

Minutes of meeting of Bletsoe Parish Council held on Monday 26th June 2017 at the Village Hall, Memorial Lane, Bletsoe**Present:**

Present: Ann Gibbons (Chairman), Mary Laws, Edward Bean, Paul Vine and the Clerk. There were also 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Paul Caves, Clare Goduti and Cllr Foster

2. Declarations of Interest

All members declared a local interest in matters relating to the NDP and matters relating to the Old Parish Field. However, dispensations have been granted to all members who therefore have the right to speak and vote on this item. All members also declared a local interest in matters relating to the Waiting for the Sun similarly dispensations have been granted to all members (except Cllr Vine) who therefore have the right to speak and vote on this item.

Cllrs Laws declared a local and disclosable pecuniary interest regarding item 10 – all matters relating to the NDP

Cllr Vine declared a local interest regarding items 6 and item 7 – matters relating to the Lady Smockers and grass cutting of the Orchard

Cllr Gibbons declared a personal interest in item 11 – accounts for approval as she is a member of the village hall committee.

**3. To approve the minutes of previous meeting held on Monday 22nd May
It was resolved to approve the minutes****4. Matters arising from minutes**

Gravel under the gate in Old Way – this work will be carried out in the autumn months as the ground is now too hard

It was noted that the fireworks display would be taking part on the village playing fields and not the Falcon Pub

There were no matters not included elsewhere within the agenda.

5. Public Open Session

There were no questions.

6. To receive a report from The Lady Smockers

The group has recently been focussing on getting the field ready for the village fete. The Borough had not undertaken any cuts of the village so far so volunteers also helped with cutting the verges to ensure the village was looking at its best on the day of the village fete. The chair thanked the Lady Smockers for their help this year with this additional grass cutting and for the work carried out so far on the field. The group are now concentrating on the field and shoring up the drainage pipes and the banks to the pond. Thanks to volunteers who have managed to successfully remove the chicory - we will now have to wait and see how the rest of the wildflower meadow recovers. The group have been in discussion with Colmworth wildlife area to exchange ideas and a site visit is scheduled for later this year.

7. Grass cutting – to consider options for cutting the Orchard

At the last meeting it was noted that the parish needs to find a long-term solution for cutting the orchard. The Lady Smockers have kindly taken over this role temporarily and have undertaken 4 cuts so far. The Lady Smockers are looking

into options for purchasing a mower and then taking this work on. Cllr Vine would liaise with the Clerk to put a proposal together for the September meeting. In addition, **it was resolved** to also obtain a costing from Bedford Borough Council – no of cuts to be advised by The Lady Smockers.

Cllr Vine
Clerk

8. **Bedford Borough Capital Highways Scheme 2018-2021 to consider a response with top 3 priorities for the parish**

Footpath between Bourne End and Bletsoe from no 10 the Avenue round to Bourne End Lane – widening and resurfacing – there is a safety issue because of cars parked on the pavement and pedestrians having to walk onto the road. This footpath is particularly important to the parish as it connects both parts of the village.

Clerk

9. **Planning - to note the report and consider any new applications:**

There was one application to consider:
17/01720/CPNQ Black Barn, Thurleigh Road, Bletsoe Bedfordshire - change of use from an agricultural building to a residential dwelling. The main structure would remain in place. Members considered the proposals and asked for clarification on how long the building had been empty and not used as an agricultural building. Providing the planning officer was satisfied there were no breaches to planning regulations then the parish council had no comments to make.

10. **To receive an update regarding the NDP**

Sonia Gallagher from Bedford Borough Council is waiting for a response from Natural England and apart from this there is nothing further to report on at present.

11. **Financial Matters**

1) **To approve the accounts for payment**

Ch No	Payee	£	Description of services
1450	Regeneration Positive	100.00	Retainer fee for May (final payment)
1451	G Lawrence	150.00	Play area (invoiced for 5 cuts)
1452	The Villager	35.00	Grant towards The Villager minibus
1453	Bletsoe Village Hall Fund	10.00	Hall hire (June meeting)
1454	D Dyer	199.00	Purchase of trailer for Lady Smockers
1455	Kimbolton Fireworks	532.00	Fireworks for village display
	TOTAL	1026.00	

Clerk

It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment and to increase the parish council's contribution towards the cost of the village fireworks display to £200.00.

2) **To note the spend against budget for the year to date**

The report was noted

12. **To note the Clerk's report**

It was resolved to ask DRG Arbor Services how many cuts had taken place so far for the children's play area. Going forward he would need to keep the Clerk advised of the number of cuts undertaken. **If was resolved** to approve spending for a further 2 cuts at a total additional cost of £60.00 if required.

Clerk

13	Parish Concerns	Clerk
	<p>Street sign – at bottom of Memorial Lane – replacement sign required Sign at bottom of Coplowe lane and triangle with the Avenue is leaning. It was resolved to remove the leaning post and move the give way sign onto the bicycle sign which is adjacent to it. This would remove unnecessary street furniture and resolve the problem of the leaning post.</p>	
	<p>Area at bottom of Memorial Lane – could this not be converted into a parking space? The clerk reported that she had written to the housing association several years ago when she first started work for the council and there had been no response. It was resolved to contact the housing association again and Cllr Laws would confirm the name of the contact person the Clerk should contact.</p>	P Vine
	<p>Another road sign on the left-hand side of The Avenue towards the A6 sign needs replacing as this is not legible.</p>	M Laws
		Clerk
14	Exclusion of Public and Press – confidential item – Staff salary review	
	<p>Members of the public were asked to leave the room and the Clerk also left the room during this item. This item is minuted as a separate item and will be not be published on the parish website.</p>	
15	Date of next meeting – Monday 4th September 2017	

.....
 Approved by Chairman 4th September 2017