

## **Supporting information for Bletsoe PC – 9<sup>th</sup> January meeting**

**Item 3 – minutes** –circulated via email

**Item 4 – Matters arising** (items not covered elsewhere within the agenda)

**Item 5 – Public Open Session** (15 minutes)

**Item 6 – Planning** – written report circulated – no new applications to consider

**Item 7 – Proposal regarding use of permissive paths on land owned by Mrs Knights** – written proposal has been circulated to all members by email.

**Item 8 – Parish Grass cutting** – an email has been circulated to all members outlining options as Chris Horne will no longer be undertaking this work on behalf of the PC. Members need to consider what arrangements they want to put in place commencing 1/4/17. This will have an impact on the budget/precept for the next financial year so needs to be agreed at the January meeting.

**Item 9 – to consider proposals from the Lady Smockers** – details were circulated by email. The proposal for a storage shed would require a financial contribution from the PC. Perhaps the PC could ask our Borough Cllr if he is able to support this proposal using some of his ward funds.

### **Item 10 – Clerk’s report**

**Borough Consultation – RoW Improvement Plan 2017-2022** – this information has been circulated to all members who can respond as individuals. We will also put the link to the questionnaire on the parish website.

**Elections** – Beds BC have confirmed there has been a request from the electorate for an election. Notices will be displayed on the boards and on the website in due course. This election will cost approximately £1500 and need to be paid for in this financial year. This will bring the total amount spent on elections to £3000 and this was not a budgeted item.

**St Modwen – Thurleigh Airport vision** – I have been contacted by St Modwen who have offered to meet Bletsoe PC to outline their proposal. As you are aware there are several large scale developments currently being considered by Bedford Borough Council as part of the call for sites for the Local Plan 2022. This would be a private meeting between members of the PC and St Modwen in the same way as we met with Bedfordia regarding the Twinwoods proposal. Please let me know if you wish me to arrange a meeting.

No other matters for consideration.

### **Item 11 - Financial Matters**

- (i) Accounts for payment – written report circulated
- (ii) To consider and set the budget for 2017-18 – draft budget to follow (there are several gaps on this as decisions regarding the grass cutting and any financial contribution to the Lady Smockers will be made at the January meeting and therefore cannot be included with January’s paperwork).
- (iii) To consider and set the precept for 2017-18 – this will be decided after the draft budget has been approved – the precept is not necessarily the total amount of the budget – if there are undesignated reserves these could be used to offset the budget and precept. This year there is no council tax support grant for Bletsoe. In addition we will incur charges of £3000 for elections which was not budgeted. The precept charge is high compared to other parishes because you have a relatively small electorate (who pay full council tax) to divide the precept levy between.

**Item 12 – NDP – to receive an update** (oral)

**Item 13 – Parish Concerns**

I understand that at your councillor refresher training session Louise Ashmore was not in favour of including an item for Parish Concerns (sometimes called any other business) on the agenda. All decisions taken by the PC should be linked to an item on the agenda. However, the purpose of parish concerns is to allow members to bring information to the attention of the parish council. It is not an item where the PC can make financial decisions. If anyone has an item that requires the approval of the PC then they should contact me and ask for this to be included on the next agenda. By including this item it does ensure that anything raised can be formally minuted or investigated further and included on the next agenda.

Please can I suggest that highways issues i.e potholes, are reported online via the Borough website [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk) rather than waiting for the next meeting.

However, if you wish to report a problem with streetlighting please let me know via email. I will need the column lamp number and the location – I will then contact EoN who look after our streetlights.

**Item 14 – Date of next meeting** – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March

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2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017