



2 Sayers Court
Bluntisham
Cambridgeshire
PE28 3NP

Tel: 01487 740230
Mob: 07725 308115
Email: bluntishamclerk@gmail.com

**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting
Monday 3rd August 2015 at 8pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane, Bluntisham**

Present: Chairman: Mrs Margaret Lumb, Cllr Mike Francis, Mr Frank Hudson, Mrs Philippa Hope, Mrs Anne Parsons, Mr Alan Moules, Mrs Kathy Searle, Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk),
Also present: 15 members of the public & Sgt Andy Street

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| | <p>Open Forum: Val Henman read a letter which she sent to the Chairman prior to the meeting regarding the behaviour of her neighbour's dog. This information has also been shared with HDC dog warden and Sgt Andy Street. The behaviour of the dog is being investigated by the police in conjunction with the dog warden following a recent attack. Sgt Andy Street advised that he will personally liaise with the investigating officer and will update the parish council with progress. Sgt Street advised that under the changes to the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2014 mean that they now have more power to enforce action. A resident of 1 Megs Close complained about the same animal which had caused damage to his fence last year. Although the owner repaired the fence, he claims the owner wasn't very helpful. Joan Gutteridge advised the path running along the river hasn't been cut since the pathfinder march. The clerk is to contact the Ouse Valley Way team to see when this is likely to be carried out. Sue Harris attended the meeting from DiY communities who are sponsoring the WW2 event on 15 August and wanted to thank Bluntisham Parish Council for all their support with clerk time, hall use and marketing of the event.</p> | Clerk |
| 2156 | Dispensation Forms received and decisions given – Nothing to report | |
| 2157 | Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – Mrs Philippa Hope item 2165 – 1 The Hawthorns. Mrs Kathy Searle item 2165 – Bluntisham Village Hall. | |
| 2158 | Apologies for absence – Mr Gary James, Mr Ian Shepherd, Mr Mark Berg, Mr Rob Gore, Cllr Robin Carter & Cllr Steve Criswell. | |
| 2159 | Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 6th July 2015 to be approved and signed – Minutes approved and signed by the Chairman. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed</i>) | |
| 2160 | <p>Matters arising from previous minutes – Item 2134 Mike Francis raised the comment about being forced to make a declaration of interest at the meeting by the Chairman. Mrs Margaret Lumb accepted this was her mistake and apologised to Mike Francis. The Chairman had received a verbal complaint regarding the behaviour of a councillor at the meeting and asked the councillor to apologise. <i>Post meeting note; any complaint against a member of the council must be shared with the clerk to be formally noted and dealt with following the parish councils formal complaints procedure.</i></p> | |
| 2161 | Sgt Andy Street - St Ives Police. Attended the meeting and gave a summary of the crime reports in Bluntisham over the past 6 months. A total of 15 reported crimes and one complaint of anti social behaviour has been reported. | |

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| | <p>Mike Francis asked if officers are going to continue to attend dwelling burglaries. Sgt Street confirmed that they always try and send CID and PC to all dwelling burglaries and there are no plans to change this. Non dwelling burglaries we don't send an officer as routine, although it depends on the value of items stolen and potential for investigation. Mike Francis asked about following up crimes and contacting the victims to advise of any progress being made. Sgt Street confirmed that this was one area they hadn't been as good at in the past, however, they now have a system in place where they will keep in contact with victims of any crime. Mike Francis handed over a letter to Sgt Street and asked him to get in contact with the victims of this crime.</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb asked what action police are taking to stop illegal cannabis farms in the area. Sgt Street responded that cannabis is a dangerous drug and his personal opinion the police are not going soft on drugs. If a person is caught with cannabis on them for personal use and it's a first time offence they will get a cannabis warning. It is recorded and then any subsequent offences will be prosecuted. If anyone is caught with a cannabis farm they will be prosecuted. A couple of plants growing in the greenhouse may only be issued with a warning.</p> <p>Mr Alan Moules asked about some of the more recent crimes being carried out by people cutting the glass out of windows after removing the beading. Sgt Street advised to check your windows, and said these crimes were bad in the late 90's but they are starting to see a new bout of them again.</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb asked if many asylum seekers are being caught in this area. Sgt Street advised that several have been picked up on the A1 & A14.</p> | |
| 2162 | <p>FY2015/16 Accounts – to end July 2015 – No concerns were raised with the accounts during this period. Total receipts £4692.96 & total expenditure £6404.05. Closing bank balances: Lloyds 0933915 - £38434.28 Lloyds 0934024 - £5077.81 Cambs building society - £51561.57 <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson Seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All agreed.) Annex 1</i></p> | |
| 2163 | <p>Accounts for payment and sign cheques for July payments –Mrs Kathy Searle and Mr Frank Hudson signed the cheques and no concerns with the payments for the month. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed.)</i></p> | |
| 2164 | <p>County Council & District Council reports – Cllr Steve Criswell sent his apologies and the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiations have for some time been taking place with the three landowners involved with completion of the cycleway. I expect to hear something very soon. • Woodhurst crossroads has been raised again. This continues to be on my agenda. For a variety of reasons the Police & County Highways will not support the affordable measures that have been put forward. There are 92 accident cluster sites in the County and this is priority No 83. A review of sites is underway and I have asked to have input when this site is considered. <p>Cllr Robin Carter sent his apologies and the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is little to report from HDC, we have, however started consultation with the Town Councils regarding grass cutting. We hope to follow on with the Parishes later in the year. The approach is to ensure our call centre has up to date records on responsibilities and frequencies to enable queries to be answered promptly. • Locally the village was weed sprayed during w/c 13 July, it looks like it has been a success, any missed locations please let me know. • Morrison's had a planning update application considered at July's DMP. This | |

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| | related to Sunday opening hours and cycle facilities, both were approved. | |
| 2165 | <p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1500970HHFUL – 8 Wood End, Bluntisham – the recommendation to approve the application was made. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, Seconded Mr Mike Francis. All agreed</i>) • 1501014HHFUL – 1 The Hawthorns, Bluntisham – the recommendation to approve the application was made, with Mrs Philippa Hope abstaining from voting due to a declared interest. This made a total of 6 votes in favour. (<i>Proposed Mr Alan Moules, Seconded Mr Mike Francis.</i>) • 1501001FUL – Bluntisham Parish Council – the recommendation to approve the application was made. (<i>Proposed Mr Alan Moules, Seconded Mrs Anne Parsons. All agreed</i>) • Affordable Housing update – the clerk advised that having spoken with Helen Fortune (Accent Nene) earlier there is no new information on which site has been chosen for this development. Both are still being considered and she will be in touch in due course. | |
| 2166 | <p>Village maintenance:</p> <p>School Car Park – the verge and shrubs have been cut back along Colne Road and adjacent to the entrance to the car park.</p> <p>Tree Update – the clerk is to get the official land registry documents for the selected trees along Meeting Walk to establish ownership before deciding what action to take. The tree adjacent to the Baptist Church has been cut back by CCC so it no longer overhangs the footpath. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, Seconded Mrs Anne Parsons. All agreed.</i>)</p> | |
| 2167 | <p>Health & Safety:</p> <p>Play park quote summary – Mrs Philippa Hope advised in order to complete the funding applications consultation has to take place and advised that the perfect opportunity to do this would be on the 12 September at the open day. The clerk and Mrs Philippa Hope are to work on a consultation plan to share before the next meeting.</p> <p>The clerk advised that two further quotes are due in and hopes that a summary can be ready for the next meeting.</p> | Philippa Hope/clerk |
| 2168 | <p>Open Day Planning – 12 September – Mrs Philippa Hope asked for help with the open day and will put a plan together of who can do what. It was agreed to invite the additional groups along: Bluntisham WEA, BacStage, Steve Criswell, Badminton clubs, local police. Refreshments are to be served and Mrs Joan Gutteridge volunteered to help with doing this. The clerk is to put together a flyer to promote the open day.</p> | Philippa Hope/clerk |
| 2169 | <p>Parish Council Plan – all agreed the document is fine and the clerk is to get it printed onto A3 to be discussed at the open day. No changes to be made at this stage.</p> | |
| 2170 | <p>LHI – suggested bid proposals – Mr Mark Berg had suggested via email the possibility of making the road one way from the Barograph up to Wood End. Mrs Philippa Hope agreed this was a good idea. As the applications for this funding don't have to be submitted until 2nd November it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting after Mr Mark Berg has been to the local highways workshop to discuss this in more detail.</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb suggested adding halos around the beacons at the school crossing. The clerk is to add this onto the agenda for September.</p> | Mark Berg Clerk |
| 2171 | <p>WEEE recycling event – the clerk advised that the previous collection raised a total of £56.16 and suggested the next event take place on Tuesday 3rd November.</p> | |
| 2172 | <p>Website update – Report from Ian Shepherd following his apologies: The website is working well, and the clerk has received positive feedback. We've</p> | |

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| | <p>implemented the suggestions from the last meeting and will welcome any further comments. The site has already had over 200 visits, so Tracey and I feel the old pages are no longer needed, and can be closed if all agree. The new site is gradually moving up the Google rankings, this is something we don't have any direct control over but it will improve steadily over time, especially once the old pages are down. The other main thing I would like reflecting in the minutes is the hard work Tracey has been doing copying the data across between the two sites. This is a time consuming and tedious task, and without her efforts it would have taken much longer to get the site up and running.</p> <p>Future topics for discussion might include a section of the site devoted to the hall and other amenities the council is responsible for.</p> <p>It was agreed to remove the old pages from the website and to continue to enhance the new pages.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2173 | <p>Committee updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMC – next meeting 17 August 2015 • Finance – next meeting 24 August 2015 • Allotments – 14b & 16a haven't been working their plots and the committee have asked the clerk to write to both tenants. Plot 9a still hasn't been to the allotment so the clerk is to offer this plot to the next person on the waiting list. The committee have been awarded the money for their toilet, which will be installed within a week, once the go ahead has been given. • Crime, road safety, highway warden – nothing to report. | Clerk | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2174 | <p>Correspondence received – the clerk read out correspondence received from Mr R Tolliss & Mr S Dighton. No additional comments were made.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2175 | <p>Annual membership – Zurich Municipal – Mrs Margaret Lumb suggested taking out an annual membership with Zurich to enable access to risk management information. The cost of this membership is £145 pa. It was agreed that the clerk is happy being responsible for the risk management and has adequate skills in order to carry this out and to save this annual fee.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2176 | <p>Meeting times and locations - Mr Mike Francis wanted to discuss the location of future meetings due to the difficulty with hearing people. Discussions from round the table confirmed this wasn't a mutual concern and all agreed that meetings should take place at the village hall. The room layout for this meeting worked well and the clerk is to ensure the set up is like this for subsequent meetings.</p> <p>The clerk suggested the following dates for meetings for 2016 which are all on Monday's starting at 8pm:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">4.1.16</td> <td style="width: 50%;">4.7.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.2.16</td> <td>1.8.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.3.16</td> <td>5.9.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.4.16</td> <td>3.10.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.5.16 (changed from 1st Monday due to bank holiday)</td> <td>7.11.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.6.16</td> <td>5.12.16</td> </tr> </table> | 4.1.16 | 4.7.16 | 1.2.16 | 1.8.16 | 7.3.16 | 5.9.16 | 4.4.16 | 3.10.16 | 9.5.16 (changed from 1 st Monday due to bank holiday) | 7.11.16 | 6.6.16 | 5.12.16 | |
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| 6.6.16 | 5.12.16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2177 | <p>Items for consideration (for information only) –</p> <p>WW2 event – the clerk gave a summary of the activities and programme for the event and asked for any volunteers to help out on the day. The school have given approval for their car park to be used and for vehicles to access the field from this end. The clerk advised that if heavy rain the week before the event that no vehicles would be allowed on the field. Mrs Margaret Lumb advised that there is a road closure in Longstanton planned for this weekend.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2178 | <p>Topics for future meetings</p> <p>Mrs Joan Gutteridge asked for Little London to be discussed as she objects to cars parking on the new cyclepath and wheelie bins being left out.</p> | Clerk | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Mrs Philippa Hope asked the clerk to investigate the need of a safeguarding policy as we now have a volunteers policy and to discuss this at the next meeting.

Mrs Philippa Hope wanted to confirm that despite the earlier discussions around the dog offences the parish council have no power to charge anyone and this must be left to the police and district council to investigate further.

Mr Mike Francis asked the chair to ensure that the public do not interrupt at future meetings, which is what happened at the previous meeting, as this can get frustrating.

Mr Frank Hudson asked the clerk to speak to CCC regarding the new cyclepath as the hedge and verge are now so overgrown you can't see the path.

Mrs Anne Parsons asked if the old grey box on the ground which housed the speed camera can be removed as this is a trip hazard.

Meeting closed 9.32pm

Next meeting: 7th September 2015

Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings –2015

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| October | Monday 5 th October |
| November | Monday 2 nd November |
| December | Monday 7 th December |

Annex 1 – FY 2015/16 accounts to end July 2015