



2 Sayers Court  
Bluntisham  
Cambridgeshire  
PE28 3NP

Tel: 01487 740230  
Mob: 07725 308115

Email: bluntishamclerk@gmail.com

**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 8pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,  
Bluntisham**

**Present:** Chairman: Mrs Margaret Lumb, Mr Frank Hudson, Mrs Philippa Hope, Mrs Anne Parsons, Mr Mark Berg, Mr Gary James, Mr Ian Shepherd, Mr Alan Moules, Mrs Kathy Searle, Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk),

**Also present:** 8 members of the public & Cllr Criswell & Cllr Carter

**Open Forum:** The chairman advised that the open forum is to raise questions related to agenda items only, however, she will allow other questions this evening and moving forward all comments from the open forum need to relate to agenda. The agenda is published on the website and is on display on all 4 notice boards around the village at least 3 working days before the meeting.

**Mrs Joan Gutteridge** asked what item 2216 was regarding. The clerk advised this item had been added by Mr Ian Shepherd and he will be able to comment when he arrives.

**Mr Neil Weeding** has written to HDC Chief Executive Mrs Joanne Lancaster to raise concerns with the Station Road site. His concerns summarised as follows:

- TPO not been monitored and replanting of trees hasn't taken place
- Car park is in breach of planning permission as isn't just used by staff
- FOI request to ascertain the number of trees included as part of the TPO

The clerk has a copy of the letter sent, if anyone wants to see the full detail.

**Mrs Sue Everest** raised concern with the HGV parking along Station Road, not only on the entrance to the forecourt but on the footpaths, which are now being damaged by these vehicles. Driveways to properties are also often blocked by these vehicles. Mr Mark Berg advised that the PC could investigate the possibility of putting double yellow lines or solid white no parking lines on the road to try and reduce it. Cllr Steve Criswell advised that the police would have to enforce any parking but all options should be considered. He offered to speak with CCC Highways. Mrs Philippa Hope suggested taking photographs of inconsiderate parking and send to the police as evidence.

It was also highlighted that when these vehicles are parked that cars then have to pass the parked vehicles across a solid white line, which is extremely dangerous. Also members of the public continue to park in the "staff" car park.

Cllr Robin Carter read out the conditions from the original planning permission for the car park (application ref:1301360FUL ) which states the car park should only be used by staff and should be locked when the garage is closed. There were also conditions regarding the trees, which are still outstanding.

It was agreed the clerk is to get a copy of the original TPO placed on the Station Road site and to write to Mr Highland about the parking and visibility issues.

**Mrs Sue Everest** advised that a lot of the trees on this site were infected by silver leaf, and you have to leave any ground a minimum of 5 years before replanting any new tree.

Clerk

	<p><b>Open Forum:</b> The chairman advised that the open forum is to raise questions related to agenda items only, however, she will allow other questions this evening and moving forward all comments from the open forum need to relate to agenda. The agenda is published on the website and is on display on all 4 notice boards around the village at least 3 working days before the meeting.</p> <p><b>Mrs Joan Gutteridge</b> asked what item 2216 was regarding. The clerk advised this item had been added by Mr Ian Shepherd and he will be able to comment when he arrives.</p> <p><b>Mr Neil Weeding</b> has written to HDC Chief Executive Mrs Joanne Lancaster to raise concerns with the Station Road site. His concerns summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPO not been monitored and replanting of trees hasn't taken place</li> <li>• Car park is in breach of planning permission as isn't just used by staff</li> <li>• FOI request to ascertain the number of trees included as part of the TPO</li> </ul> <p>The clerk has a copy of the letter sent, if anyone wants to see the full detail.</p> <p><b>Mrs Sue Everest</b> raised concern with the HGV parking along Station Road, not only on the entrance to the forecourt but on the footpaths, which are now being damaged by these vehicles. Driveways to properties are also often blocked by these vehicles. Mr Mark Berg advised that the PC could investigate the possibility of putting double yellow lines or solid white no parking lines on the road to try and reduce it. Cllr Steve Criswell advised that the police would have to enforce any parking but all options should be considered. He offered to speak with CCC Highways. Mrs Philippa Hope suggested taking photographs of inconsiderate parking and send to the police as evidence.</p> <p>It was also highlighted that when these vehicles are parked that cars then have to pass the parked vehicles across a solid white line, which is extremely dangerous. Also members of the public continue to park in the "staff" car park.</p> <p>Cllr Robin Carter read out the conditions from the original planning permission for the car park (application ref:1301360FUL ) which states the car park should only be used by staff and should be locked when the garage is closed. There were also conditions regarding the trees, which are still outstanding.</p> <p>It was agreed the clerk is to get a copy of the original TPO placed on the Station Road site and to write to Mr Highland about the parking and visibility issues.</p> <p><b>Mrs Sue Everest</b> advised that a lot of the trees on this site were infected by silver leaf, and you have to leave any ground a minimum of 5 years before replanting any new tree.</p>	Clerk
2204	<b>Dispensation Forms received and decisions given</b> – Nothing to report	
2205	<b>Declarations of interest for items on the agenda</b> –	

2206	<b>Apologies for absence</b> – Mr Mike Francis, Mr Rob Gore.	
2207	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to be approved and signed</b> –The Chairman signed the minutes and all approved. ( <i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed</i> )	
2208	<b>Matters arising from previous minutes</b> – Mrs Margaret Lumb advised that no further action is being taken against the dog owner following the recent incident as the victim doesn't wish to press charges. The dog owner has had a visit from Sgt Street and has been advised to take the dog out on a short lead and offered further training from the dog warden at HDC. Mrs Kathy Searle advised that the planning application for Sunrise Meadows still hasn't been decided and the retrospective application for the four new plots on the site adjacent to Sunrise Meadows also hasn't been submitted. Mr Nigel Swaby at HDC is the planning officer dealing with this site.	
2209	<b>FY2015/16 Accounts – to end September 2015 –</b> No concerns were raised with the accounts during this period. Total receipts £49461.39 & total expenditure £6251.67. Closing bank balances: Lloyds 0933915 - £73984.75 Lloyds 0934024 - £5078.24 Cambs building society - £51561.57 ( <i>Proposed Mrs Anne Parsons, Seconded Mr Mark Berg. All agreed.</i> ) <b>Annex 1</b>	
2210	<b>Accounts for payment and sign cheques for September payments</b> –Mrs Anne Parsons and Mr Alan Moules signed the cheques and no concerns with the payments for the month. ( <i>Proposed Mrs Anne Parsons seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed.</i> )	
2211	<b>County Council &amp; District Council reports –</b> <b>Steve Criswell</b> – started by thanking the PC for the invite to the Open Day and found it a valuable opportunity to meet the new councillors and residents. The Cycle path land agreements are almost agreed. Further investigation work is being carried out regarding white bridge corner and it is likely to come in over budget, although this isn't going to put the scheme under threat, it does mean that additional funds have to be found. It is hopeful the scheme will be completed by spring 2016. Steve has arranged to meet Highways officer and members of HCV to look at how to reroute lorries from the A1123. Steve reminded the PC that the LHI scheme deadline is early November and all schemes have to have police support before being submitted. He also said he was happy to support the PC with their application. The new budget is being set for CCC and they are now running out of options for savings so it is looking as though statutory services only will be offered. The recent county wide CAPALC event held at Bluntisham Village Hall was an ideal opportunity to share with clerks and chairman the situation within CCC. Steve also gave a presentation on resilience and he suggested Bluntisham speaking with Earith and Needingworth before setting the precept to see if any services can be managed as joint enterprises for the coming financial year 16/17. Mrs Kathy Searle asked if the repairs to the B1050 were permanent, Cllr Criswell confirmed the scheduled work is due to take place 20 November and this is indeed a temporary measure. <b>Robin Carter</b> – The budget process at HDC for the coming year has started with a public consultation. It is proposed that there are no increases to council tax. All services within the council will have, by the end of November, gone through zero based budget setting. Waste, grounds & trees are now in Councillor Carter's remit and this is one area being targeted to provide the majority of the savings. One option is looking at providing slim line bins for single people and those less mobile. If you want a slim line 140lt bin you have to contact HDC to order on 01480 388388. Also the District council are undertaking a review of the buildings at risk register. HDC	

	<p>will be consulting with all town and parishes over the coming months as to the latest position.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope advised that the current document states that 38 High Street is an example of where a building at risk isn't maintained, however, this is incorrect as the building has been fully rebuilt in line with the requirements of HDC conservation department.</p>	
2212	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Affordable Housing update</b> – the clerk advised that having spoken with Helen Fortune (Accent Nene) the board have decided to wait until their next board meeting in November before making a decision on Bluntisham as they are not prepared to invest any additional funds at this stage.</li> </ul>	
2213	<p><b>Village maintenance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Mower</b> – Mr Frank Hudson confirmed having spoken with Mr Ray Frost the existing John Deere mower used for the village grass cutting is showing signs of wear. The bearings, blades &amp; spindles all need replacing. It was agreed the clerk is to get some quotes to repair the mower before considering other options. It was also agreed that Mrs Philippa Hope is to speak to her contact at Hayters for guidance on quality assured second hand mowers. In order to ensure that the investment in new capital equipment was prudent, it was agreed to investigate the costs for contracting out the grass cutting to see if this was a better long term financial option, the clerk is to get quotes for this. <i>(Proposed Mr Mark Berg, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All agreed.)</i></li> </ul>	<p>Philippa Hope/clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
2214	<p><b>Health &amp; Safety:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HGV parking at Garage – there is a major problem with large vehicles parking over the worn away chevrons blocking visibility into and out of the garage. Also the signs for the additional businesses on the site are blocking the visibility. The clerk is to write to Mr Highland to ask for some support with altering the layout of this area to make it safer and encouraged people to take photos as and when they see inconsiderate parking and to send these to Mr Highland and the police.</li> <li>• People crossing signs – Station Road – this was raised at the open day as to why we don't have these signs along Station Road. Mrs Kathy Searle confirmed that the signs were removed when the Highways team resurfaced the footpath and are being stored in Mr Dolby's yard. Cllr Criswell is to speak with CCC Highways to get the signs replaced.</li> <li>• Dog Fouling – Mrs Philippa Hope raised the problem which has sparked several discussions on the village facebook group. The problem is particularly prominent on the footpaths and green spaces in the village. The clerk has done some research into what other councils are doing and suggested using fluorescent paint to highlight the areas of dog fouling. It was agreed to try the paint suggestion for a few months and see if it improves. The clerk is to purchase 6 cans of paint and any resident who has a known problem area is to contact the clerk to take responsibility for clearing and spraying. <i>(Proposed Mr Mark Berg, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All agreed.)</i></li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Steve Criswell</p> <p>Clerk</p>
2215	<p><b>Parish Council Plan</b> – it was agreed that no further changes are needed to the plan at this stage.</p>	
2216	<p><b>Land off Mill Lane – nature reserve/protection</b> – Mr Ian Shepherd advised that during the open day members of the parish suggested the idea of trying to make more use of the land at the bottom of Mill Lane. It was discussed as to who owns the land and Mr Ian Shepherd is to carry out initial discussions with the land owner to see if they are willing to offer a small piece of land to be used for this purpose and to find out any initial costs and report back to the council at a later date. <i>(Proposed Mr</i></p>	<p>Ian Shepherd</p>

	<i>Frank Hudson, Seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed.)</i>	
2217	<b>Open Day Summary</b> – Mr Gary James asked how many attended the event, the clerk estimated there were approximately 80. It was agreed that the event was a success and we should do them more regularly in the future. The clerk is to find a date in March 2016 for the next event. <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All agreed.)</i>	Clerk
2218	<b>Website</b> – Mr Ian Shepherd confirmed the website is still well used. The recent survey for the play park and outdoor gym had over 100 responses. He has now added an additional button which provides direct access to the minutes of all PC meetings on the website. The most visits during September was 11.9.15. We have had 2376 visits since it went live. There is still no information on the Village hall on the website and it was agreed to add it onto the HMC agenda in order to discuss the content to be added to the website.	Clerk
2219	<b>Trees – free from HDC</b> – The clerk advised it was that time again when HDC offer free trees to all parishes. It was agreed that Bluntisham does not need any new trees at this stage as the PC already has a surplus of trees waiting to be planted.	
2220	<b>Drone flying - disclaimer</b> The clerk is to speak with Zurich and take their advice on displaying disclaimers for flying of drones on the recreation area. It was agreed at this stage to continue to monitor the situation and only take action if use is increased. <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James, seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed.)</i>	Clerk
2221	<b>Community Event – 2016</b> – Any suggestions are to be passed onto the HMC who will discuss during their next meeting.	All
2222	<b>Newsletter</b> – Mrs Margaret Lumb has had an article from the police and will contact the cricket club to ask for an update on the cricket nets project. Mrs Philippa Hope is to write an update on the play park and outdoor gym. The clerk is to ask for suggestions for the next community event. The HMC are to write an article on the village hall. Mrs Philippa Hope is to write a summary on dog fouling. Mrs Kathy Searle is to write a short article on planning and permitted development. Mr Roly Searle is to write a summary from the football club. The clerk is to share the survey responses from the play park and outdoor gym. Mr Frank Hudson is to write a summary on Trees within the village. An article on Cybercrime is to be included. The clerk is to ask the cricket club to do a summary of the cricket net progress. A “you said.....we did” item is to be included. It was agreed to continue producing the newsletter every 6 months and all councillors have to take responsibility for keeping the content fresh. The clerk is to get the draft ready by early November to ensure distribution by the end of November.	Philippa Hope/Kathy Searle/Mark Berg/Roly Searle/Frank Hudson/Clerk
2223	<b>Sport Relief Mile – 20 March 2016</b> – this item is to be deferred until November.	
2224	<b>Committee updates:</b> a) <b>HMC Update</b> – next meeting 26.10.15 b) <b>Finance Update</b> – next meeting 19.10.15. Mrs Margaret Lumb advised she will be attending this meeting. c) <b>Allotments update</b> – AGM 24.10.15 d) <b>Crime, Road safety &amp; Highway Warden update</b> – the crime reports are now being sent every 2 weeks. A recent conference held by Cambs Police highlighted the increase in cyber crime, a new unit has been set up to investigate. St Ives Police station is no longer manned as they are not replacing the receptionist, you have to go to Huntingdon. Measures to improve the call waiting on the 101 line have been put in place. Road safety – Mrs Margaret Lumb has been re-elected as chairman, a new inspector has taken over in Huntingdon from South Cambs who is keen to use specials to carry out speed checks. Highway warden walk about recently looked at Colne Road ditch, which was	

	cleared within 4 days. Wood End flooding measures have almost finished and several new gullies are now in place. Further work to the bottom of Short Lane are being carried out at the moment. The footpath along Rectory Road will be resurfaced at some point in the future, no dates are available yet.	
2225	<p><b>Correspondence received:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Letter from BALGA</b> – it was agreed the content of the letter received and the clerk will take responsibility for writing to any allotment holders who are not fulfilling their tenancy agreements.</li> <li>• <b>Letter from Mr John Morgan</b> – Mr Frank Hudson is to arrange to meet with Mr Morgan to discuss the trees.</li> </ul>	Frank Hudson
2226	<p><b>Items for consideration</b> (for information only)</p> <p>Mr Ian Shepherd asked for clarification on the reduction of the speed limit along Station/Rectory Road, Mr Mark Berg confirmed that as the police will not support the reduction, this isn't a viable option.</p> <p>Mr Gary James reported the sundial in meridian wood is overgrown and is to speak with Mr Gedye.</p> <p>Mr Mark Berg advised that he has seen children digging holes around the youth shelter and has asked them to stop this.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope asked to find out the ownership of the strip of land off the footpath from Meeting walk into Frogs Hall as this is overgrown and blocking the path. The clerk is to find out from the land registry.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope also asked if something can be done to ensure that the now empty Prince of Wales pub and that the White Swan are both recognised as community assets and that any attempts to change the use of either is to be closely scrutinised.</p> <p>Cllr Criswell suggested under the Localism Act you register-pub(s) as community assets. The clerk is to speak with HDC to find out what is involved in the process.</p>	<p>Gary James</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
2227	<p><b>Topics for future meetings</b> –</p> <p>Parking on the road along East Street</p> <p>Old Phone Box – discuss use</p>	
2228	<b>Safeguarding Policy – defer until November</b>	

Meeting closed 09:45pm

Next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015

**Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings –2015/16**

December	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December
January	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January
February	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February
March	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> March
April	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
May	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> May
June	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June
July	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> July

*Annex 1 – FY 2015/16 accounts to end September 2015*