

**Minutes of Meeting of Bletsoe Parish Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
at the Village Hall, Memorial Lane, Bletsoe**

**Present:**

Present: Ann Gibbons (Chairman), Edward Bean, Paul Caves, Matt Cox, John Economides and Mary Laws and the Clerk.

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| <p>1. <b>Apologies for absence</b><br/>Alison Field-Foster – <b>it was resolved</b> to accept the apologies.</p> <p>2. <b>Declarations of Interest</b><br/>Cllrs Gibbons, Laws, Cox, Bean and Caves 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.<br/>Dispensation requests would be considered following the May 2015 elections.</p> <p>3. <b>To approve the minutes of previous meeting held on 17 November 2014</b><br/><b>It was resolved</b> to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>4. <b>Matters Arising</b><br/>Cllr Economides reported he had visited SMH Fleet solutions following complaints that the lights from the car park are shining directly onto Coplowe Lane. The manager has given assurances this will be rectified and that the car park lights should be switched off by 9pm.<br/><br/>Parking outside no 1 Memorial Lane – Clerk to contact the owners of the property.</p> <p>5. <b>Public Open Session</b><br/>There were no questions from the public.</p> <p>6. <b>Correspondence</b><br/>Two areas of land were proposed for submission to Bedford Borough Council:<br/><br/>The large wide verges on Coplowe Lane (both sides) because of their natural beauty – it is thought the land is owned by Highways<br/><br/>The large visual splays at the North End crossroads because of their beauty and amenity.<br/>Cllr Bean offered to supply the Clerk with a map outlining the location of the green spaces. <b>It was resolved</b> to submit an application to Beds BC for the verges on Coplowe Lane and the visual splays at the north end crossroads</p> <p>7. <b>Planning</b><br/>The report was noted<br/>It was noted that a permitted development conversion had been carried out on a property in the parish and the council had not commented on this application. <b>It was resolved</b> that the NDP group would need to consider this as there may be other properties where this might apply.<br/>It was reported that there had been increased activity including additional caravans and noise at The Waiting for the Sun site. The parish council had</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>E Bean<br/>Clerk</p> <p>NDP group</p> |
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received an email from the Borough which stated they had carried out a site visit and it is their intention for enforcement measures to be taken. Alastair Burt MP has also written to the Secretary of State regarding this matter.

8 **To receive an update regarding the Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The group had met and instructed Trevor Roff to complete the end of year grant report which should release the remaining funds to the group (£600). There were 32 completed questionnaires and the group will meet again on the 21<sup>st</sup> January. Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) will conduct a housing needs survey in the near future as part of the NDP. The group will need to apply for further funding to complete the plan.

9 **Financial Matters:**

**(i) To approve the accounts for payment**

**It was resolved** to approve the accounts for payment.

However, it was resolved not to release the cheque for EoN until the works to the faulty lamp in Bourne End had been completed.

Clerk

Ch No	Payee	£	Description
1314	BRCC	1500.00	NDP housing needs survey
1315	EoN	71.82	Street lighting maintenance
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1571.82</b>	

The annual spend against budget was noted.

**To agree the budget for 2015-16**

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget prior to the meeting and members discussed the contents of this document. It was agreed to increase the amount set aside for the grass cutting of the parish field to ensure sufficient funds for 10 cuts per year (total £1167). All other budget items were as proposed and **it was resolved** to set the budget at £9,583.

**To agree the precept for 2015-16**

Members discussed whether the precept should be lowered. However, it was not known whether the parish council would need to make the 10% contribution towards the refurbishment works for the village hall (£5,500) or whether the NDP group would require additional funding if their grant application was unsuccessful (£6,000). In addition this would be the last year that the council support grant was guaranteed from Bedford Borough Council (£756). Taking these potential additional costs into consideration **it was resolved** that the Precept should remain at £12,324 + council tax support grant of £756 giving a total income of £13,080 for the financial year 2015-16.

Clerk

10 **Clerk's report**

The report was noted and there were no actions arising. The signs for the play area x 2 and for the playing field x 3 had now been ordered. Funding for a new piece of play equipment (funded by Borough Cllr Ian Clifton's ward

Clerk

fund) was approved. Cllr Caves would install the signs for the playing field and playing area when they arrived.

P Caves

11 **Parish Concerns**

Coplowe Lane drainage – the manhole opposite the ditch is blocked and needs reporting to Highways. In addition it was suggested that in order to improve the drainage perhaps n additional manhole opposite The Old Barns on Coplowe Lane could be installed.

E Bean

Road signage at the Riseley crossroads – this was still outstanding

P Caves

Dog Fouling in children's play area – it is hoped the new signs would serve as a reminder to residents that dogs are not permitted in the play area at any time.

Planning enforcement re no 8 Castle Barns – the stables have lights outside them and members were advised this was contrary to the terms of the planning permissions granted for the development. **It was resolved** to contact Planning enforcement to ask them to undertake a site visit.

Clerk

Sign for Castle Barns was still not in place and deliveries and visitors were still confused regarding the location of the property and mistaking this for the Old Barns. Cllr Economides advised that this matter was in hand.

Broadband – Cllr Laws reported that she is now using Red Roar Broadband and currently receiving 8-9 MB and occasionally 15MB and if members required further information to contact her to discuss.

12 **Date of next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015** – Cllr Gibbons advised she would be unable to attend this meeting and asked Cllr Caves to chair this meeting.

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Approved by Chairman 16th March 2015

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