

Supporting information for Bletsoe PC – 4 September meeting

Item 3 – minutes – circulated via email

Item 6 – Lady Smockers/options for cutting the Playing Field

Written proposal circulated via email from the Lady Smockers

The Orchard - I have contacted DRG Arbor (Greg Lawrence) who cuts the play area and has indicated he would be willing to quote for this work. I do not have a quote ready in time for distribution with this report but shall bring this information to the September meeting for consideration. The Borough will only quote for works to highways verges and large areas such as our playing field – they will not offer grass cutting services for such a small area as The Orchard.

Permissive paths scheme – land owned by Mrs Knights

Adrian Fett will forward information relating to this item. The parish council have agreed to pay for additional signs and pay for some spindle trees as a contribution to the scheme and as a thank you to Mrs Knights for continuing to allow members of the public access on her land.

Item 8 – Planning – written report circulated

These applications have been circulated and any comments should be passed to Mary Laws as I will be going on annual leave and unable to respond on behalf of the PC within the required timescale.

Item 9 – New developments at Twinwoods and Thurleigh Airfield – Cllr Foster will provide a verbal update regarding this at the meeting.

Item 10 – Report on NDP

The NDP is nearing completion however there is still some work to be completed by Woods Hardwick in order to satisfy the Borough's screening process. The parish council need to approve funding to enable the plan to be finalised and this would need to come from undesignated reserves (which currently are earmarked for drainage). Ann will circulate information to everyone prior to the meeting when she has received received details regarding costings from Woods Hardwick.

Item 11 - Financial Matters

(i) Accounts for payment – written report emailed

(ii) Spend against budget – written report emailed

(iii) To note the completed audit for 2017-18 and consider any recommendations (audit not received back yet but I have included this item as it should have been returned in time for this meeting)

Item 12 - Clerk's Report

Children's play area - Play inspection has been carried out and a copy of the report emailed to everyone. A few minor points were raised and I have asked Solutions for Playgrounds to undertake the minor repairs to the wet pour surfacing. If we can purchase a replacement rubber gaitor for the motorbike springer toy then I have asked him to do this. If not we shall have to monitor this. Previous inspections have also picked up that the concrete underneath the slide is exposed – whether this can be addressed in the autumn with additional soil and re-seeding I am unsure – for consideration at the meeting.

Paul Vine has already purchased a warning sign to go near the Pond as part of the risk assessment for the Pond.

Correspondence received regarding parking enforcement - Ann received an email from District Enforcement Ltd which I have now sent to everyone. My understanding is that parking in the parish is mainly an issue on Memorial Lane and of course there is limited parking along The Avenue. Due to increasing numbers of cars being owned by the property owners who are legally entitled to park on the public highway. Residents living in Old Way do use Memorial Lane and also park in the village hall car park. At same stage (once the NDP is complete) the parish council did agree it would consult with residents regarding moving the children's play area and extending the village hall car

park. Although I cannot speak for the parish council my understanding is that parking enforcement is not the way forward for Bletsoe and that this is something that the parish council will consider in the future.

No other matters for consideration.

Item 15 – Date of next meeting – Monday 6th November 7:30pm

As always highways issues i.e. potholes, should be reported online via the Borough website www.bedford.gov.uk rather than waiting for the next parish council meeting. You could also use the mobile phone app called **Cleanmystreet**. If you see a problem, take a photo and send a message via this app – this is sent to the Borough and it also gives a map reference making it easy to locate the problem. <http://www.lovecleanstreets.com/reports/home> for full details.

If you wish to report a problem with streetlighting please let me know via email as the parish council are responsible for the street lights (except Memorial Lane). I will need the column lamp number and the location – I will then contact EoN who look after our streetlights.

A Southern
17th August 2017