



Councillors, I hereby summon you to attend the meeting of Bletsoe Parish Council on Tuesday, 25th March 2025 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 29th January 2025.
- 5 **Clerk's report on actions**
- 6 **Financial Matters**
To approve payments and note receipts, balances, and the budget variance report.
- 7 **Grounds maintenance**
 - a) Ongoing review of the approach for mowing the New Parish Field (behind the village hall)
 - b) To consider actions regarding the bin in the Memorial Garden, which is no longer being emptied
- 8 **Highways & Rights of Way issues**
 - a) To discuss parking issues at the unofficial layby on Coplowe Lane and consider requesting No Verge Parking, or alternative solution, from BBC Highways
 - b) To consider measures to stop large vehicles using Coplowe Lane as a shortcut
 - c) To consider requesting BBC Highways to install a "Caution: Turning Lorries" sign at the Milton Road junction, in line with a similar request from Thurleigh Parish Council, to warn drivers about slurry lorries accessing the field
 - d) Proposal from Cllr Field-Foster: To request that the Borough Council establish a Rights of Way Policy outlining how and under what circumstances they will enforce the Highways Act to maintain passable footpaths
- 9 **Victory in Europe (VE) day – 80th anniversary**
Proposal from Cllr Goduti: To consider whether the parish council should host or support an event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE day in May 2025.
- 10 **Full Fibre Broadband**
Proposal from Cllr Binks: To receive updates on efforts to improve broadband provision in Bletsoe.
- 11 **Defibrillator code sharing**
To consider a request to share the box code for the defibrillator located at the village hall.
- 12 **Wedding parking**
Proposal from Cllr Greetham: To consider permitting the use of the New Parish Field for parking in connection with a wedding reception.

13 Planning applications

- To consider any applications received since the last meeting, including any received after the agenda has been published:

APPLICATION NO: 25/00311/FUL Full Planning Application

PROPOSAL: Single storey extension to existing garage.

LOCATION : Fernleigh Bungalow Bourne End Lane Bletsoe Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1QS

APPLICATION NO: 25/00332/LBC Listed Building Consent Application

PROPOSAL: Internal alterations forming larger bathroom and new en suite to the first floor

LOCATION : Gilbert Cottage North End Bletsoe Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1QT

- 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

14 Business for future agendas (for noting only)

Immediate proposals from councillors for discussion at a future meeting.

Councillors can also email proposals prior to the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: 27th May 2025 – Bletsoe Village Hall (Annual meetings)