BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT
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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 2nd November 2026 at 7.30 pm.**

Present:

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

Also present:
1 Member of the public
Cllr Fiona Cole, WNC Unitary council

BPC/166/2026
To receive apologies. Apologies were received from Cllr S Billing, Cllr B Ingram, Unitary Cllr L. Weston and Mrs A Billing, Clerk. The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies.

BPC/167/2026
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 A Cole declared an interest for Agenda item BPB/185/2026

BPC/168/2026
To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 5 October 2026.
Approved.

BPC/169/2026
To note any matters arising from the Minutes not included on the agenda for report only. The Council expressed support for the grant application for a flood relief equipment that has been prepared by Cllr. Read. The Council discussed the disappointing response from the Canal & River Trust (CRT) to its request for mooring restrictions on the canal towpath within the village. It was agreed that the Council should ask CRT to provide the legislative, policy or evidential basis for refusing the request, noting that 48-hour mooring restrictions are in place in Stoke Bruerne, where residential properties are not situated as close to the towpath as they are in Blisworth. It was further agreed to contact West Northamptonshire Council Environmental Health to seek clarification on its policy regarding smoke and fume emissions from canal boats, including those arising from solid-fuel stoves and diesel engines. **ACTION**: Clerk.

BPC/170/2026

Clerk's report circulated separately.

- **Waste Bin Collections Increase:** The contractor has increased their monthly fees due to Fuel Surcharge fees. Weekly contracts Over £100 up to £300 per week 20% Fuel charge percentage increase. Resulting in an additional £51.00 per month.
- **Blisworth Football Club Lease - Football Foundation Charge Request:** Before consent is given, our solicitors' advice is that the Parish Council will need to understand the terms of the proposed security and what rights the Football Foundation would have if the Football Club ceased operating or defaulted. We have requested a copy of the loan agreement from Blisworth Football Club. No Loan Agreement has been forwarded by Blisworth Football Club's solicitor to date.
- **Grand Union Canal Transfer (GUCT):** The GUCT team has confirmed that no major works are planned in Blisworth, but the Legacy Working Group highlighted that project benefits are intended for all communities along the canal, not only those where construction will take place. Requested procedure for joining the Legacy Working Group.
- **CRT Canal Issues: Noise and Air Pollution:** The Parish Council requested that the Canal & River Trust (CRT) designate the stretch of canal alongside Pond Bank, between the tunnel and Candle Bridge, as a 48-hour mooring area, consistent with the arrangements in Stoke Bruerne, where 48-hour mooring restrictions are in place adjacent to residential properties. CRT has responded that it does not propose to introduce a 48-hour mooring restriction at the requested location in Blisworth.
- **Tree Project:** West Northants Council have confirmed a watering schedule for all new trees/shrubs planted. The schedule will be for 30 weeks between the months of April and October and equates to a visit per week to water. 20 – 50 litres of water will be used per tree dependent on ground conditions at the time of the visit. They have yet to compete underground checks ahead of the planting timetable but plan to plant by end of 2026.

BPC/171/2026

Public Session:

a. Unitary Councillor(s) Report(s). Cllr F Cole briefed the Council on her representations to WNC officers on the various issues raised by the Council. The council noted the recently improved response to S.106 funding applications. On Highways, Cllr. Cole asked for a briefing note on the timely response to footway repairs. **ACTION :** Cllr Brown.

b. Members of the public.

Members of the public raised the following matters:

The excellent display of knitted armistice poppies by volunteers in the village was noted.

BPC/172/2026

Response to issues raised in the public session.

The council asked the Member of the Public to let the Clerk have the names of the residents who made the poppy display so a letter of thanks could be sent. **ACTION**: Clerk

BPC/173/2026

Planning and Development.

Application no. 2026/4224/TCA: Blisworth House, Church Lane Blisworth NN7 3BX. Notification of intended tree work: Cut back yew tree due to overhanging branches to listed building.
RESOLVED: No objection. **ACTION:** Clerk.

BPC/174/2026

Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read.

The total social media followers have increased by 3 to 399 users. 52% are residents of Blisworth while the remainder are in Northampton, Roade, Towcester or Hartwell. The largest age group is now 35/44 years comprising 23.8% of our followers, followed by 65+ at 23.4%. Only 10% are under 25. The post reach is 8751 views, direct engagement is 467 people, 11 reactions and 8 comments and 1 share. The top-performing post was about the change to waste collections which gained 2239 views, 3 reactions and 4 comments. Since the last meeting, information on the free road safety event and online training support has been posted.

BPC/175/2026

Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read.

The crime data for September is not yet available. Our community continues to benefit from the Northamptonshire Talking neighbourhood alert system, which currently has 73 members in Blisworth. This GDPR-compliant platform provides regular updates on local crime trends, policing priorities and community safety issues across South Northamptonshire. It can be accessed at https://northamptonshiretalking.co.uk/. Relevant updates are also shared via the Parish Council's social media channels to maximise community awareness. The Council published the following update on this platform and our social media channels. During in the month there was a beat bus visit at the Royal Oak PH on 7 October. Cllr Chandler contacted the local PSCO around parking at Pond Bank and was assured patrols would look at this issue. In accordance with previous advice, we were direct to WNC who hold power over parking enforcement. We have also received the attached update for the PLR and NHW which are identical and the NW impact report.

BPC/176/2026

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

The accumulated SID/VAS data continues to show a consistent village-wide pattern of low overnight traffic, strong commuter-period peaks, steadier daytime activity and a further late-afternoon increase.

Stoke Road recorded 69,802 vehicle movements between 3 and 31 October, equivalent to approximately 2,500 movements per day. This is virtually unchanged from the previous survey. Average speed was 22.1 mph, marginally lower than the previous 22.4 mph, while the 85th-percentile speed remained at 27 mph. Typical speeds are therefore stable, although both the average and 85th-percentile speed remain above the 20-mph limit.

The Stoke Road time-of-day data shows a pronounced commuter pattern. Traffic is very light overnight, rises rapidly from approximately 05:00, and reaches a morning peak of around 170-175 vehicle records per reporting interval between 07:30 and 08:30. Volumes then settle to around 130-145 records through the middle of the day. The highest volumes occur in the late afternoon, at around 180 records between approximately 15:50 and 16:40, before declining sharply after 17:30. This confirms that Stoke Road is subject to regular commuter-period pressure rather than consistently high traffic throughout the day.

Towcester Road remains the busiest of the continuously monitored routes. The 3-31 October survey recorded 132,278 vehicle movements, equivalent to approximately 4,700 per day, virtually unchanged from the previous month. Average speed increased marginally from 33.9 mph to 34.3 mph, while the 85th-percentile speed increased from 40 mph to 41 mph. These small changes are within normal

variation and confirm the established pattern of high traffic volumes and consistently higher vehicle speeds on this route.

Courteenhall Road recorded 79,106 vehicle movements between 3 and 31 October, or approximately 2,820 per day. This is around 6% lower than the preceding survey and returns the route towards its longer-term range of approximately 2,600-3,100 daily movements. Average speed reduced slightly from 32.1 mph to 31.5 mph, while the 85th-percentile speed remained unchanged at 40 mph. The data therefore show stable typical speeds and no evidence of a sustained exceptional increase in traffic.

High Street recorded 131,255 vehicle movements between 3 and 23 October. This is equivalent to approximately 6,880 movements per recorded day, indicating that it is a heavily used through route. Average speed was 25.2 mph, and the 85th-percentile speed was 30 mph, both consistent with the preceding High Street reading.

Overall, the latest data show stable typical speeds across the monitored routes. Towcester Road continues to carry the highest regular traffic flow and remains the principal location of concern for speed and traffic volume. Stoke Road has stable overall traffic volumes but clear morning and afternoon commuter peaks, with typical speeds remaining above the posted 20 mph limit. Continued use of consistent monitoring locations, direction settings and reporting periods will strengthen the Council's evidence base for future discussions with West Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire Police.

BPC/177/2026
Report on Youth Parish Council: Update from Cllr Read.

The youth group continues to make positive progress, supported by Blisworth Baptist Church and a dedicated team of volunteers. He attended the meeting in early October, where the young people participated enthusiastically in a range of fun, team-building activities designed to encourage communication, cooperation and confidence. Unfortunately, He was unable to attend the most recent meeting. The group continues to provide a valuable opportunity for young people to socialise, develop friendships and become more involved in village life. His thanks go to Blisworth Baptist Chapel's minister and the volunteers for their continued commitment to making this initiative a success.

BPC/178/2026
Gateway Update: Update from Cllr Wilson.
Cllr Wilson will attend the next SEGRO CLG meeting tomorrow and repeat his request for information and indicate that there has been no response so far. After seeing the response at the SEGRO meeting, he will draft a brief note on behalf of the Council that can go to our WNC councillors and MP to help us see the data that has been collected and to see that SEGRO is complying with Schedule 2 para 4(9) in the Govt approved Development Consent Order (from the occupation of the first warehouse), which is the legal document giving them permission to build the warehouses development. Next week is only the second CLG meeting with the new SEGRO attendees who may be settling in now and understanding their role. He agreed to let Cllr. F Cole have a copy of the unanswered information requests so far. **ACTION:** Cllr Wilson.

BPC/179/2026
Village Maintenance & Open Spaces.
a) **Play area: Monthly safety inspection report: Update from Cllr Wilson.**
   Nothing to report
b) **Defibrillators: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read.**

He confirmed that satisfactory checks were carried out on both Parish Council Defibrillators and they are both in full working order. The quarterly confirmation of serviceability has been confirmed with the national defibrillator system (the circuit).

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

It was noted that all plots had now been let.

d) Closed Cemetery: Update from Cllr Billing.

In Cllr Billing's absence, Cllr. Brown reported that the cost of installing a mains water supply might increase once Anglian Water had completed their survey.

The S106 funding application for the Closed Cemetery (Agenda Item BPC/183/2026) was discussed as part of the Closed Cemetery update. Concern was expressed regarding the timing of the S106 funding application for the bench base works, as the contractor will need to commence the work while ground conditions remained suitable. The Council supported, in principle, funding the works from reserves if the S106 funding was not received in time, and agreed an indicative allocation of £2,320.00 plus VAT for this purpose. It was further agreed that formal expenditure approval should be included as an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

e) Street lighting: Update from Cllr Chandler. Quotations for work were being pursued after discussions with contractors. It had been concluded that using a mains electricity supply for the Eastfield Play Area lighting was the best option. The possibility of additional street lighting at the entrance to the Football Club access road had also been discussed along with a revised light fitting on Connegar Leas where previous issues had been reported. The Council queried the need for consultation with nearby residents where additional street lighting is proposed. **ACTION:** Cllr. Chandler.

BPC/180/2026

Discuss Training Plan and agree next steps.

The draft Plan circulated by the clerk was approved.

BPC/181/2026

Discuss Blisworth Football Club lease request for the Football Foundation's request to take a charge over the lease and agree next steps.

The council awaits legal advice on this matter as we are still awaiting a copy of the requested loan agreement from Blisworth Football Club.

BPC/182/2026

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

The specialist survey is scheduled for 11 November.

BPC/183/2026

Review S106 Funding Applications and agree next steps.

a. Baptist Church. S106 Funding agreed
b. Football club Shutters. S106 Funding greed.
c. Play Area. Awaits S106 agreement. **ACTION:** Clerk to chase with WNC.
d. Closed Cemetery. See as discussed with Minute BPC/179/2026 (d).
e. Scouts Outside Area: Awaits quotations.

BPC/184/2026

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

The Council reviewed three options:

1. Proceed with full registration of all three plots – completing voluntary first registration for the Village Hall and Car Park, Eastfield Play Area, and the Parish Field (Possessory Title), thereby ensuring comprehensive protection and clarity of ownership for all Council-held land.
2. Proceed on a plot-by-plot basis – registering one or two sites first, in an agreed order, and confirming the surveyor's scope (including whether a second valuation quote is required) before progressing to the remaining plot(s).
3. Defer all registrations – incurring no immediate expenditure but leaving all land unregistered, which increases exposure to future boundary or title risks and may limit eligibility for grants requiring proof of ownership.

Following a series of votes, Option 1 was agreed, with Option 2 in reserve if there was uncertainty over the ownership of the village hall that needed further investigation, so as not to delay the registering of the other plots. Option 3 was rejected. Cllr. A. Cole offered to assist with the review of the Village Hall title. **ACTION:** Cllr A Cole and Clerk.

BPC/185/2026

To consider a response to the West Northants Council Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation and agree next steps. Cllr. F Cole (WNC) agreed to copy some information on the restricted parameters for further comment. A further response would then be prepared. **ACTION:** Cllr Read to prepare the response, Clerk to submit.

BPC/186/2026

Internal Control:

a. Internal Control Checklist: Update from Cllr Davenport. Completed no issues found.

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.

BPC/187/2026

Finance & Administration

Banking Issues:

a. Bank reconciliation.

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	31/10/2026	**£15,855.47**
SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT	31/10/2026	**£142,740.00**

b. 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/188/2026

Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.

a. Cllr. Root noted that the FWG would meet before the next meeting and begin to start the process of drawing up a budget for 2027/8 for council approval. This would include proposals for the next precept demand. This would be an Agenda item for the December meeting.
b. The Council needs to agree named Councillors who would authorise payments to and from the new investment account agreed at the last meeting.

BPC/189/2026
Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for the next Council Surgery.
RESOLVED: Cllr Wilson and Cllr Chandler to attend.

BPC/190/2026
To agree the date of next meeting 07/12/2026 at 7.30pm.
Agreed.

BPC/191/2026
Close.
The meeting closed at 8.56 pm.

Appendix I

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31/10/2026

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT 20491615		**31/10/2026**	**£15,855.47**
SKIPTON SAVINGS ACCOUNT 921190089		**31/10/2026**	**£142,740.00**
	Total		**£158,595.47**

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)	£55,273.11
Withdrawals (01/04/2026 - to date)	**-£25,628.42**
Sub total	**£158,595.47**
Less uncashed cheques	£0.00
Plus Receipts not shown on bank statements	£0.00
Closing Balance	**£158,595.47**

Uncashed cheques/Receipts

	Less uncashed cheques	
	Receipts not shown on bank statements	£0.00
	Closing Total Accounts	**£158,595.47**

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Appendix I

RECEIPTS NOVEMBER 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**
21-Oct-26	15:49	Allot/Fee		Allot/47	£42.50		£12.50	£30.00							£42.50	**UT**

PAYMENTS NOVEMBER 2026-2027 MEETING									
Entry No	Meeting date	Statutory Power	Invoice	Payee	Purpose	chq no/DD/BT	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount excluding VAT
105	02/11/2026	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3. Highways Act 1980, s. 301	IV04970527	SSE	SSE 01/09/2026 to 30/09/2026 Site Ref:AGR3804337	UTDD105	£130.47	£6.21	£124.26
106	02/11/2026	LGA 1972, s.111		Unity Trust	Bank charges Unity Trust 01/09/2026 - 30/09/2026	UTDD106	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00
107	02/11/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	RC27659414(i)	Cheapest Print Online	Printing of Round & About Oct-Nov Issue 171 Fee for Faster Delivery	CC-UTDD107	£95.00	£0.00	£95.00
108	02/11/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	26/10/2026	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee Oct 2026	CC-UTDD108	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
109	02/11/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary Oct 2026 Mth 7 Plus Backdated National Pay increase	UTBT109	£1,232.04	£0.00	£1,232.04
110	02/11/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	Pension Month 7	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/10/2026 - 31/10/2026 Plus Backdated National Pay Increase	UTDD110	£65.68	£0.00	£65.68
111	02/11/2026	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	120PF003233662707	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions Oct 2026 Salary Mth 7 Plus backdated National Pay increase	UTBT111	£206.42	£0.00	£206.42

112	02/11/2026	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.10.2026 - 31.10.2026)	UTBT112	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
113	02/11/2026	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	1310	LC Hedging and Grass Maintenance Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x1 & Area 1 x1 05/10/2026	UTBT113	£432.00	£72.00	£360.00
114	02/11/2026	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	1328	LC Hedging and Grass Maintenance Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x1 & Area 1 x1 19/10/2026	UTBT114	£432.00	£72.00	£360.00
115	02/11/2026	LGA 1973 S137	12002625717	Reimburse Cllr C Read Royal British Legion poppyshop@britishlegion.org.uk	Poppy Wreath s137	UTBT115	£46.00	£7.67	£38.33
116	02/11/2026	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	10967	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 3 01.10.26 - 31.10.26	UTBT116	£308.40	£51.40	£257.00
117	02/11/2026	LGA 1972, s.111	29/10/2026	J Norris Plot 47 Key No.13	Allotment Plot 47: Key Deposit Refund	UTBT117	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00
							£2,988.01	**£209.28**	**£2,778.73**