

**Minutes of Meeting of Bletsoe Parish Council held on Monday March 2014 at the Village Hall, Memorial Lane, Bletsoe**

**Present:**

Cllrs Ann Gibbons (Chairman), Edward Bean, Paul Caves, Alison Field-Foster, and the Clerk were in attendance. There were no members of the public.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Mary Laws – **is was resolved** to accept the apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of interest**

All members declared an interest in matters relating to the Waiting to the Sun planning application item however dispensations have been granted to all members who therefore have the right to speak and vote on this item.

**3. To approve the minutes of previous meeting held on 20 January 2014**

A minor amendment was proposed from item 14 this land was the Orchard and not the memorial garden the amendment was accepted and then **It was resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

**4. Matters Arising**

Picnic tables have arrived – p caves will put them together

These need to be added to the asset register

Light on Bourne End – clerk to chase again

Site visit re floodlights shining onto Coplowe Lane – Clerk has suggested

Chairman visits directly as firm have offered to assist.

Road repairs – no activity regarding additional road signage/improvements at junction of crossroads but has agreed to remove excess street signage

**5. Question & Answer Session with Mr Philip Lotan regarding application by Growing Beds to relocate to Coplar Farm, Milton Road**

Background – Growing Beds process all green waste for Bedford Borough council and this is recycled at the current plant in Ravensden. There are 2 parts to the business:

Green waste – this comes from residents wheelie bins which is turned into compost for sale to members of public, farmers and as a soil improver

Wood chippings – this is converted into a bio-fuel and the largest local customer is the Biomass boiler at Twinwoods

The existing facility is running at full capacity hence the need to relocate to a new larger site. Questions were then asked by members of the parish council and public including:

Could the existing site could be expanded? No the highways connections are not suitable as the existing site is within a residential area.

What percentage of traffic to the proposed new facility would access via the A6? It has not been possible to identify exact numbers – council lorries carrying green waste would not necessarily use the preferred route.

Clerk

Chairman

Concern raised that lorry drivers would drive along Coplowe Lane through Bletsoe despite HGV ban. Would there be any alterations to the Thurleigh Road entrance? The central reservation opposite would need to be removed.

What measures were in place regarding dirty water produced by the waste recycling process? There would be a dirty water stay in the compound with an impermeable lagoon. The dirty water would be tankered off and there should be no run off.

What would happen to the existing site – it will it be returned to agricultural land? This was a condition of the change of use so that once waste use has ceased the land is put back to agricultural use.

How close is the nearest property? 250m.  
Will there be CCTV and/or additional lighting? No.

Concerns were also raised that the new site will mean the loss of part of a nearby nature reserve/heritage site which has been surveyed for rare orchid species.

There were no further questions. The chairman thanked Mr Lotan and Mr Morro for attending and they left the meeting. The meeting resumed.

#### 6. **Public Open Session**

There were no questions from the public.

#### 7. **NDP**

A meeting is planned for this week with another meeting planned with Sue and Alex from Maroon Planning consultants.  
The next stage will be a questionnaire for all residents and local businesses.

#### 8 **Correspondence**

No bus stops in Bletsoe need to be added to the improvement programme. Cllr Bean reported that there had been some success regarding the timing of services for Bletsoe. The first bus would depart from Bletsoe at 8:10am but this change to the service would be during term time only. Cllr Bean would continue to pursue this and report back at the next meeting.

E Bean

#### 9 **Planning**

One application received for a Polytunnel on land on The Avenue. **It was resolved** to make no comments regarding this application.

#### 10 **To approve the accounts for payment**

**It was resolved** to approve the accounts for payment. Cllr Caves enquired whether the PC still wished to continue to pay for the water supply for the allotments? The PC have a budget heading for this expense for 2014-15

and **it was resolved** to review this spend at the November meeting prior to setting next year’s budget.

**Clerk to put on November agenda**

Ch No	Payee	£	Description
1259	Bletsoe Village Hall fund	10.00	Hall hire NDP meeting
1260	Anglian Water	14.21	Water bill
1261	A Southern	37.00	Working from home allowance Jan-March
1262	Sustainable Furniture Ltd	1140.00	Picnic benches village hall
1263	Bletsoe Village Hall Fund	10.00	Hall Hire March meeting
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1211.21</b>	

**To note the annual spend against budget**

Spend against budget – the report was noted.

Grass cutting arrangements for the village playing field – it was resolved to renew the contract with Bedford Borough Council up to a maximum of 10 cuts per year.

**11 To note the Clerks report and confirm arrangements for the APM**

The clerk had received a request for funding from St Mary’s Church and Mike Gibbons gave a brief report regarding this. Unfortunately, there were an insufficient number of members present who could make this decision as Cllr Bean declared a personal interest. **It was resolved** to defer the item until the May meeting and the Clerk would obtain advice regarding this item as all present felt they had an interest relating to the Church restoration project.

Annual parish meeting arrangements as follows:

P Caves, - Highways and Play Area

E Bean – Buses, public transport and signatge

A Field-Foster – Precept/finance

Invite Lance to provide an update regarding the G&T appeal

A Gibbons – chairmans report and welcome

Salt bin – Bourne End Lane – **it was resolved** to defer this item until the Autumn

**12 Parish concerns**

Holes in Bourne End – P Caves to report to Beds Borough Council

Manhole covers missing on Bourne End – P Caves to report

**P Caves**

It was noted that pre-planning advice from Bedford Borough Council would no longer be free after the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Coplowe Lane – lorries running off edge of carriageway which has caused

the tarmac to crumble and this requires repairing. **It was resolved** to ask the Borough to shore up and re-inforce to prevent the carriageway collapsing.

**P Caves**

15 **Date of Next Meeting** – Date of next meeting Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May

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Approved by Chairman 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014