



Minutes of the meeting of BLETSOE PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.30pm in Bletsoe Village Hall.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Clare Goduti (Chair), Mark Abraham, Alison Field-Foster, Peter Margrave, Claire Woodward, Sue Binks, Philip Greetham, Borough Cllr Martin Towler, David Brough (Clerk), and 10 members of the public.

1 Public Open Session:

- Resident spoke in relation to concerns over flytipping on Coplowe Lane.
- Resident spoke to support item 11 on the agenda – the proposed reduction in the Bourne End Lane speed limit.
- Borough Councillor Martin Towler did not have specific items to raise but was available for questions.

2 Apologies for Absence accepted: Cllr Alison Field-Foster (Away).

3 Declarations of interest in items on the agenda: None.

4 To approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 23rd July 2024.

Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting as an accurate record.

5 Clerk's report on actions

Updates covered by agenda items.

6 Financial Matters

To approve payments and note receipts, balances, and the budget variance report.

The payments listed in the appendix were approved. The financial reports were reviewed and the overspend of £1200 on maintaining the inner section of the New Parish Field was noted.

7 New Parish Field – grounds maintenance

Ongoing review of the approach for cutting the New Parish Field (behind the village hall) and the use of volunteers and paid contractors.

Cllr Binks updated the council on the ongoing maintenance. They could do with more volunteers but were generally coping and carrying out the agreed areas of grasscutting. She will advertise again for more volunteers.

8 Old Parish Field

To consider advertising for a new tenant for grazing on the Old Parish Field.

It was **resolved** to seek a new tenant for grazing on the Old Parish Field. It was agreed that Cllr Goduti and the Clerk would review and amend the tenancy contract, circulate it to councillors, and then advertise. Contract amendments to include: adding the responsibility for mowing the public footpath and keeping the footpath fencing wider for ease of passage. **Resolved** to delegate responsibility for negotiating the tenancy cost (if required) to the clerk to enable the new tenancy to commence swiftly. **Action:** Cllr Abraham has kindly offered to cut the field again to enable pictures to be taken for the advertisement.

9 Fitness sessions

Proposal from Cllr Woodward: To consider setting up fitness sessions in the village hall.

Action: Clerk to send Cllr Woodward the booking link for the village hall.

10 Car parking issue – Coplowe Lane

Proposal from Cllr Woodward: To discuss car parking issues on the layby at Coplowe Lane.

Cllrs discussed the unofficial layby near the top of Coplowe Lane and the untaxed vehicles being left there; also an increase in littering and dumping of waste. It was **resolved** to request BBC Highways to block off

the layby to enable it to return to its previous state as a grass verge. **Action:** Councillors to provide pictures of any untaxed vehicles to give to the police to encourage removal of the cars.

11 Bourne End Lane – Speed Limit

Proposal from Cllr Goduti: To consider supporting a resident's request for lowering the speed limit on Bourne End Lane (North of Bletsoe Road, towards Riseley Road).

Councillors considered the lack of pavement along this section of Bourne End Lane, that it was currently a national speed limit area, and the subsequent safety issues for residents. It was **resolved** to request BBC Highways to lower the speed limit on this road.

12 Planning applications

- *To consider any applications received since the last meeting, including any received after the agenda has been published: None.*
- *For noting only: To receive any updates from the borough council on the below application, to which the parish council previously objected.*

Status: Awaiting decision.

APPLICATION NO: 24/01239/COU Change of Use Application

PROPOSAL: Change of use to allow car auctions (sui generis use).

LOCATION : Coombelands Park Thurleigh Road Milton Ernest Bedfordshire MK44 1ZY

13 Business for future agendas – for noting only

Proposal from Cllr Binks: To share information and consider any actions related to obtaining improved broadband in Bletsoe.

Date of next meeting: 26th November 2024 – Bletsoe Village Hall

Date Paid	Category	Payee/Payer	Desc	Transfers	Receipts	Payments Gross	VAT	Cashbook Balance	Bank balance
Natwest									
Opening balance								£ 22,349.80	£ 28,031.51
31/07/2024	Village Hall Hire	Bletsoe VH	July			£ 12.00			
31/07/2024	Grounds maintenance - New Parish Field	K C PICKERING				£ 200.00			
31/07/2024	Memberships	BATPC	Annual membership			£ 105.00			
19/08/2024	Grounds maintenance - New Parish Field	K C PICKERING				£ 200.00			
11/09/2024	Old Parish Field - deposit refund	N/A				£ 200.00			
11/09/2024	Payroll fees	Red Shoes	Qtrly payroll fees			£ 31.20	£ 5.20		
12/09/2024	Precept Income	BBC	2nd half	£	6,489.00				
20/09/2024	Wayleave Income	Western Power Dist	Annual wayleave income	£	18.42				
22/09/2024	Grounds maintenance - Central	H and G	September			£ 375.00			
22/09/2024	Grounds maintenance - Central	H and G	August			£ 375.00			
22/09/2024	Grounds maintenance - New Parish Field	K C PICKERING				£ 200.00			
Not yet paid	Staff costs	N/A	Staff Costs: Aug/Sep Net Salary + Qtrly PAYE			£ 1,184.61			£ 27,159.02
Not yet paid	Repairs/Maintenance/Capital Exp	N/A	New tree - Memorial Gardens			£ 83.80			
Closing balance								£ 25,890.61	

2024/25 - Balance - Sept 2024

Natwest Current Account Current Balance (Forecast)

£

25,891

Allocation of Balance Sheet

BRA Reserve

4,217

Set aside

Asset Maintenance reserve

13,910

General reserve (Balancing figure)

7,763

Unallocated

VAT refund due in (Approximation)

969

To be reclaimed

2024/25 P&L (Adjusted for VAT) - As at Sept 2024

<u>Income</u>		YTD (Actual) Net	Annual Budget	Full year forecast	Variance
Precept Income		12,978	12,978	12,978	0
	Parish Field Rent	0	500	0	
	Wayleave Income	18	17	17	
	Grant income	2,145	0	2,145	
	VAT Reclaim	1,655	0	-	
Other Income		3,818	517	3,818	3,301
Total Income		16,796	13,495	16,796	3,301
<u>Outgoings</u>					
Employment Costs		2,496	4,805	4,805	0
	Staff Costs	2,496	4,805	4,805	0
	Village Hall Hire	48	90		
	Payroll fees	39	110		
	ICO - Annual Data Protection	0	35		
	Memberships	105	105		
	Admin	0	50		
	Clerk Expenses	0	50		
	Internal Audit	155	150		
	Website running cost	0	200		
Admin		347	790	790	0
Insurance		1,281	1,500	1,281	219
	Smockers	406	800		
	Grounds maintenance - New Parish Field	1,200	0		
	Grounds maintenance - Central	2,250	3,390		
	Repairs/Maintenance/Capital Exp	4,374	200		
	Play Area Inspection	156	160		
	Streetlights: Maint	0	0		
	Streetlights: Elect	380	800		
Highways and open spaces		8,766	5,350	10,640	-5,290
		0			
Grants out		0	550	550	0
	Old Parish Field - deposit refund	200			
Miscellaneous		200	500	500	0
Total Outgoings		13,090	13,495	18,566	-5,071
Year To Date Net P&L		3,706	0		-1,769

£3245 offset with grant income