



MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday, 24th January 2023 at 7:30pm in Bletsoe Village Hall

Present: Cllrs C Goduti, (Chair), M Abraham, A Field-Foster, D Glanvill, P Margrave, J Peace and C Woodward

Also in attendance: Borough Cllr M Towler, Clerk and 4 members of the public

Public Participation

[Standing Orders are suspended - At this point in the meeting, members of the public may, at the discretion of the Chairman, address the Council, ask questions of the Council or request items to be included for the next Agenda for consideration]

- Resident enquired about faster broadband. Potential funding available if enough residents are interested. Cllr Field-Foster has some information regarding this and will circulate for consideration. ***Include as an agenda item for March PC meeting.***
- Cllr Field-Foster advised that BBC is giving out free trees 15-18th February at Oasis swimming pool from 10:00am to 3:00pm individuals can claim up to 5 free trees.
- Borough Cllr M Towler's Report – Cllr Towler's latest report can be downloaded from our website.

There were no further items raised and Standing Orders were duly reinstated.

1 Apologies

None

2 Disclosures of Interests

There were no interests declared.

3 To Approve Minutes

It was agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd November 2022 be approved and were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

1. Streetlighting – Chair had circulated a quote to upgrade streetlight lamps and Clerk advised that she had spoken to other Clerks who confirmed savings of between 1/3 to half.

There were no further matters arising.

5 Smockers Report

Dave Dyer's Report is attached as part of these minutes [Appendix 2]

6 Consider requesting CCTV from BBC fund to tackle flytipping

Coplowe Lane and The Avenue – ***Chair to send both locations to Clerk***

7 Finance

7.1 To approve payments and note any income

See Appendix 1 for a summary of receipts and payments approved at tonight's meeting.

7.2 To receive information regarding the current financial statement

The updated cash book with bank reconciliation, having previously been circulated to Councillors, was approved unanimously.

7.3 To approve draft budget and consider Annual Precept

To set Annual Precept 2023/2024 – an increase of 5% was unanimously approved.

8 **Matters Arising from Correspondence**

1. E-mail from BBC - Parishioners will need photo ID to vote in person at upcoming and future elections – ***Chair to include poster on noticeboard.***
2. BBC – Next state of BBC Local Plan 2040 announced – noted.
3. Parish Field – electric fence was being disconnected from battery. Chair had addressed this via local Facebook page.
4. BRCC & BBC training session regarding reviewing and revising NDP, available funding etc 22nd February 2023 at 7:00-9:00pm in Borough Hall (e-mail @ 19th Jan from Sonia Gallagher). ***Chair and Cllr Glanvill to attend session. Include as an agenda item for March PC meeting.***
5. Dog agility – ***Clerk to chase Planning Enforcement*** to find out whether business will be submitting a planning application.

No further matters arising.

9 **Councillor's Reports/Concerns**

- Coronation Celebrations – VH Committee will be co-ordinating events. Look out for flyers nearer the time.
- Gritting – Avenue to A6 has not been gritted. There is a salt bin but there was no spade in gritting bin. BBC had agreed to swing in and grit the junction. ***Cllr Towler to remind them to include this junction as it is very dangerous.***
- Chair advised that a local business is still parking cars on the verge to be picked up by a flatbed lorry which obstructs the highway. ***Cllr Towler to speak to the business concerned. Chair to e-mail PC Kerry Jones.***

10 **Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday, 28th March 2023 at 7:30pm in Bletsoe Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:55 pm

Signed _____
(Chairman)

Dated _____

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS**JANUARY 2023**

Date	Drawer	Description	Receipts	Payments
25/11/2022	RBL Poppy Appeal	Donation for poppy wreath		£ 17.00
25/11/2022	H&G Landscapes	Grass cutting - Nov		£ 240.00
14/12/2022	HMRC	Tax & NI - 3rd Qtr		£ [REDACTED]
14/12/2022	D Robins	Salary - 3rd Qtr		£ [REDACTED]
15/01/2023	Npower	Streetlight electricity - 3rd Qtr		£ 208.50
17/01/2023	Essendon A/C & Tax Ltd	PAYE services - 3rd Qtr		£ 33.60
17/01/2023	D Robins	SLCC Annual Membership 1/11th		£ 31.91
17/01/2023	Matt Davies Mechanical	Annual mower service		£ 270.00
17/01/2023	E.on	Streetlight maintenance - 3rd Qtr		£ 71.24
17/01/2023	Eyelid Productions	Annual website support fee		£ 100.00
17/01/2023	CPRE	Annual membership fee		£ 36.00

[REDACTED] Local Government Transparency Code – it is not a requirement for information pertaining to an individual's salary to be published in the public domain

The Lady Smockers Report

December and January are quiet months for the Lady Smockers. Additional Daffodil bulbs have been planted and another wildflower bed has been prepared and sown.

The mower was serviced by Matt Davies Mechanical and no additional problems were found with the machine.

The two donated water tanks have been fitted and plumbed in to collect rain water from the shed.

Over the next couple of months, we propose to tackle the area around the pond, cutting back and thinning out the trees and bushes as necessary, clearing the pond itself of grass and overgrown pond plants and generally clearing around the pond area to allow free access to the area.

Dave Dyer (The Lady Smockers Chair)