

**Minutes of Meeting of Bletsoe Parish Council held on Monday 4 November 2013
at the Village Hall, Memorial Lane, Bletsoe**

Present:

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

1. Apologies for Absence

None

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 2 September 2013

It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Clerk

4. Matters Arising

Traffic audit – this will be undertaken in the New Year

Cllr Foster joined the meeting

Crossroads – Riseley/Bletsoe Road – Cllr Clifton reported that he had spoken with Borough Highways department regarding this however there was no funding available at the moment to improve the junction. He would continue to pursue this matter on behalf of the PC.

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5. Public Open Session

There were no questions from the public.

6. Gypsy & Traveller Site Planning Application appeal

The appeal has been postponed until November. The hearing is scheduled over 5 days but unfortunately our solicitor is only available for 2 days. The order of the hearing has been moved around to accommodate our solicitor's availability on 24/25 November.

The Fairhill application has been rejected and the Borough Council are now progressing with Meadow Lane. Tenders are being sought but if the notice for tenders has not gone out before the date of the appeal a letter from the Mayor will be sought which can be used to demonstrate the Borough's commitment to bring Meadow Lane into use – the site complies with CP9 and can be developed within 5 years which satisfies the legal requirement. Members were asked to encourage residents and if possible attend the hearing to provide support for Bletsoe's representatives.

7. To receive an update regarding the Bletsoe NDP

Application for funding is underway. The RAE NDP no longer exists. Milton Ernest Parish Council have now revoked their decision and withdrawn from the group. This group will continue to meet regularly as a liaison group to

share good practise/information and the next meeting will be held on the 16th January hosted by Bletsoe. **It was proposed** that Bletsoe Parish Council revoke the decision to join the RAE NDP made at the January 2013 meeting. The motion was carried. Any funds already given to the group would be used to pay for the Clerk for future meetings but there would be no further payments made. **It was resolved** to write to Damon Goodyear to thank him for all his hard work in preparing the joint application – the information and groundwork will be useful in assisting Bletsoe with its own NDP.

Clerk

8 Planning Report

There were no objections

It was reported that one of the garages adjacent to the cottages on Riseley Road was being used for residential accommodation. **It was resolved** to contact Ian Blackley, Planning Enforcement team at Bedford Borough Council.

Clerk

9 Parish Council vacancy

Details of the vacancy had now been displayed throughout the parish. There had been a few expressions of interest but no-one was available to join the council at the present time. **It was resolved** to postpone the co-option procedure until the New Year.

10 Community Speedwatch scheme

It was resolved to advertise the scheme on the notice boards and the parish website to see if there were any volunteers willing to take part in the scheme. It was noted that volunteers could only carry out speed checks on roads where the speed limit is 30mph or below.

It was resolved to write to Grant Palmer and the companies based at the Airfield to remind them about speeding on Coplowe Lane.

11 Financial Matters

(i) to approve the accounts for payment

It was resolved: to approve the accounts for payment.

Ch No	Payee	£	Description
	Anglian Water	14.21	Water Bill
	Bletsoe Village Hall Fund	10.00	Hall Hire (November)
	Total	24.21	

The Clerk reported that a VAT claim refund was due (approximately £1K) and that the council had received the grass cutting contribution from Beds BC (£509) and the refund from the Fireworks committee (£190).

(ii) To note the annual spend against budget

The annual spend against budget was noted.

(iii) Reserves

Clerk had queried whether there were sufficient reserves to cover the legal fees due in November. Cllr Gibbons reported that there were funds available from BRA which combined with our existing reserves should be sufficient to cover the costs.

12 To note the Clerk's report

The report was noted. Bedfordshire Citizen Advice Bureau had offered to host an Energy Workshop for residents to discuss how they could reduce their energy costs. It was proposed to hold the workshop at the of the last Tuesday tea shop in December. **It was resolved** to contact BCAB to ask them to attend on 3rd December. Any posters would be emailed to Cllr Bean to display on noticeboards.

Clerk

13 Land Registry

The pathway adjacent to the Orchard which runs from the Avenue to Top Row is not currently registered. **It was resolved** to register the land under the ownership of Bletsoe Parish Council.

Clerk

14 Parish Concerns

Cllr Foster asked whether the council would consider installing a Defibrillator in the parish. Odell Parish Council had recently installed one and this had been provided free of charge. **It was resolved** to contact Odell PC to enquire where they obtained the defibrillator from and to see if Bletsoe would be eligible. If Bletsoe could not obtain one then Cllr Clifton proposed paying for one out of his ward funding – this item would be on the January agenda.

Clerk

Bus service – Letter from Mr and Mrs Dyer regarding incident that occurred on Coplowe Lane. **It was resolved** that this was a private matter between the bus company and Mr and Mrs Dyer and not a matter for the parish council.

By-way signs on Coplowe Lane – parish council could legally remove these additional signs. **It was resolved** to remove the signage.

Grass cutting on footpath at Bourne End – Cllr Bean

Litter Pick – Cllr Gibbons reported that a new group would be set up in January with Bletsoe residents who could take on small volunteering jobs around the parish. The group would carry out a litter pick as one of their first jobs in the parish.

Dog Fouling on path near Church was still a problem.

Replacement trees for playing field – The Borough had offered to replace those damaged by the grass cutting. The Clerk would find out when they

Clerk

would be replanted.

Tree Fund – Clerk to email Cllr Cox to enquire whether any trees were available from the Borough tree fund.

Clerk

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Date of Next Meeting – Monday 20 January 2014 at 7.30pm

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Approved by Chairman 20 January 2014

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