

Minutes of Meeting of Bletsoe Parish Council held on Monday 28th December 2015 at the Village Hall, Memorial Lane, Bletsoe

Present:

Present: Ann Gibbons (Chairman), Paul Caves, Mary Laws, Alison Foster, Claire Woodward and the Clerk. There were also 5 members of the public.

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| <p>1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Edward Bean and John Economides – it was resolved to accept the apologies for absence</p> | |
| <p>2. Request for dispensations relating to the NDP and matters relating to the Old Parish Field
All members present had written to the clerk to request a dispensation in matters relating to the NDP and also matters relating to the Old Parish Field. The dispensations had been approved and were distributed to those present. It was noted that all members would still need to declare a local and pecuniary interest at council meetings and for this to be recorded in the minutes.</p> | ALL |
| <p>3. Declarations of Interest
All members declared an interest in matters relating to the NDP and matters relating to the Old Parish Field. However dispensations have been granted to members who therefore have the right to speak and vote on this item.</p> | ALL |
| <p>4. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 30th November
It was resolved to accept the minutes.</p> | |
| <p>5. Matters Arising
The Clerk reported that all actions had been completed. Bourne End Lane ditch had been discussed with the Borough who are working with BpHA to resolve the problem. The Village Hall application for funding would be considered at the January meeting. Wildflower planting scheme would be included in the draft budget for 2016-17 for consideration at the January meeting.</p> | |
| <p>6. Public Open Session
In the November minutes item 7 it is minuted that members wanted assurance that the parish council can specify who is offered the properties. However the parish council should consider this statement very carefully to ensure it complies with all aspects of the Equality Act. Members confirmed the minutes were a true record of the discussions that took place at the November meeting. If and when the Old Parish Field is developed members would need to ensure the council complies with the Equality Act. However, it was noted that members felt any agreement between the council and BpHA regarding the development of the Old Parish Field should allow the council to ensure local residents and people with a local connection were given the opportunity to purchase the properties.</p> <p>Q: Will residents be given the opportunity to comment on the NDP before it is sent to the Borough?
Yes, there will be at least two more consultations and questionnaires sent to all residents. There will be plenty of opportunities for all residents to express their opinions and views on the NDP. The NDP will only be put forward to the Borough once residents have voted on whether to adopt the plan.</p> | ALL |
| <p>7. Completion of Call for Sites form for Bedford Borough Council Local Plan for The Old Parish Field
Cllr Gibbons asked that the minutes record she took full responsibility for the actions which have taken place and resulted in the need to call an additional meeting. Members will recall that the council agreed at the November meeting to put the Old Parish Field forward in the next round of call for sites for the Borough</p> | |

Local Plan. This required the completion of the relevant form, which we were leaving our clerk to do. After the parish council meeting, Cllr Gibbons (AG) called an NDP meeting to inform the Steering Group of the Parish Council decision and to update John Economides (JE) on his return from holiday. This meeting took place on the Saturday prior to the deadline for completion of the form on Monday 14th December. JE had offered his help to the Clerk to complete the form to assist her. The Clerk had previously sent out the form for comment from councillors, which she had completed but unfortunately she inadvertently sent out the blank copy although nobody had commented or responded to the Clerk. The form was completed by JE at the NDP meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and not the NDP Steering Group. After completion JE sent AG a copy which she approved as she believed it contained what the Parish Council meeting had agreed namely the field and the number of houses. The type of housing was loosely discussed at the PC meeting but nothing concrete was agreed. The NDP Steering Group had used the results from the housing needs survey which seemed the best information to use to answer this part of the form. JE, because of the short deadline, sent the form in directly to the Borough. On reflection he should have perhaps sent it to the clerk first in order for her to do this but he was keen not to miss that deadline. It has been suggested that there has been a breach of Protocol and in order to redress the situation AG asked the Borough for the return of the form and to have a short extension to the submission. This has been granted but on the understanding that it is returned asap. All members have received a copy of the completed form and were asked for their comments on any aspects

You have all received a copy of the completed form.

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Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

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- 15. **Date of next meeting Monday 11th January 2016**

Clerk

Clerk

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Approved by Chairman 11th January 2016