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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,
Bluntisham**

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

Also present: 70+ members of the public, Cllr Criswell, Cllr Francis, Cllr Carter

Open forum

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and invited members of the public to the open forum for items on the agenda, excluding the Bidwells application, which will be a separate discussion. No comments on the agenda.

The Chairman welcomed Chloe French from Bidwells to present the findings from the recent exhibition held on 21st February for the proposal to build 135 homes on the land opposite the school, Colne Road, Bluntisham.

Chloe advised that approximately 200 people attended the exhibition and 68 responses on the proposal had been received so far, more are welcome and details of how to respond are available on the parish council website: www.bluntishamparishcouncil.org

The display boards will remain in the village hall for anyone to view and these are also available on line.

Chloe highlighted the 5 main points from the responses received so far:

1. An increase in traffic and wider concerns with the poor transport links in the village. Concern around the figures for traffic flow between 8 – 9am and 5 – 6pm as detailed by Bidwells.

Bidwells confirmed the traffic flow is being reviewed again but was based on generic data. Further discussions with HDC and CCC around the pressure points and key junctions.

2. The location of the entrance to the site in relation to the school is potentially dangerous.

The access to the site can't be moved, however, traffic calming would be reviewed as part of the development. Any further suggestions on options gratefully received.

3. The capacity of primary and secondary schools.

CCC have confirmed the current capacity for St Helens is 210, the figures to date show that there are 203 pupils in the school. Figures show that based on the current scheme approximately 40 new primary school places would be needed and a financial contribution towards the school would reflect this. Secondary schooling shows that approximately 34 places would be needed and to date there are 350 spaces available in local secondary schools. The formula for identifying the number of places needed, and available, changes so would be reviewed again to identify the financial contribution required.

4. The affordable housing options

The development will provide 54 affordable units. HDC and housing association (to be confirmed) will be responsible for the allocation of these properties but the split is likely to be 38 affordable rent and 16 shared ownership. The mixture of properties would include flats, bungalows, 2,3 & 4 bedroom houses.

	<p>5. The scale is too large for this small village. <i>Bidwells welcome all suggestions and confirmed this was a first draft and not a fixed plan. They would like to listen to all concerns and asked what number of dwellings would Bluntisham consider as suitable.</i></p> <p>Several additional questions were raised by members of the public which can be found as a separate appendix to these minutes. <i>Appendix 1</i></p> <p>The Chairman thanked Chloe and advised members of the public if they wished to leave they could do so. Approximately 50 people left at this point.</p> <p>The meeting opened at 8.47pm</p>	
251	Dispensation Forms received & decisions given - None	
252	Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – Martin Crowhurst item 254 17/00258/FUL & Philippa Hope item 261 BACS run 3.2.17	
253	Apologies for absence – None	
254	<p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bidwells – the parish council agreed to put a survey together to gauge the opinion from the whole village. It was suggested contacting Colne PC to ask if they wish to be part of the same survey. • 17/00134/HHFUL – Timber framed garage with studio/store over and pool enclosure to rear. 34 High Street, Bluntisham. Mrs Kathy Searle expressed concern with the height of the apex of the timber barn which can be seen from the streetscene in the conservation area. She recommended the application be REFUSED on this basis. (<i>Proposed Mrs Kathy Searle, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.</i>) • 17/00258/FUL – change of use of public house to a detached 4 bedroom house with a double garage. Prince of Wales, 13 Rectory Road, Bluntisham. Mrs Kathy Searle advised that despite the owner trying to sell the property as a going concern in the 2 years no offers have been received. The proposal will enhance the streetscene and bring the property back into use again and a recommendation to APPROVE the application was made. (<i>Proposal Mrs Kathy Searle, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All agreed.</i>) • 17/00074/PMBPA – change of use to residential. The Witches Twist Chicken Farm, The Heath, Bluntisham. This application was for information purposes only as no formal response from the parish council is to be made due to the nature of the proposal. Any individual comments can be made to HDC. • 17/00075/PMBPA – change of use to residential. Agricultural building, Mill Lane, Bluntisham. This application was for information purposes only as no formal response from the parish council is to be made due to the nature of the proposal. Any individual comments can be made to HDC. 	Clerk
255	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 1st February to be approved and signed by the chairman – The chairman signed the minutes. (<i>Proposed Mr Alan Moules, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.</i>)	
256	Matters arising from previous minutes – .None.	
257	Election of Vice Chairman – Mrs Philippa Hope proposed Mr Gary James and Mr Frank Hudson seconded. All agreed.	
258	Co-opt new councillor – it was agreed to advertising the vacancy and the clerk is to use the advert from May 2016. All previous applicants need to re-apply. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.</i>)	Clerk
259	<p>Village Christmas Lights – Mr Rob Gore suggested having a smaller tree in the centre of the village again this year near the barograph and having a larger tree on the grass area near the war memorial, which can be a safer place to sing carols. Mr Rob Gore will investigate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate with HDC if a tree can be erected on the grass area. 	Rob Gore

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the costs for a larger tree, if allowed. <p>The clerk read out correspondence from the Feoffees, who were unable to attend the meeting: Feoffees are happy to cooperate with the PC with 2017 Christmas lights and like the suggestion above. They have agreed to continue to illuminate the barograph and bus shelter areas but will not attempt to place another “significant tree” on Block Hill for two reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Objections from motorists that it was a hazard and a danger to traffic in this already congested bottle neck of the village. The planter used to support the tree last year has sustained damage in moving it, we fear that once it is returned to its original position and repair it will probably disintegrate if we attempt to move it again, or use it to support another tree again. <p>The clerk advised that several people had asked if the advent window would go ahead again as they would like to get involved. Mr Rob Gore agreed to take ownership of this and report back in due course.</p>	
260	<p>FY2016/17 Accounts to end February 2017 – Mr Rob Gore fed back on the parish and village hall accounts. The PC income is £4361 ahead of budget, however, expenditure is £2102 over budget. As explained last month this is due to the purchase of the new mower. A surplus of £2259 to end of Feb, BUT, the Ransome needed serious repair including a new starter motor to get the machine to the garage to carry out the service. The projected cost of £1500 has been exceeded; however, the clerk is negotiating the final cost with Ben Burgess. The Village hall income is down due to the ad-hoc hall hire below budget set at £10k. It is important to note the income for the previous year for ad-hoc bookings was £7752, so there is a 10% growth to this current years income. Expenditure for the village hall is down so it is hopeful that there will be a surplus of £1500. Expenditure - £3944.61 Income - £4331.30 Bank balance - £28731.76 Cambs building society - £57120.40 <i>(Proposed Mr Alan Moules, seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.) Appendix 2</i></p>	
261	<p>Accounts for payment for February payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BACS run 3.2.17 Mr Rob Gore and Mr Alan Moules authorised this BACS run which was a total of £2460.60 BACS run 28.2.17 Mrs Philippa Hope and Mr Alan Moules authorised this BACS run which was a total of £444.91 <p><i>(Proposed Mr Ian Shepherd, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed)</i></p>	
262	<p>Authorise any purchase orders for February – The following purchase orders were signed by the Chairman: PO2016/022 Ken Booth & Co £90.76 + VAT, PO2016/023 Ken Booth & Co £147 + VAT, PO2016/021 Activ Security £380.00 + VAT.</p>	
263	<p>County Council & District Council reports Cllr Criswell advised the cyclepath continues to progress and remains in the solicitors hands. Earith PC have advised they are happy for the cycle path to continue from Bluntisham to Earith and have included it as part of their community plan. Cllr Criswell will start investigating funding options. Bluntisham PC support this fully. Colne PC have advised their LHI bid is for more speed humps which may be installed on the Bluntisham boundary. Bluntisham PC have no objections to this.</p> <p>Mr Gary James advised that 4 caravans were parked in Longstanton park and ride car park. Cllr Criswell will report.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Francis advised nothing to report from HDC but is happy to take questions. He</p>	

	<p>confirmed the Morrison’s application had been approved and the retail unit is one large unit so won’t impact on local businesses.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope asked if any planning application had been received for Giffords Farm, as Needingworth residents had been asked to submit their comments to HDC. Cllr Francis couldn’t confirm the status of this application.</p> <p>Post meeting note: Snapdragon consulting are presenting to Needingworth PC on 7th March their proposal for Giffords Farm.</p> <p>Mrs Sue Everest asked if the land opposite the Morrison’s site had received planning permission, if so what for as she had concerns with the traffic flow on this road. She suggested the parish council send their concerns to HDC.</p> <p>Mr Martin Crowhurst asked what the latest position is regarding Wyton. Cllr Francis advised he didn’t know and would get back to the PC with an update.</p>	Cllr Francis
264	<p>Closed churchyard update – the clerk has chased progress with HDC and Cllr Francis has advised that due to the change of staff some of the documents have been misplaced, he will chase this up in the morning.</p>	Cllr Francis
265	<p>Archive update – The clerk shared an update regarding the service offered by Cambridgeshire archives. It was agreed for the clerk to set a date for all to help with clearing out the old documents from the garage and to organise the minutes and any important documents to be sent for archiving. All documentation not required to be retained is to be destroyed (burnt or shredded).</p> <p><i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.)</i></p>	Clerk
266	<p>Meeting Walk update – the clerk advised that despite searching the archives no maps of the footpaths were available. The planning application for Orchard End showed the hedge to be retained, but no detail as to allowing access onto the footpath was mentioned. The plans just show the openings.</p> <p>The clerk has spoken with Jo Challis from CCC who advised that unless land owners permission is granted no access over the footpath will be allowed. As advised previously the land isn’t registered and can’t be registered to the PC and the CCC can’t pursue this either. It was agreed that temporary permission be granted to Mr & Mrs Hodson to allow access to the rear of the property for delivery of building materials, if they are unable to deliver from the front of the property. However, it is to be made clear that any damage is to be repaired and the hedge is not to be cut back. Finally Jo Challis confirmed that after this work is completed CCC are happy to install a bollard to protect the footpath.</p> <p>Mr Mark Berg suggested the PC contribute towards the cost of the bollard and the clerk is to put this in writing to CCC. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.)</i></p>	Clerk
267	<p>Parish Council Ditches – Mr Frank Hudson is still waiting to get confirmation of the detail and will report to the next meeting.</p>	Frank Hudson
268	<p>Community Speedwatch – Mr Rob Gore apologised for not arranging a meeting with the volunteers and agreed to arrange a date. Mr Mark Berg advised that as a result of the A14 project speed watch will be carried out in some villages, Bluntisham will be included on this schedule.</p>	Rob Gore
269	<p>Playpark safety inspection – April 2017 – the clerk advised that to wait for the safety inspection until September will cost £225 + VAT, which is double the cost to carry it out in April. It was agreed to carry out the inspection in April. <i>(Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All agreed.)</i></p>	Clerk
270	<p>Dog Fouling campaign – “we are watching you” – Mrs Philippa Hope asked if the PC would get involved in this campaign to try another method to encourage people to pick up after their dogs. The clerk advised the costs of the A3 glow in the dark signs and the minimum order amounts would mean an initial outlay of £250. It was agreed to see if</p>	Clerk

	Colne PC would like to join in the campaign and split the costs. Mr Alan Moules asked what the life span of the paint on the signs is. <i>(Mrs Philippa Hope proposed with Mrs Cynthia Curtis seconded, 7 votes in favour, 2 abstain and 1 vote against.)</i>	
271	Open Morning – 22nd April – the clerk advised of the responses received so far to the invites. Mr Gary James suggested inviting our MP and MEP.	Clerk
272	Village Hall intruder alarm – contract 2017/18 – the clerk shared the costs for the maintenance contract and central monitoring station with Activ Security for the coming year £380.00. It was agreed to continue with Activ for the coming year. <i>(Proposed Mr Alan Moules, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.)</i>	
273	Tractor insurance – 2017/18 – the clerk shared the quotes received for the insurance for the mowers: Rowett - £488.50 NFU Mutual - £634.83 Swinton – unable to quote It was agreed to continue with the cover with Rowett Insurance Brokers. <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.)</i>	
274	Village Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedge cutting contract 2017 onwards – the clerk shared the quotes received for the hedge cutting, full schedule can be seen as <i>appendix 3</i>. John Talbot Tree Surgery - £8100 Huntingdonshire District Council - £1842.65 East Cambs District Council - £6892.94 It was agreed to go with HDC for a 2 year period. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed.)</i> Phone box – Mr Alan Moules has emptied the excess books and cleaned the phone box and stressed that people are not to leave boxes and boxes of books. The light is still to be fixed. 	Clerk Alan Moules
275	Committee updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMC meeting – the clerk shared the profit made from the recent community events and advised of a further Quiz 6th May and pop up restaurant 20th September Mr Dickens – tickets & bar sales £153.11 Quiz night – raffle & tickets £471.00 Pop up restaurant – bar sales £187.54 The PC are happy to offer the village hall FOC to the church on Friday evenings to help raise money for the roof, events booked so far: 17th March – Family BINGO 12th May – Live band Finance meeting – the next meeting is scheduled for 27th March. Allotments committee – the clerk has had a further request for a plot and Mr Frank Hudson advised that plot 7 will be clear very soon. He advised the outer hedge has been cut by the land owner, which has left debris on the allotment side. 	
276	Correspondence received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicholas Beniston – traffic calming in Wood End – the chairman read this email out and it was agreed to pass the suggestion onto Mrs Margaret Lumb to discuss with the highway warden as a possibility for the next LHI submission. St Helens School – car park contribution the PC had a lengthy debate around this subject and agreed to pay the £400 outstanding but will discuss the future payments at the next meeting. The clerk is to speak with the school to advise. Sue Morgan- email re minutes – no further discussion needed Rob Gore – response to above email – no further discussion needed T Anderson – 17/00074/PMBPA – discussed above as part of planning Darren Young – Bidwells – discussed above as part of planning 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Lumb – update on roles the PC thanked Mrs Lumb for her kind offer and would like her to continue with these roles. (<i>Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All agreed.</i>) • John Morgan – email dated 31.1.17- this letter was read out as requested. 	
277	<p>Items for consideration (for information only)</p> <p>The clerk asked if the PC were happy for her to arrange the annual litter pick, all agreed to follow the same format as last year. The clerk advised the village hall car park work would be completed by 10th March and the decorating had been delayed until the 10th April.</p> <p>Mr Gary James raised concern with the latest crime report which showed locked vehicles had been broken into with no visual signs as to how.</p>	Clerk

Meeting closed 22.35 Next meeting: Wednesday 5th April 2017

Future Meeting dates

Wednesday	3 rd May	2017
Wednesday	7 th June	2017
Wednesday	5 th July	2017
Wednesday	2 nd August	2017
Wednesday	6 th September	2017
Wednesday	4 th October	2017
Wednesday	1 st November	2017
Wednesday	6 th December	2017