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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting
Monday 3rd November 2014 at 7.30pm at The Village Hall, Mill Lane,
Bluntisham**

Present: Chair: Mrs Joan Gutteridge, Mrs Margaret Lumb, Mrs Kathy Searle, Miss Emily Godfrey, Mr Gary James, Mrs Cynthia Curtis, Mr Frank Hudson, Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk),

Also present: Cllr Mike Francis, Cllr Robin Carter, Cllr Steve Criswell & 9 members of the Public

	Open Forum – Mrs S Everest commented on the cars using the Needingworth and Marsh Harrier roundabouts as a race track, travelling at fast speeds and round the wrong way. Mrs M Lumb will mention it to the Highways officer but advised contacting the clerk at Needingworth PC.	
1892	Dispensation Forms received and decisions given – Nothing to report	
1893	Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – Mrs Kathy Searle and Mrs Cynthia Curtis item 1899.	
1894	Apologies for absence – None	
1895	County Council & District Council Reports – Cllr Steve Criswell raised the issue around the highway/verge at Laxton Grange which is currently Slate. This isn't acceptable. Highways would prefer a grass surface, however, they will not enforce astro turf if the PC are in support. The PC confirmed that astro turf would be acceptable. <i>(Proposed Mrs Margaret Lumb Seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed)</i> . Cllr Criswell is to contact residents to advise of the outcome. Cllr Robin Carter gave a brief update of the changes to the management team at HDC. He asked if the changes to the electoral arrangements could be included in the newsletter as online is preferred. He reported 2 street lights in Wood End and 1 in the High Street being on during the day which he is reporting as and when identified. The old telegraph poles in Wood End will eventually come down but this is likely to take a year or so due to the companies involved. Cllr Mike Francis advised that he is speaking with HDC regarding improving the parking situation in Presses Close	
1896	Time Banking – Cllr Steve Criswell advised Parishes are being asked if they can be more resilient to try and save money due to tight budgets. Somersham have a great time bank which helps with saving money for both the Parish and the Resident. Residents sign up and swap favours. In order to set this up Somersham employed a coordinator for 15 hours per week. There are now a wide range of volunteers who help the coordinator. The role is funded by the precept and grants from a variety of different sources. The doctor's surgery is involved too. They have found that the time-bank helps bringing communities together. Cllr Criswell asked for	Clerk/Cllr

	support from Councillors and Residents to form a steering group for Bluntisham. Cllr Criswell to write article for the newsletter, steering group to be set up.	Criswell
1897	Proposed changes to the bus route 21/22 – Cllr Robin Carter discussed the Public Transport Options Development Report following the Area H meeting in September. There are two services which affect Bluntisham and one may affect us. To date Morrison’s have not paid the S106 money to HDC which will have an impact on the final detail. Mrs Joan Gutteridge advised that having spoken to Morrison last month they advised that due to market pressures there will be no development in St Ives. The PC are to discuss the options and to make any comments to the Clerk by the beginning of December who will consolidate and share with Cllr Robin Carter.	All/Clerk
1898	HACT – Jo Philpott HACT Manager which offers community free transport to all who have a Cambs bus pass or if not a small fair is charged. Annual membership is only £10 at the moment to attract new members. There are currently 9 people in Bluntisham who use this service. Day trips also available in 2015 as well as the weekly trips. Asking for help promoting the service. It was agreed the clerk will display the leaflets and posters and Jo will share an advert for the next newsletter.	Clerk
1899	Cricket Nets – The PC met on Saturday 1 st November to view the site in the daylight and have agreed to the location being as close to the footpath of the village hall. Richard Saltmarsh advised there would be a small amount of astro turf surrounding the area along with security fencing either 2.4 or 3m height. Still TBC. The proposed site allows for the regulated run off required by the FA for the footballers. It is hoped to be ready by next season subject to funding and planning. The Clerk advised she had been in contact with HDC but hasn’t had a response yet. Bluntisham Cricket Club will remove the old nets and use the soil dug up to fill the concrete base as well as levelling out the old recreation area. It was also agreed the PC would own the facility and lease it to the cricket club for a peppercorn rent. The cricket club will be responsible for the hire and maintenance of the facility. A unanimous agreement to pursue the funding and application was agreed.	Clerk/BCC
1900	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 6th October 2014 to be approved and signed – Minutes approved and signed by the Chairman. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, Seconded Miss Emily Godfrey. All agreed)</i>	
1901	Matters arising from previous minutes - Error with minute numbers on agenda corrected on minutes. Mrs Margaret Lumb item 1878 (Planning application – Station Road Car Park). Advised that the email from Cllr Carter to the PC on 21 October was incorrect, he stated the homeowner Mr Whyment is putting the draining/flooding issue in the hands of his insurers to investigate further. This isn’t correct as the issue belongs to the land owner and not the home owner.	
1902	FY2014/15 Accounts – to end September 2014 No concerns raised with the accounts. Total receipts £48,608.43 & total expenditure £7260.99. <i>(Proposed Mrs Margaret Lumb, seconded Miss Emily Godfrey. All agreed.) Annex 1</i>	
1903	Accounts for payment and October income summary – No concerns raised with the accounts for payment and income summary. Mr Frank Hudson and Mrs Kathy Searle signed cheques. <i>(Proposed Mrs Margaret Lumb, seconded Miss Emily Godfrey. All agreed)</i>	

1904	<p>Committee updates:</p> <p>a) Allotments Committee – Mr Frank Hudson advised the Christmas dinner has been booked for 12 December Green Man, Colne. The water is being turned off next week and the tap is to be replaced. They are looking at getting numbers for each plot so getting quotes. The clerk is to share a copy of the committee members to go on display in the communal shed.</p> <p>b) Hall Management Committee – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 10th November.</p>	Clerk
1905	<p>Crime, Road Safety & Highway Warden Update (to include HCV, ENVAR & Hanson reports as appropriate)</p> <p>Crime: Burglaries continue to cause problems - 41 since the last meeting although none in Bluntisham reported. A suspect is currently in custody. Fish sellers were around in St. Mary's Close & the High Street recently. No refrigerated vans & different vehicles each time. Reported to police. 101 response times are slow & off putting for callers. If vans are seen please take the number & report to co-ordinator. The St. Ives police team is one PC down so the sergeant has not had time to promote the safer cycling strategy apart from an article in The Bridge in St. Ives. Interest in adult training classes for cyclists has been shown from other villages.</p> <p>Speedwatch: Discussions are still ongoing over new guidelines for volunteers & statistics available only up to end of July. Speeds of 65mph in a 30mph were recorded in both Earith & Colne.</p> <p>No other meetings for Road Safety, HCV, ENVAR or Hanson.</p> <p>Barograph: It is hoped that work will start shortly. <i>Post meeting note: Probable date for commencement is 17th November for 5 days.</i></p> <p>Parish Highway Warden: No recent walkabout but one scheduled before Christmas. Mr Frank Hudson & Mrs. Margaret Lumb attended a Footpaths & Rights of Way meeting recently & heard that money may be available next year which would help in the proposed bridge bypass scheme.</p>	
1906	<p>Parish Council 5 year plan –No further updates on the plan to date.</p>	
1907	<p>Dog Fouling – the clerk made suggestions for improving the dog fouling problem having confirmed there isn't anyone trained to issue fixed penalty notices. She will display new signs around the village advising to pick up after your dog and will also approach the school with a view to giving a brief talk on the importance of clearing up after your pet. A weekly inspection of the pitches is being carried out and information is being recorded to monitor the situation on the Recreation Field. Complaints have reduced since this started.</p>	Clerk/Kathy Searle
1908	<p>Official Naming of the Park – Mr David Gedye has suggested the park be named Triplow Park. The Clerk read the email from Mr Gedye and the PC said that it wasn't relevant to Bluntisham and had no reference to the village. They like the idea of naming the park and suggested it be added to the next months Agenda for Mr Gedye to attend. Suggestions included Bluntisham Feoffees Park.</p>	Clerk
1909	<p>Village in Bloom – The PC confirmed they would be prepared to make a donation towards bulbs to enhance the appearance of the village. The Clerk advised that in order to enter for the Anglia in Bloom the following needed to be established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Participation • Environmental Responsibility • Gardening Achievement 	

	It was agreed that there would be an article in the newsletter and also published on the Bluntisham Facebook page to encourage volunteers. Mrs Anne Parker is to liaise with the clerk.	Clerk/Ann Parker
1910	Remembrance Service –This has been scheduled for 2pm on Sunday 9 November at the Chapel. Remembrance Service will involve more participation by young people this year. Some school classes will attend the war memorial & lay crosses on 11th November. All residents are welcome. Mrs Margaret Lumb will lay the wreath on behalf of the PC.	
1911	Planning: 1401795TREE 15 Glebe Close & 1401799TREE 8 Glebe Close Mrs Kathy Searle advised that the tree at 15 Glebe Close is completely dead at the base and the fungal growth is up to 5 metres high. This has weakened the existing branches and there has been no growth for years. A TPO was put on the tree in 1977, however, the tree has deteriorated since then. The PC agreed that for Health & Safety reasons the tree be allowed to be removed as if this fell it could be fatal. The tree at 8 Glebe Close is slimmer but also has fungal growth all over it and the report isn't good. This tree leans onto meeting walk and the white house which could cause damage to a person or property. It was agreed that the PC do not have the knowledge to say what must be done but strongly advises that due to the H&S risk of the trees or branches coming down they should both be removed. It was also agreed to identify to the householders, via HDC, to notify their insurance companies of the trees as they might be at risk if not covered. <i>(Proposed Mrs Kathy Searle, Seconded Mrs Margaret Lumb. All agreed.)</i>	
1912	Enforcement Issues – None.	
1913	Village Maintenance: a) Update on H&S maintenance – all maintenance will be completed by the end of November. b) Tree Planting – Mrs Margaret Lumb and Mrs Kathy Searle are to agree the location of the trees and return the application form to the clerk before 10 th December.	Kathy/Margaret
1914	Reported problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedge cutting – Sumerling Way The clerk has received an email from a resident in Sumerling Way asking for the hedge, which abuts the fences, to be cut back in order for the residents to maintain their fences. It was agreed the clerk is to obtain quotes for this work to be carried out, it was identified that approximately 4-5ft of the width of the hedge would need cutting. The PC confirmed they didn't want gaps to be allowed in the hedge as this wasn't needed. 	Clerk
1915	The Local Council Award Scheme – the clerk advised of the changes to the Quality Status which will come into place in the New Year. It was agreed the Clerk is to summarise the pro's and con's of working towards this award and present at the next meeting.	Clerk
1916	Correspondence received The clerk has received a cheque from the Feoffees for £750 to contribute towards the improvements to the Barograph. The clerk is to write to formally thank the Feoffees on behalf of the PC. Also thanks for the payment of the refurbishment of the Fire Hooks now in situ in the Village Hall. HDC have formally notified the PC of the appeal for planning application	Clerk

	1400480FUL. The clerk advised that if a 6ft close boarded fence is to be erected along the new footpath the costs will almost double from the grant application currently in and funds will have to come from the PC. The clerk has received formal notification of the electoral review and has displayed the posters on the notice boards.	
1917	Various Magazines & mail shots for general interest – nothing to share.	
1918	Clerk & Caretakers Salary review It was agreed that the clerk, caretaker and grounds person will all move one spinal point based on the 2013/14 National Salary scales from 1 st April 2015. The clerk will move one spinal point from 1 st October 2014 inline with the appraisal process. <i>(Proposed Mrs Kathy Searle, Seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed).</i>	
1919	Items for consideration (for information only) Mrs Kathy Searle advised that the application for Station Road was approved at the DM Panel, although the information isn't on the website as yet. Miss Emily Godfrey asked for help for the Christmas Gift Fair on Saturday 15 November. Mrs Kathy Searle & Mrs Joan Gutteridge will do the refreshments, Mrs Cynthia Curtis and Mrs Margaret Lumb will do the raffle. The hall is to be dressed for Christmas so all helpers from 9am to decorate are welcome. The clerk is to advise the football club of parking at the hall on this day. There are now 20 stalls confirmed as attending. Mrs Margaret Lumb wanted to thank Mr Frank Hudson and Mr Mark Day for their speedy removal of the dead trees and branches which fell down in the recent winds.	

Meeting closed 9.45pm

Next meeting: 8th December 2014

Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings – 2014 & 2015

December	Monday 8 th December
January	Monday 5 th January
February	Monday 9 th February
March	Monday 2 nd March
April	Monday 13 th April
May	Monday 11 th May
June	Monday 1 st June
July	Monday 6 th July
August	Monday 3 rd August
September	Monday 7 th September
October	Monday 5 th October
November	Monday 2 nd November
December	Monday 7 th December

Annex 1 – FY 2014/15 accounts to end September 2014