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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 7th September 2026 at 7.30 pm.**

Present:

Cllr S Billing, Chair

Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chair

Cllr D Wilson

Cllr B Brown

Cllr M Field

Cllr B Ingram

Cllr N Chandler

Cllr C Gardner

West Northants Unitary Council:

Cllr F Cole

Cllr L Weston

Also present:

Clerk/RFO: Angela Billing

5 Members of public

BPC/112/2026

To receive apologies.

Apologies received from Cllr A Coles, Cllr T Davenport and Cllr W Root. The Council resolved to accept the apologies.

BPC/113/2026

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/134/2026 (d).

BPC/114/2026

To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 03/08/2026.

Approved.

BPC/115/2026

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

None noted.

BPC/116/2026

Clerk's report circulated separately.

- Consultation on the Governance and Accountability of Category 2 Authorities in England completed.

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL **DRAFT**

- Confirmation of Bus Shelter Ownership and responsibility: Land Registry Ref. NN162933 (includes the pub, bus shelter, car park and green). Therefore private land and not the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- New Trees Project: Amended Tree report issued to WNC (Kier) – They will now check for any restrictions for the location of the proposed trees ahead of confirmation. Please note that they have now said they will provide tree stakes but not tree guards, as originally discussed.
- Blisworth Football Club have agreed that they will water hedging and shrubs planted at the field/football ground. WNC (Kier) have yet to confirm the frequency and volume of water over the 12 mth period.
- Blisworth Football Club (BFC) Lease: Still awaiting confirmation that the Football Club have sent their signed copy of the lease.
- Blisworth Football Club gate adjoining allotments: Confirmed BFC have now fitted a new padlock and the gate will be kept locked.

Record of Miscellaneous Actions raised at previous meeting(s):

- **BPC/101/2026** Contact Blisworth anti-litter group for support with increased litter at play area: Completed. Awaiting a response.
- **BPC/107/2026** Research suitable options for additional savings account(s): Deferred to October agenda as lead finance Officer not available for September meeting.
- **BPC/108/2026** Investigate process for transferring to digital AGAR system for 2026–2027: Process started. Clerk signed up for digital portal.
- **BPC/108/2026** Add discussion on further tree-maintenance requirements to September agenda: Added to Sept Agenda
- **BPC/108/2026** Add update on S106 funding applications to September agenda: Update provided ahead of September meeting.
- **Misc:** Request resident to trim back overgrown hedging for Stoke Road: Completed

BPC/117/2026

Public Session:

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

Unitary Councillors reviewed progress on Stoke Road chicane commencement date, 20 mph additional signage and improvements to Knock Lane signage in addition to updates regarding the proposed Kalvec development off Northampton Road. **ACTION:** Unitary Councillors continue to ask for action/responses from West Northants Council (WNC). **ACTION:** Clerk to copy both Unitary Councillors into all correspondence sent to West Northants Council/Kier (Highways).

b. Members of the public.

- (i) A member of public raised concerns regarding the fly-tipping at the large Connergar Leys green and concerns about the size of the crab apple tree on the green.
- (ii) A member of the public brought photos of Jim's bench which they have now installed on the canal tow-path.

BPC/118/2026

Response to issues raised in the public session.

- (i) The crab apple tree to be included in the review of works on trees. **ACTION:** Cllr Field to obtain quotes to reduce the size of the tree. Noted fly-tipping needs to be reported to WNC website.
- (ii) The photos of Jim's bench to be shared via the Blisworth Parish Council Facebook page. **ACTION:** Cllr Read.

BPC/119/2026**Planning and Development.**

- a. **Application No. 2026/3357/FULL: Hill Farm Gayton Road Blisworth NN7 3BP. Proposal Part-Retrospective Change of Use from Arable Field to Wedding and Events Venue [sui generis]. Comments by: 18 Sept 2026.**

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

BPC/120/2026**Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read.**

There were no direct messages during the period. Social media followers remain at 394, with 52% identified as Blisworth residents and the remainder located in Northampton, Roade, Towcester or Hartwell. Post reach for the period was 4,581 views, with 349 users engaging directly, 18 reactions and 3 comments, and no shares. The top performing post related to the rural police team.

Since the last meeting, further posts have been issued on the rural police team, the latest edition of *Round and About*, and local road closures. The agenda for the September Meeting was also shared.

BPC/121/2026**Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read.**

Crime data for July, noted seven offences within the parish. Crime levels remain very low compared with the wider Northamptonshire area. The July figures comprised one incident of antisocial behaviour, six violence and sexual offences at a single residential address, and one vehicle crime. The Council noted that the Northamptonshire Talking neighbourhood-alert system continues to support community awareness, with 76 Blisworth residents currently subscribed, and that key updates are also shared via Parish Council social media channels. A series of recent reports of antisocial behaviour by youths at the Eastfield Play Area and incidents on the canal were also highlighted.

BPC/122/2026**Report on data from SID/VAS devices and Traffic Working Group: Update from Cllr Read and Cllr Brown.**

The latest traffic survey data indicate that typical vehicle speeds have remained broadly stable at the locations surveyed when compared with the May–July 2026 data. Stoke Road recorded approximately 2,559 vehicle movements per day, broadly unchanged from the previous survey, with an average speed of 22.9 mph and an 85th-percentile speed of 27 mph. The main traffic peak occurs in the late afternoon, around 16:40–17:30, at approximately 170 movements per half-hour.

High Street recorded the highest daily traffic flow of the locations within the village, at approximately 4,127 movements per day. Average speed was 25.4 mph and the 85th-percentile speed was 30 mph. There are pronounced traffic peaks in both the morning and late afternoon, with the largest around 17:30, at approximately 370 movements per half-hour. As this survey covered only six days, it should be regarded as an initial indication rather than a full seasonal comparison.

Towcester Road remained the busiest of the longer-term survey locations, with approximately 4,481 movements per day, a small increase of around 2% on the previous survey. Average speed was 34 mph and the 85th-percentile speed was 40 mph, effectively unchanged from the earlier reading.

Courteenhall Road showed the most notable increase in traffic volume, rising from approximately 2,030 to 2,895 movements per day, an increase of around 43%. Typical speeds rose only slightly, from 30.5 to 32 mph, with the 85th-percentile speed increasing from 39 to 40 mph.

Knock Lane recorded approximately 1,423 movements per day, compared with around 2,557 in the previous survey. However, the latest count covered only four days, compared with approximately 56 days previously, so this reduction should not yet be interpreted as a confirmed long-term change. Typical speeds were essentially unchanged: the average was 48 mph and the 85th-percentile speed was 57 mph, compared with 47.9 mph and 56 mph previously.

Overall, the surveys do not show a material change in typical traffic speeds across the repeated locations. The principal change is the higher traffic volume on Courteenhall Road. The VAS device at Knock Lane has been moved to High Street.

BPC/123/2026

Discuss speeding issues and volume of traffic on Chapel Lane and Little Lane and agree next steps.

Traffic Working Group (TWG) to review options with Kier (Highways), including the potential for enhanced 20 mph limit signage and also a 'School' signage to warn drivers to slow down. However, previous evidence from multiple sources indicates that introducing a one-way system typically increases vehicle speeds rather than reducing them. Cllr Read reviewed options for installing a VAS device to monitor speeds at the location, unfortunately there is no suitable pole to install the VAS device near the nursery or on Chapel Lane. **ACTION:** TWG.

Blisworth Parish Council to schedule further speed-monitoring sessions to monitor the speed of traffic approaching Chapel Lane and Little Lane from the Gayton Road. It was noted that monitoring can only be undertaken from Pond Bank due to restricted sight-lines at Chapel Lane and Little Lane. **ACTION:** Cllr Chandler.

BPC/124/2026

Report on Youth Parish Council: Update from Cllr Read.

A brief report was provided on the activities of the Youth Group supported by the Parish Council. The Youth Group continues to meet regularly, with six young people attending the most recent session held on Friday, 28th August, prior to the bank holiday. The group remains vibrant and engaged, and the Council expressed its thanks to the Baptist Chapel for its continued support.

BPC/125/2026 Gateway Update: Update from Cllr Wilson.

The next SEGRO Management Suite, Northampton Gateway meeting is scheduled for 09/09/2026. Cllr Wilson requested that questions regarding the ANPR system's operational processes, performance to date, and overall effectiveness be added to the agenda, including queries relating to the issuing of fines and the sharing of information on fines and associated procedures. **ACTION:** Cllr Wilson to report back responses to these questions from the SEGRO Management Suite, Northampton Gateway team at the October Parish Council meeting.

BPC/126/2026

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.

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

Checks were carried out on both of the Parish Council Defibrillators and they are both in full working order.

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

The Allotment Working Group planned for August 2026 had to be cancelled. **ACTION:** Cllrs Read and Ingram to arrange a replacement date and to plan a formal inspection of the allotments. Cllr Billing reported that a gate panel between the Football Club and the allotments had fallen down.

ACTION: The Clerk to contact Blisworth Football Club to request that the necessary repairs are carried out.

- d. **Closed Cemetery: Update from Cllr Billing.** Cllr Billing noted the quote for building a shelter to cover the stone work and install guttering and water butts (£2,500.00). **ACTION:** Clerk should research further options including cost of installing a water supply and tarpaulin to cover the stonework.

- e. **Street lighting: Update from Cllr Chandler.** No updates.

BPC/127/2026

Discuss incidence of anti-social behaviour and agree next steps.

Cllr Billing noted the Parish Council had added an article in the Blisworth Parish Council newsletter asking parents to be aware of the anti-social behaviour in the play area. **ACTION:** Cllr Read to post information on Northamptonshire Talking neighbourhood-alert system and also on Blisworth Parish Council social media.

BPC/128/2026

Discuss quotes for annual inspection at Eastfield Play Area for insurance purposes and agree next steps.

RESOLVED to appoint contractor B: £150.00 (plus VAT) for an Annual unaccompanied inspection.

BPC/129/2026

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

Deferred. **ACTION:** Cllrs to report tree problems in their areas to Cllr Field. **ACTION:** Cllr Field to undertake review of other trees and obtain quotes for works.

BPC/130/2026 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/131/2026

Discuss S106 funding applications and agree next steps.

Football Club shutters: Agreed by WNC S106 Depart Full Amount Requested - £17,000.00.

Baptist Chapel Coffee Hse Refurbishment: Agreed by WNC S106 Depart. Full Amount Requested - £8,350.45

Play Area Equipment: An S106 application for £14,229.10 was submitted: Awaiting a response.

Closed Cemetery works: Application pending further quotes.

Adoption of Phone box: The contract for the adoption of the phone box has been signed as agreed by the Parish Council for a fee of £1.00 as agreed.

BPC/132/2026**Discuss Round and About Newsletter costs and agree next steps.**

The new colour newsletter format will be under budget by approximately £115 over the year. This is due to the reduced initial printing costs and the fact that the editors give their time on a voluntary basis, resulting in savings on editorial fees. **RESOLVED** to continue with colour edition.

BPC/133/2026**Discuss training course costs for updates to the AGAR and Practitioners' Guide for 2026/27 and agree next steps.**

RESOLVED to agree the training for the Clerk £46.00 (Plus VAT).

BPC/134/2026**Finance & Administration****Banking Issues:**

- a. **Bank reconciliation.** Noted in Appendix I.

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	31/08/2026	£22,206.22
SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT	31/08/2026	£120,000.00

- b. **To note action plan with reference to the findings and recommendations of the Internal Audit for 2025-2026 and agree next steps.**

RESOLVED to agree all actions. **ACTION:** Clerk to post the report on the Blisworth Parish Council website.

- c. **To note the External Auditor's report and agree next steps.**

RESOLVED to agree the External Auditor's report. **ACTION:** Clerk to post the report on the Blisworth Parish Council website.

- d. **To note receipts and approve payments including any others that arrive after publication of the agenda.**

RESOLVED: To note the receipts and agree the payments listed in Appendix I.

BPC/135/2026**Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.**

Cllr Read: Requested an update on the planters at Blisworth Arm

Cllr Field: Noted the build-up of fallen leaves and straw on High Street and raised concerns about the drains and the possibility of localised flooding from blocked drains in the autumn/winter months.

Cllr Billing: Noted the increased usage of generators by canal boats and the associated noise pollution and air pollution issues for residents.

Cllr Ingram: Noted incidents of young people riding their bikes into oncoming traffic. Cllr Read agreed to notify the Northamptonshire Talking neighbourhood-alert system.

Cllr Chandler: Noted that he had met with the Tiffield mini-bus driver but that they needed more volunteers for a mini-bus service in Blisworth to proceed.

BPC/136/2026**Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for the next Council Surgery.**

RESOLVED: Cllr Billing and Cllr Wilson to attend.

BPC/137/2026

To agree the date of next meeting 05/10/2026 at 7.30pm.

Agreed.

BPC/138/2026

Close.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Appendix I**BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31/08/2026****SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS**

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT 20491615
 SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT 921190089

31/08/2026 £22,206.22
 31/08/2026 £120,000.00
Total £142,206.22

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) **-£19,195.17**
Sub total £142,206.22

Less uncashed cheques £0.00
 Plus Receipts not shown on bank statements £0.00

Closing Balance £142,206.22

Uncashed cheques/Receipts

Less uncashed cheques
 Receipts not shown on bank statements £0.00
Closing Total Accounts £142,206.22

Clerk/RFO _____ Checked by: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

Chairman _____

Date: _____

RECEIPTS SEPTEMBER 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
21-Jul-26													£0.00	UT
31-Aug-26													£0.00	UT
													£0.00	

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT

PAYMENTS SEPTEMBER 2026-2027 MEETING

Entry No	Meeting date	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT
74	07/09/2026	LGA 1972, s.111		BT Payphones Receivables	Adoption fee for BT Kiosk 01604858211	UT74 Chq No: 300007	£1.00	£0.00	£1.00
75	07/09/2026	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV04748752	SSE	SSE 01/07/2026 to 31/07/2026 Site Ref:AGR3804337	UTDD75	£103.59	£4.93	£98.66
76	07/09/2026	LGA 1972, s.111		Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 01/07/2026 - 31/07/2026	UTDD76	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00
77	07/09/2026	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	1229	LC Hedging and Grass Maintenance Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x1 & Area 1 x1 27/07/2026	UTBT77	£432.00	£72.00	£360.00
78	07/09/2026	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	1245	LC Hedging and Grass Maintenance Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x1 & Area 1 x1 10/08/2026	UTBT78	£432.00	£72.00	£360.00
79	07/09/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	1-292244	Blisworth Village Store & Post Office	Book of 8 Stamps 2nd Class	CC-UTDD79	£5.95	£0.99	£4.96
80	07/09/2026	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	1259	LC Hedging and Grass Maintenance Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x1 & Area 1 x1 24/08/2026	UTBT80	£432.00	£72.00	£360.00
81	07/09/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	RC27621874	Cheapest Print Online	Printing of Round & About Aug-Sept Issue 170	CC-UTDD81	£220.00	£0.00	£220.00
82	07/09/2026	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	10711	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 3 01.08.26 - 31.08.26	UTBT82	£257.40	£42.90	£214.50
83	07/09/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	26/08/2026	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee Aug 2026	CC-UTDD83	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
84	07/09/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary Aug 2026 Mth 5	UTBT84	£1,041.61	£0.00	£1,041.61

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL **DRAFT**

85	07/09/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	Pension Month 5	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/08/2026 - 31/08/2026	UTDD85	£44.08	£0.00	£44.08
86	07/09/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	120PF003233662705	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions Aug 2026 Salary Mth 5	UTBT86	£99.94	£0.00	£99.94
87	07/09/2026	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.08.2026 - 31.08.2026)	UTBT87	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
							£3,099.57	£264.82	£2,834.75