



Councillors, I hereby summon you to attend the meeting of Bletsoe Parish Council on Tuesday, 26th November 2024 at 7.30pm at Bletsoe Village Hall to consider the following items of business.

AGENDA

- 1 **Public Open Session:** This council is committed to community engagement and therefore warmly invites members of the public to contribute during this part of the meeting. Members of the public should note that the council is only allowed to take decisions on topics that are publicised on the agenda. Please note that interruptions during the remainder of the meeting are not permitted.
 - Members of the public (15 minutes)
 - Borough Councillor Martin Towler
- 2 **Apologies for Absence**
- 3 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda**
- 4 **To approve the minutes of the parish council meeting** held on 24th September 2024.
- 5 **Clerk's report on actions**
 - Car parking issue on the informal layby on Coplowe Lane: Clerk met BBC Highways on site – they are considering blocking off the layby to backfill and re-seed it, to return it to its former state as a verge.
 - Bourne End Lane speed limit reduction: BBC Highways have acknowledged this and added it to their list of similar requests. They have no budget for this in the current financial year.
 - Ditch clearance on Coplowe Lane: Parish council ditch (along the New Parish Field) has been cleared. BBC Highways are contacting Bedfordia to request the clearance of their ditches along the road. BBC Highways also agreed to carry out an inspection of the gullies following surface water flooding in September.
 - Update to be given on filling the tenancy for grazing on the Old Parish Field.
- 6 **Financial Matters**
 - To approve payments and note receipts, balances, and the budget variance report.
 - To discuss the budget and precept setting for 2025/26
- 7 **Full Fibre Broadband**

Proposal from Cllr Binks: To share any updates related to obtaining improved broadband in Bletsoe.
- 8 **Rights of Way**

Proposal from Cllr Field-Foster: To consider any Rights of Way that need reporting for being impassable.
- 9 **Drain clearing and pavement sweeping**

Proposal from Cllr Woodward: To consider any drains (gullies) that are blocked and need clearing and sweeping of The Avenue – how to make this more regular.
- 10 **Planning applications**
 - To consider any applications received since the last meeting, including any received after the agenda has been published:

APPLICATION NO: 24/02230/FUL Full Planning Application
PROPOSAL: Two storey rear extension, single storey side extension following the removal of entrance porch & front living room and external alterations and remodelling to the front façade to include reinstated front dormers, plinth brick, green oak front porch and chimney.
LOCATION : Fernleigh Cottage Bourne End Lane Bletsoe Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1QS

- 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

11 Annual NJC pay scale adjustment

- To resolve that, under Section 1 Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the next item of business due to the confidential nature of staff matters.
- In line with contractual obligations, to agree to implement the new pay scales as agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) for 2024-25; to be implemented (backdated) from 1 April 2024. Clerk contract is tied to this salary scale.

12 Business for future agendas – for noting only

Proposals from councillors to be added to a future agenda for discussion.

Date of next meeting: 28th January 2025 – Bletsoe Village Hall