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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 7th December 2016 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,
Bluntisham**

Present: Chairman: Mrs Margaret Lumb, Mrs Philippa Hope, Mr Alan Moules, Mr Gary James, Mrs Kathy Searle, Mr Martin Crowhurst, Mr Ian Shepherd, Mr Rob Gore, Mr Frank Hudson, Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk),

Also present: 13 x members of the public

	<p>Open forum The Chairman welcomed the public and advised that the planning applications will be discussed after matters arising. Any comments to be raised now.</p> <p>Mrs Joan Gutteridge queried the previous minutes and item 176 and stated that the minutes declared all councillors voted against 16/02163/HHFUL, however, Mr Ian Shepherd arrived late and the minutes should reflect this.</p> <p>The meeting opened at 8.03pm</p>	
190	Dispensation Forms received & decisions given - None	
191	Declarations of interest for items on the agenda –	
192	Apologies for absence –Mr Mark Berg, Mrs Cynthia Curtis, Cllr Mike Francis, Cllr Steve Criswell, Cllr Robin Carter.	
193	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 2nd November to be approved and signed by the chairman – The chairman signed the minutes. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed.)</i>	
194	Matters arising from previous minutes – Item 176 ref: 16/02163/HHFUL Mr Ian Shepherd was not in attendance to vote on this application. Mrs Margaret Lumb thanked the clerk and Santa and all other councillors for their help with the craft fair.	
195	<p>FY2016/17 Accounts to end November 2016 – Mrs Philippa Hope went through the accounts in detail and no queries were raised. The expenditure is high due to the payment for the play park and village hall loan. The income shows the grant payment from WREN.</p> <p>Expenditure - £93920.88 Income - £61546.10 Bank balance - £34187.20 Cambs building society - £56901.73 <i>(proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)</i></p>	
196	<p>Accounts for payment for November payments – Mr Rob Gore, Mr Alan Moules & Mrs Philippa Hope all authorised payments during the month. The clerk asked for one cheque to be signed at the meeting which was signed by Mr Rob Gore & Mr Frank Hudson.</p> <p><i>(proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)</i></p>	
197	Authorise any purchase orders for November – Mrs Margaret Lumb authorised the purchase order 2016/019 for the purchase of the John Deere Tractor, which was authorised on 5.10.16 ref 166.	
198	Approve 2017/18 Budget - the Finance committee scrutinised the budget and proposed the budget for 2017/18. The total expenditure is expected to be £133297.00 and the	

	<p>receipts balance with this figure. The staff costs for the village hall have increased but it is to be noted this isn't due to any pay increase but to the nature of the contracts which has the potential for staff costs to be higher.</p> <p><i>(Propose Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)</i></p>	
199	<p>Approve 2017/18 precept – the finance committee proposed the precept remains the same at £92827.00. The parish council support this proposal. <i>(Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All agreed.)</i></p>	
200	<p>County Council & District Council reports</p> <p>Cllr Steve Criswell – sent his apologies and shared the following report via email: Several points I would like to raise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During my presentation at the previous meeting, I was rudely interrupted by two councillors wishing to make party political points. Frankly, I'm not interested. My only interest is to do the best I can for the residents I represent, with the resources available to me. • The Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee met this morning. I have reconvened the Highway Maintenance member working group (which I chair) to review the gritting route reduction and the criteria used. Current work is being undertaken to see if capacity can be found to satisfy those wishing to fund additional routes, or enable others to do the work. • The officer responsible for the Cycleway has changed following Ross Hamilton's departure to Australia. I am meeting Scott Parsons on 12th December for a handover meeting and an update on the latest position. • I continue to liaise with the HCV working group. I have made good progress in influencing the East Cambs Transport Strategy, the draft of which clearly indicates the problems associated with the A1123 and surrounding villages. It also commits to review and consider actions if the Ely Southern Bypass does not encourage sufficient HCV traffic away from the A1123. • All authorities supported Devolution. This is now before Government and if approved will commence shortly. A Mayor will be elected in May 2017. • The annual Parish Conference was held a couple of weeks ago at which I launched a £1m Innovation Fund to help develop community activity that enhances people's lives and provides savings for the taxpayer. <p>Please contact me if you have any questions or issues: 01487 740745 or Steve.Criswell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Mr Rob Gore asked to respond to this email as follows: He objected to the first point raised, there were no rude interruptions and it was not a party political agenda. There were and are passionate parish councillors challenging their county councillor on issues they have been personally questioned on. Gritting and the cyclepath are regular examples of the questions the parish councillors receive and are by no means party political. Mr Gary James confirmed the county councillor is representing decisions made at shire hall, which is influenced by central government. Cllr Criswell is elected under a political party and is not an independent Cllr. Cllr Mike Francis & Cllr Robin Carter – sent their apologies and advised of nothing to raise at present.</p>	
201	<p>Speedwatch update – Mr Martin Crowhurst advised that despite speaking to 15 people about joining speedwatch only 1 person has expressed any interest. He has sent 3 emails to the school with no response from either the Head or the admin team. He feels there is too much apathy within the village and this project is a waste of time. Mr Gary James suggested contacting the school governors. Mrs Margaret Lumb asked him to remain positive and to hope that some interest will come following the advert in the newsletter. Mr Ian Shepherd is to publish on the website too.</p>	Ian Shepherd

	Anyone interest in getting involved with speedwatch please contact the clerk.	
202	<p>Meeting Walk – Mrs Margaret Lumb thanked the clerk for the research work carried out. Highways have confirmed that while they are not the land owners they will continue to remain responsible for the maintenance and improvements are still scheduled for 2017/18. The suggestion to get the parish council to adopt the land and register as owners was agreed. It will include the entire Meeting Walk footpath and the hedges along the same path, and to also include the orphaned land at the top of Orchard End. It was agreed to use the SLCC solicitor to complete the necessary documentation and to get this registered ASAP. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)</i></p>	Clerk
203	<p>Gritting- Mrs Margaret Lumb advised that road safety have written to CCC about the reduction to the gritting routes as several parishes have objected. Mr Steve Dighton had emailed to raise concern with the reduction in gritting on a school bus route. Cllr Criswell replied advising that school bus routes are not always gritted. The Heath Road is a secondary route and if possible it will be gritted in extreme weather. CCC Highways suggested supplying grit bins along the Heath Road. The PC all agreed this was a ludicrous solution.</p>	
204	<p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16/02376/CLED – The clerk has received 3 letters of objection to this application. Mrs Kathy Searle went through the history to this application which started in 2010 where permission was granted by HDC using PPS7. The applicants had to prove that the proposal made a viable living as stated in their business plan. The temporary permission ended in 2014 and HDC Enforcement has been chasing the applicants since then. Mrs Kathy Searle requested the accounts from the applicant’s agent, to show if the business was viable, and did not receive them. The applicant made reference to documents submitted to HDC previously which hadn’t been received. The parish council voted to REFUSE this application based on insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the business is viable. <i>(Proposed Mrs Kathy Searle, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i> • Bidwells – Mr David Bainbridge thanked the PC for the opportunity to discuss this proposal which is still in a very early stage. The proposal is for a residential development on land along Colne Road, opposite the school. Initial plans show the potential for 135 houses, with 40% affordable. The development, if approved, would be delivered by davidsonsgroup.co.uk who have worked closely with Bidwells on other similar sites. The site is just over 7 hectares in size and outline planning permission with all matters reserved with the exception to the access is being sought. A pre application request is with HDC and the planning officer will be Gavin Taylor. Should this initial meeting be positive then community engagement will hopefully take place in February 2017/March 2017 and, if available, will be held in the village hall. Further information will be shared either on the parish council website or within the minutes. The initial plan is available to view on the website and the clerk has a larger copy if anyone wishes to view. Mr Ian Shepherd questioned why Bidwells feel this site will be deemed more favourable for housing when others in the village have been turned down. Bidwells advised that the National plan policy framework has several grey areas which allows options for development, para 49 & para 47 will explain in further detail. Mr Gary James questioned the shaded area on the plan and the significance, David advised this was an initial drawing and would change following the pre application advice from HDC. Mr Rob Gore asked if Bidwells had worked with the davidsonsgroup before and if so what the % of affordable housing is likely to be. David advised they have done a lot of work with the davidsonsgroup and within Huntingdonshire the % for 	

	<p>affordable housing is likely to be between 30-40%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunrise Meadows – Mrs Kathy Searle advised Cllr Mike Francis has spoken with Nigel Swaby at HDC and promised the outstanding planning application will not run over 2 years, currently this has been running for 20 months. 	
205	<p>Project update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone box – Mr Alan Moules has completed the project and has sealed all the windows to prevent further water damage. The light still doesn't work but he will investigate. The puzzles have now been removed as someone had tipped them all over the floor. Mrs Margaret Lumb thanked Mr Alan Moules for his efforts. • Website – promoting local businesses – Mr Ian Shepherd advised he has received one more enquiry since the newsletter went out and will give it another week before publishing the page. 	<p>Alan Moules</p> <p>Ian Shepherd</p>
206	<p>Village Maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedge cutting contract 2017 onwards – Mrs Philippa Hope met with Mr David Gedye and reviewed the hedge schedule. It was agreed to include the stretch along Colne Road from Sumerling Way to the school and to flail the recreation ground hedge, which should save money. A 2 year contract is to be sought and the clerk is to send the document out to local companies to tender. • Hedge to Mill Lane – the clerk advised the hedge is ready for delivery and subject to Feoffees approval can be delivered. Mr John Wadsworth kindly offered to dig a trench and Mrs Margaret Lumb and Mr Rob Gore are happy to plant the hedge. • Tree on orphaned land – Mrs Philippa Hope advised that in order to make a difference to the light these trees would need cutting down, however, it was agreed to wait until all the leaves have fallen to see if this makes a difference. If not the trees will remain. • Parish Ditches – Mrs Margaret Lumb asked if anyone knew of the location of the parish council ditches within the village. It was agreed that no further action would be taken with this as no confirmed ditches could be named. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Philippa Hope</p>
207	<p>Committee updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMC meeting – Mr Ian Shepherd and Mr Gary James and Mr Alan Moules all volunteered to help with fixing the blinds in the village hall when the clerk arranges for a scissor lift to be available. • Finance meeting – no further comments. • Allotments committee – Mr Frank Hudson advised that complaints had been made about plot 7, however the holder is not well so no action is to be taken. The BALGA group are going to The Green Man for their Christmas Lunch. • Staff management – Mr Rob Gore and Mr Mark Berg are to send dates to Mrs Margaret Lumb for the clerks appraisal. • Crime – weekly reports shared via email, no other comments to make. • Road safety – the main areas for concern raised were gritting routes and speeding. • Highway warden – Mrs Margaret Lumb reported pot holes in Presses Close following a walkabout with the Highways officer. CCC advised the worst holes will be patched as there is insufficient funds to resurface the entire road. • HCV – the group continues to look at speed reductions in some villages to 20mph, none of these are for Bluntisham though. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Rob Gore/Mark Berg</p>
208	<p>Event update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27th January Ghost of Mr Dickens – the clerk advised that the garage is now selling tickets for this event. All to promote as a minimum of 50 tickets needs to be sold. • 4th February Pop Quiz – tickets available £20 per team (max 6 per team) 5 tickets remain for this quiz. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th March Black tie– This event will be discussed further at the next HMC meeting and possibly be a May Ball. 	
209	Agree meeting dates for 2017 – the clerk shared the meeting dates for 2017 (see below). <i>(Proposed Mr Alan Moules, seconded Mr Ian Shepherd. All agreed.)</i>	
210	Correspondence received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Boundary Commission • Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 • CCC Gritting route update • CCC – New innovation fund • Interim review of polling districts, polling places & polling stations • CCC – HGV covenant 	
211	Items for consideration (for information only) Mr Ian Shepherd asked if an outdoor table tennis table could go on the list for the next project. Mrs Philippa Hope asked about the public liability insurance for the Feoffees and to include the barograph within the PC insurance. The clerk is to investigate costs. Mr Frank Hudson raised concern with people letting dogs off the lead along footpath 4. All dogs are to remain on a lead. The clerk reminded the PC of the dustbin she has in her garage which needs fixing along Short Lane. Mr Alan Moules happy to help and the clerk is to speak with Mr Martin Crane.	Clerk Clerk Mark Berg/Alan Moules

Meeting closed 21.50pm Next meeting: Wednesday 4th January 2017