BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 5th October 2026 at 7.30 pm.**

Present:

Cllr S Billing, Chair
Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chair
Cllr D Wilson
Cllr W Root (Minute Secretary in the absence of the Clerk)
Cllr B Brown
Cllr B Ingram
Cllr C Gardner
Cllr A Cole
Cllr T Davenport
Cllr M Field
Cllr N Chandler

Also present:
4 Members of public

BPC/139/2026
To receive apologies. Apologies were received from Mrs A Billing, Clerk. The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the apology.

BPC/140/2026
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.
Declarations:
Cllr Billing declared an interest in item BPC/159/2026 (c & d & e).
Cllr Billing declared an interest in item BPC/147/2026.
Cllr Billing declared an interest in item BPC/146/2026 (a).

BPC/141/2026
To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 7 September 2026. Approved.

BPC/142/2026
To note any matters arising from the Minutes not included on the agenda for report only. None noted.

BPC/143/2026
Clerk's report circulated separately. Not available in absence of Clerk.

BPC/144/2026
Public Session:
a. Unitary Councillor(s) Report(s). None presented.

b. Members of the public.

Members of the public raised the following matters:

i. Chapel Lane Alleyway: Reflective strips adrift and in poor condition.
ii. Greenaway to Connegar Alleyway: Poor condition.
iii. 86 Connegar Leys: Streetlight requires a shade; light disturbing resident.
iv. 86 Connegar Leys: Tree to left-hand side of property engulfs overhead phone line causing faults.

BPC/145/2026

Response to issues raised in the public session.

Items (b) (i) & (ii): To be reported on "Fix My Street".
Item (b) (iii): Cllr Chandler will progress with the Street Lighting contractor.
Item (b) (iv): Cllr Davenport will add the matter to the list of village trees requiring survey and remedial work. **ACTION** Cllr Davenport.

BPC/146/2026

Planning and Development.

(a) Application No. 2026/3720/TPO.

Notification of tree work at the Stables Church Lane Blisworth NN7 3BX
Application Type: Intended tree work includes:
T1 Sweet chestnut - reduce the crown in height by approximately 5 metres to major union, reducing the lateral branches by approximately 3 metres back to suitable growth points or unions. Remove the large torn branch stub. The work is being completed to mitigate the risk of future branch failure. The tree has recently lost a major limb and the tree's canopy extends over a highway, footpath, driveway, the property and utility cables.
RESOLVED: No objection, subject to the West Northants Council (WNC) Tree Officer being satisfied that the extent of reduction is arboriculturally justified and proportionate. Clerk to **ACTION**.

BPC/147/2026

To consider a response to the West Northants Council Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation and agree next steps.

The briefing note from Cllr Read was discussed, particularly the requirement for approximately 88 additional homes in the Parish. The Council will further consider the Regulation 19 draft Local Plan when available and seek a briefing from Unitary Councillors at the next meeting. **ACTION**: Clerk to add to November agenda.

BPC/148/2026

Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read.

Total followers increased by 3 to 397. 52% are Blisworth residents; remainder from Northampton, Roade, Towcester or Hartwell. Largest age group: 35–44 (23.9%), followed by 65+ (23.3%). Only 10% under 25. Post reach: 16,249 views; engagement 1,266 people; 101 reactions; 5 comments; 2 shares. Top-performing post: installation of Jim's bench (2,253 views, 33 reactions, 1 comment). Posts issued: youth behaviour, road closures, Round & About, and the agenda for this meeting.

BPC/149/2026

Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read.

Ten crimes reported in August, each at different residential addresses:

- Antisocial Behaviour: 5
- Violence & Sexual Offences: 1

- Criminal Damage & Arson: 2
- Public Order: 1
- Other Theft: 1 Reported crime remains very low compared with wider Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire Talking alert system has 75 members in Blisworth. Relevant updates shared via Parish Council social media. A message was published regarding recent antisocial behaviour incidents.

BPC/150/2026

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

Summary of findings:

- Consistent village-wide traffic pattern: low overnight volumes, strong morning peak, steady daytime traffic, late-afternoon peak.
- Stoke Road: approx. 2,500 movements/day; average speed 22.4 mph; 85th percentile 27 mph. Speeds lower than pre-20 mph scheme.
- Towcester Road: approx. 4,700 movements/day; average speed 33.9 mph; 85th percentile 40 mph.
- Courteenhall Road: approx. 2,990 movements/day; average speed 32.1 mph; 85th percentile 40 mph.
- High Street machine: date/time reset required; battery failure occurred. Average speed 25.6 mph; 85th percentile 30 mph; maximum 55 mph. Rush-hour volumes approx. 185 vehicles per 30 minutes (30% increase). Overall: stable speeds, commuter peaks, no sustained increase on Courteenhall Road. Suggestion: consider permanent High Street unit location and purchase a solar unit.

BPC/151/2026

Report on Youth Parish Council: Update from Cllr Read.

Youth Parish Council has restarted; 6–8 young people attending. Recent session supported by Northamptonshire Association of Youth Groups. Young people engaged in discussion on future uses for the adopted BT telephone box. Thanks recorded to Blisworth Baptist Church and to the Northamptonshire Association of Youth Groups. Group meets twice monthly.

BPC/152/2026

Gateway Update: Update from Cllr Wilson.

Questions to SEGRO regarding implementation of the ANPR system (required under the Development Consent Order) have not received a response. Matter to be referred to Unitary Councillors and MP.
ACTION: Cllr Wilson to draft a letter.

BPC/153/2026

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. Some minor repairs outstanding. Clerk to **ACTION**.

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: Allotments (Blisworth Parish Council Allotments, off Courteenhall Road). Update from Cllr Ingram and Cllr Read.**
Meeting to assess allotments scheduled for 9 November 2026.

d) Closed Cemetery: Update from Cllr Billing.

Funding has been secured by the Graveyard Shift group. Therefore approximately £7,000 in the budget for S106 funding is available for the installation of a water supply at the Closed Cemetery. Two quotations were considered:

- £2,500 for constructing a roof over the spare stone pile and installing rainwater-collection facilities.
- £4,600 (plus additional costs for Anglian Water site visits and a possible road closure) for installing a mains water supply via Anglian Water.

The Council noted that rainwater collection would be insufficient for operational needs and that a roofed structure for the spare stone stock was required regardless.

RESOLVED: That S106 application amendments agreed including installation of a mains water supply and costs towards a roofed shelter over the spare wall-stone stock from reserves.

e) Street lighting: Update from Cllr Chandler. ACTION: Cllr Chandler to chase quotations for Eastfield Play Area lighting.

BPC/154/2026

S106 Funding Application: Discuss amendments to Closed Cemetery S106 application and agree next steps.

RESOLVED to accept the amendments. **ACTION:** Clerk to finalise quotes and S106 submit amended applications.

BPC/155/2026

S106 Funding Application: Discuss Scouts Firepit quotes for S106 funding and agree next steps.

The Scout Group are awaiting a second quote (as per the WNC S106 regulations).

Deferred to November 2026 meeting. **ACTION:** Clerk to add to November agenda.

BPC/156/2026

Discuss option for Land Registry for the Village Hall and Village Hall car park, Eastfield Play Area and Parish Field and agree next steps.

Deferred to November 2026 meeting due to absence of Clerk. **ACTION:** Clerk to add to November agenda.

BPC/157/2026

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

Agreed next stage: specialist surveys. Trees 7 & 8 excluded as these are on privately owned land.

RESOLVED: Spend up to £500 on specialist surveys. **ACTION:** Cllr Davenport and Cllr Field to obtain quotes.

BPC/158/2026

Internal Control:

a. Internal Control Checklist: Update from Cllr Davenport. Deferred in absence of Clerk.

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.

c. To consider the NCALC's Internal Audit Service and internal auditor auditor's competence and independence and reappointment for 2026-2027 in accordance with AGAR Assertion 6.

RESOLVED: Competence and independence confirmed; reappointed for 2026–2027.

BPC/159/2026
Finance & Administration
Banking Issues:

a. Bank reconciliation.

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	30/09/2026	£19,134.88
SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT	30/09/2026	£142,740.00

Increase in Skipton Savings Account due to final instalment of the precept (£22,740.00).

b. To note the recommendations reviewed at the September 2026 by the Finance Working Group (FWG) listed below. Report form Cllr Root.

(i) Discuss the draft Savings & Investment Policy and agree next steps.
FWG recommends a Savings & Investment Policy and opening a further savings account to keep deposits below FSCS £120,000 limit.

(ii) To review savings account options, interest rates, and agree next steps regarding potential transfer of funds.
FWG recommends Redwood Bank 35-day notice account (3.7% variable).

(iii) To review the proposed allocation of funds and agree next steps.
FWG recommends holding up to £115,000 in new account.

RESOLVED: To adopt the Savings & Investment Policy, open a Redwood Bank 35-day account and transfer up to £115,000. **ACTION**: Clerk to open the account. **ACTION**: Clerk to post the Savings & Investment Policy on the Blisworth Parish Council website.

c. Resolution to agree the National pay award.
RESOLVED to increase Clerk's remuneration in line with national award.

d. Resolution to agree the backdated National pay award to April 2026.
RESOLVED to backdate National pay award to April 2026.

e. 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/160/2026
Discuss amendments to BPC IT and Communications Policy and agree next steps.
RESOLVED: Amended Policy agreed. **ACTION**: Clerk to post on Blisworth Parish Council website.

BPC/161/2026
Discuss amendments to BPC Assets Policy and agree next steps.
RESOLVED: Amended Policy agreed. **ACTION**: Clerk to post on Blisworth Parish Council website.

BPC/162/2026

Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.

Concerns raised regarding delays in WNC approval of S106 applications and quotations nearing expiry. Concern also expressed regarding requirement for spend to precede receipt of funds. Further briefing of Unitary Councillors required.

BPC/163/2026

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

RESOLVED: Cllr Ingram and Cllr Chandler to attend.

BPC/164/2026

To agree the date of next meeting 02/11/2026 at 7.30pm.

Agreed.

BPC/165/2026

Close.

The meeting closed at 8.54 pm.

Signed:

Chairman…… Date:

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

Appendix I

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30/09/2026

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT 20491615		**30/09/2026**	**£19,134.88**
SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT 921190089		**30/09/2026**	**£142,740.00**
	Total		**£161,874.88**

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)	**£55,230.61**
Withdrawals (01/04/2026 - to date)	**-£22,306.51**
Sub total	**£161,874.88**
Less uncashed cheques	£0.00
Plus Receipts not shown on bank statements	£0.00
Closing Balance	**£161,874.88**

Uncashed cheques/Receipts

	Less uncashed cheques	
	Receipts not shown on bank statements	£0.00
	Closing Total Accounts	**£161,874.88**

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS OCTOBER 2026-2027 MEETING

Date	Time	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
23Sep2026	10:38	L Westnidge		L Westnidge-R&A Advert Foot Care	£40.00									£40.00	£40.00	**UT**
28Sep2026		WNC Precept 2nd (Final) Instalment 2026-2027			£22,740.00					£22,740.00					£22,740.00	SKIPTON
															£22,780.00	

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

PAYMENTS OCTOBER 2026-2027 MEETING

Entry No	Meeting date	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT
88	05/10/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	1-293054	Blisworth Village Store & Post Office	Certificate of Posting	CC-UTDD88	£3.30	£0.55	£2.75
89	05/10/2026	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV04859423	SSE	SSE 01/08/2026 to 31/08/2026 Site Ref:AGR3804337	UTDD89	£116.36	£5.54	£110.82
90	05/10/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	SB20261608	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Auditor Fee: Limited Assurance review of AGAR 2025-2026	UTBT90	£378.00	£63.00	£315.00
91	05/10/2026	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	1276	LC Hedging and Grass Maintenance Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x1 & Area 1 x1 07/09/2026	UTBT91	£432.00	£72.00	£360.00
92	05/10/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	NRDCH-621360	NordVPN S.A	Nord VPN 2-Year subscription	CC-UTDD92	£98.86	£16.48	£82.38
93	05/10/2026	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	1292	LC Hedging and Grass Maintenance Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x1 & Area 1 x1 21/09/2026	UTBT93	£432.00	£72.00	£360.00
94	05/10/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	RC27659414	Cheapest Print Online	Printing of Round & About Oct-Nov Issue 171	CC-UTDD94	£220.00	£0.00	£220.00
95	05/10/2026	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	10842	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 3 01.09.26 - 30.09.26	UTBT95	£257.40	£42.90	£214.50
96	05/10/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	28/09/2026	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee Sept 2026	CC-UTDD96	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
97	05/10/2026	LGA 1972, s.111		Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 01/08/2026 - 31/08/2026	UTDD97	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00
98	05/10/2026	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.09.2026 - 30.09.2026)	UTBT98	£31.25	£0.00	£31.25

99	05/10/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary Sept 2026 Mth 6	UTBT99	£1,041.61	£0.00	£1,041.61
100	05/10/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	Pension Month 6	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/09/2026 - 30/09/2026	UTDD100	£44.08	£0.00	£44.08
101	05/10/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	120PF003233662706	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions Sept 2026 Salary Mth 6	UTBT101	£99.94	£0.00	£99.94
102	05/10/2026	LGA 1972, Section 111	8492	Barbara Osborne	Payroll Services Jul 2026 - Sept 2026 Plus Pension Regulator Re- Enrolment Fee	UTBT102	£121.00	£0.00	£121.00
103	05/10/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	26/08/2026	Land Registry Ecom CCC	Land Registry Search for Blisworth Playing Field	CC-UTDD103	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00
104	05/10/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	23/09/2026	T Windows Plot 13	Allotment Plot 13: Key Deposit Refund	UTBT104	£15.00	£0.00	£15.00
							£3,307.80	**£272.47**	**£3,035.33**