicles; Knock Lane around 200–250; Courteenhall Road and Stoke Road typically peak between 150–200. This means that during the busiest hour of the morning, Blisworth experiences roughly ten times more traffic than during the early hours of the night.

After 10:00, volumes settle into a steady mid-day plateau. Across all roads, this period typically shows 80–150 vehicles per interval - still substantial, but significantly lower than the morning peak. This mid-day stability continues until around 15:00, when volumes begin to rise again. The afternoon peak, running from roughly 15:00 to 18:30, is smaller than the morning surge but still marked. Towcester Road again shows the strongest increase, with intervals rising to around 180–220 vehicles, while Knock Lane and Courteenhall Road show peaks in the 120–180 range. After 18:30, volumes decline steadily, returning to low levels by 21:00 and falling back toward near-zero movement by 23:00.

This pattern is generally as expected: low overnight volumes, a sharp early-morning rise, a pronounced morning peak, a stable mid-day period, and a smaller but clear afternoon peak. This clearly demonstrates that Blisworth's roads are being used as part of a wider commuter network, as these volumes greatly exceed the local population.

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The fact that all four roads follow the same curve, despite differing total volumes, shows that the pressure is village-wide and driven by external travel patterns rather than local activity. The morning peak alone accounts for the highest concentration of daily traffic, with some roads seeing more than 1,000 vehicles in the space of a few hours, and the afternoon peak adds a second wave of heavy flow. These metrics indicate that Blisworth is absorbing sustained commuter traffic in both directions each day, with volumes rising and falling in synchrony across the entire road network.

Cllr Brown noted that the Traffic Working Group continues to pursue West Northants Council for full responses and action regarding additional 20 mph signage, a commencement date for the works to the Stoke Road chicane so that residents can be informed in advance and proposed changes to Knock Lane aimed at improving safety for residents using both Knock Lane and Stoke Road.

BPC/99/2026

Report on Youth Parish Council: Update from Cllr Read.

No Youth Group sessions were held during the period due to exceptionally warm weather, which made the meeting room unusually hot, and reduced attendance over the summer holiday. Activities are expected to resume once the holiday period ends. An advertisement has been placed in *Round and About* to raise awareness of the group, with further details available at <https://bypc.blisworthbc.net/>. Cllr Read received a copy of his enhanced DBS certificate.

BPC/100/2026

Gateway Update: Update from Cllr Wilson.

Cllr Wilson contacted SEGRO to seek clarification regarding the monitoring of traffic entering and exiting the site. **Action:** Cllr Wilson to raise these issues again at the next SEGRO liaison meeting. The Council noted the importance of following up on this request for information, as it will materially inform future discussions on traffic management associated with forthcoming planning applications in the area.

BPC/101/2026

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. Cllr Wilson confirmed an increase in the litter at the play area again despite the introduction of additional litter bins.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Blisworth anti-litter group for support.

b. Defibrillators: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues – Update from Cllr Read.

The defibrillator unit at the Primary School has now been replaced. Monthly inspections were completed, and no issues were identified with either the unit on High Street or the replacement unit at Blisworth Primary School. The information on The Circuit, the Northamptonshire Emergency Services Defibrillator record for both units, has been updated.

c. Allotments (Blisworth Parish Council Allotments, off Courteenhall Road) – Update from Cllr Ingram and Cllr Read.

Plots 49 and 34 have been let. One tenant has vacated a plot, leaving only one plot remaining to be allocated. All information received from Anglian Water regarding the hosepipe ban has been circulated to all tenants, who were advised to seek any clarifications directly from Anglian Water. Tenants have also been reminded to use water sparingly, as any additional costs will be passed on to tenants.

ACTION: Cllrs Read and Ingram to arrange a date for an Allotment Working Group meeting with the tenants.

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d. Closed Cemetery – Update from Cllr Billing.

The Clerk is exploring options for constructing a simple cover to protect the spare stones for future wall repairs at the Closed Cemetery, along with obtaining installation costs for guttering and water butts.

e. Street lighting – Update from Cllr Chandler. No update this month.

f. Discuss options and quotes for an additional dog waste bin on Church Lane and agree next steps.

The Council received two quotations. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with Quote A at £268.24 (plus VAT) for the installation of a new dog-waste bin on Church Lane. It was noted that installation cannot take place until the consultation period with adjacent properties has concluded.

g. Discuss alternative arrangements during current dry-grass conditions and agree next steps. Update from Cllr Wilson.

It was agreed that some weekly cuts (due to the dry grass conditions) will be replaced with other vegetation-removal work around the village, including Towcester Road; Stoke Road/Stoke Road Allotments boundary; Chapel Lane (section); and the corner of Buttmead and the bridle path. Should rainfall increase later in the season, additional grass cuts may be required. Cllr Root confirmed that there is sufficient headroom within the 2026–2027 grass-cutting budget to accommodate some extra cuts. **ACTION:** Cllr Wilson to liaise with the grass-cutting contractor to coordinate the required works.

BPC/102/2026

Discuss proposed adoption of BT phone box on High Street, Blisworth and agree next steps.

RESOLVED to proceed with the adoption of the BT phone box on High Street, Blisworth, subject to further checks on insurance costs to ensure adequate cover for potential vandalism or damage arising from a road-traffic incident. **ACTION:** Cllr Read to confirm in the event the box was to be vandalised or otherwise damaged, the Council's insurance policy would provide cover. It was noted that previous advice indicated the replacement cost, approximately £3,000, would be included within the street-furniture valuation, and therefore any claimable cost to the Council would be negligible. Clarification from the insurer is to be obtained to confirm this position.

BPC/103/2026

Discuss initial review of trees and agree next steps. Report from Cllr Field.

It was noted that several trees in the parish may require attention. **ACTION:** Cllr Field to obtain quotations for tree inspections and to review additional trees across the parish.

BPC/104/2026

Discuss Community Grant for Emergency Flood Stores and agree next steps.

RESOLVED that, although the overall flood risk remains low, the Council will submit a bid for emergency equipment, including first-aid kits, traffic cones and temporary barriers. **ACTION:** Councillors to review the draft Emergency Plan with a view to broadening its scope to encompass additional emergency scenarios including the possibility of storage of emergency equipment at various locations and developing an alert system.

BPC/105/2026

Review tree planting project, discuss watering arrangements and agree next steps.

RESOLVED to reduce the number of trees/shrubs from 34 to 25, reflecting concerns about increasingly hot summers and the likelihood of similar conditions next year, in order to reduce watering demands and costs.

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BPC/106/2026

Internal Control:

- a. **Internal Control Checklist – Update from Cllr Field.** Internal Control checklist undertaken by Cllr Billing and countersigned by Cllr Read. Noted. No issues to report.
- b. **To consider NCALC's Internal Audit Service and internal auditor's competence and independence and reappointment for 2026–2027 in accordance with AGAR Assertion 6.**
RESOLVED to re-appoint NCALC's Internal Audit Service for 2026–2027, confirming the internal auditor's competence and independence in accordance with AGAR Assertion 6.
- c. **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/107/2026

Finance & Administration:

- a. **Banking Issues: Bank reconciliation.** Noted in Appendix I.
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT | 31/07/2026 | £24,744.04 |
| SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT | 31/07/2026 | £120,000.00 |
- b. **Report from Finance Working Group meeting. Report from Cllr Root.**
Cllr Root noted that the Finance Working Group has reviewed the Council's spend for the year to date compared with the budget (Actual versus Budget) and discussed the Council's savings account options.
- c. **Review the Council's spend for the year to date compared with the budget (Actual versus Budget) and agree next steps.**
No overspends were identified. Key points noted include: annual electricity costs for street lighting remain estimates; dog-waste collection charges are increasing; the very dry summer may lead to higher allotment water costs; vegetation-undergrowth clearance suggested in several areas is unbudgeted, though the mowing budget currently has sufficient headroom; Land Registry fees and any associated solicitor's costs are unbudgeted and may need to be met from reserves; and potential tree-related works discussed under agenda item BPC/103/2026 are also unbudgeted.
- d. **Review savings account options, interest rates, and agree next steps regarding potential transfer of funds.**
The balance in the Skipton Building Society account was previously reduced to £120,000 on the understanding that this was within the FSCS protection limit. The Working Group agreed to recommend opening an additional savings account, and the Clerk undertook to research suitable options. Subsequent checks confirmed that FSCS protection for the Skipton account is £80,000 (the £120,000 limit applies to Unity Trust Bank). This increases the need for an additional savings account. Recommendations for new savings account(s) will be brought to the September 2026 meeting for discussion.
- e. **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.

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BPC/108/2026

Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.

The Clerk was instructed to investigate the process for transferring to the digital AGAR system for the 2026–2027 financial year.

Cllr Ingram requested that a discussion on potential further tree-maintenance requirements be added to the September 2026 agenda.

Cllr Read requested that an update on the S106 funding applications be included on the September 2026 agenda.

BPC/109/2026

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

RESOLVED: Cllr Wilson and Cllr Ingram will attend.

BPC/110/2026

To agree the date of next meeting: 07/09/2026 at 7.30pm.

Agreed.

BPC/111/2026

Close.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.03 pm.

Signed:

Chairman..... Date:

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

Appendix I

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT 20491615

31/07/2026 £24,744.04

SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT 921190089

31/07/2026 £120,000.00

Total

£144,744.04

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT 20491615 31/03/2026

£6,043.50

SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT 921190089 31/03/2026

£122,907.28

Balance at beginning of 01/04/2026

£128,950.78

Receipts (01/04/2026 - to date)

£32,450.61

Withdrawals (01/04/2026 - to date)

-£16,657.35

Sub total

£144,744.04

Less uncashed cheques

£0.00

Plus Receipts not shown on bank statements

£0.00

Closing Balance

£144,744.04

Uncashed cheques/Receipts

Less uncashed cheques		
Receipts not shown on bank statements		£0.00
Closing Total Accounts		£144,744.04

Clerk/RFO

Checked by:

Date:

Date:

Chairman

Date:

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RECEIPTS AUGUST 2026-2027 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
07-Jul-26	HMRC VTR	XAV126000101876	£4,160.77							£4,160.77			£4,160.77	UT
08-Jul-26	Allot Fee/34		£45.00		£0.00	£30.00	£15.00						£45.00	UT
14-Jul-26	Allot Fee/49		£57.50		£12.50	£30.00	£15.00						£57.50	UT
20-Jul-26	BROOKS WRJ S04	DARING DREAMS ADS	£20.00									£20.00	£20.00	UT
£4,283.27														

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PAYMENTS AUGUST 2026-2027 MEETING

Entry No	Meeting date	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Credit Card Payment	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT
61	03/08/2026	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	1196	LC Hedging and Grass Maintenance Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x1 & Area 1 x1 29/06/2026	UTBT61	N	£432.00	£72.00	£360.00
62	03/08/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	34UG007-0009	Parish Online Local Authority Technology CIC	Parish Online Website Services 07/07/2026 - 07/07/2027	UTBT62	N	£414.00	£69.00	£345.00
63	03/08/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	26/06/2026	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee June 2026	CC-UTDD63	CC	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
64	03/08/2026	LGA 1972, s.111		Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 01/06/2026 and 30/06/2026	UTDD64	N	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00
65	03/08/2026	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV04637251	SSE	SSE 01/06/2026 to 30/6/2026 Site Ref:AGR3804337	UTDD65	N	£97.40	£4.64	£92.76
66	03/08/2026	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	1213	LC Hedging and Grass Maintenance Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x1 & Area 1 x1 13/07/2026	UTBT66	N	£432.00	£72.00	£360.00
67	03/08/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	34UG007-0010	Parish Online Geosphere Ltd	Parish Online Mapping Software 18/07-2026 - 18/07/2027	UTBT67	N	£115.20	£19.20	£96.00
68	03/08/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	27/07/2026	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee July 2026	CC-UTDD68	CC	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
69	03/08/2026	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	10579	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 3 01.07.26 - 31.07.26	UTBT69	N	£257.40	£42.90	£214.50
70	03/08/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary July 2026 Mth 4	UTBT70	N	£1,041.61	£0.00	£1,041.61

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71	03/08/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/07/2026 - 31/07/2026	UTDD71	N	£44.08	£0.00	£44.08
72	03/08/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions July 2026 Salary Mth 4	UTBT72	N	£99.94	£0.00	£99.94
73	03/08/2026	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.07.2026 - 31.07.2026)	UTBT73	N	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
								£2,966.63	£279.74	£2,686.89