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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 5th April 2017 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,
Bluntisham**

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

Also present: 11 x members of the public & Cllr Carter

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| | <p>Open forum Mr Michael Worth expressed concern with the planning application 17/00134/HHFUL. The main concerns on the amended plans are the noise from the increase in the number of doors & pump system. The potential commercial use, as highlighted in the design statement and the parking for 8 vehicles raises concerns with additional traffic on an already dangerous road. Mrs Kathy Searle advised that any commercial use would require an additional planning application.</p> <p>Mrs Anne Parker asked if a swimming pool goes into this property what work will be done to improve the road directly outside the property.</p> <p>Mrs Sue Everest raised concern with the road surface on White Bridge Corner. The clerk advised this had been reported to CCC Highways and the road is on the schedule for re-surfacing this financial year. It was suggested the clerk raise this with Cllr Criswell.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: further information received from CCC Highways - The defects at the bend are thin surface layer stripping, they have not currently reached intervention level. The A1123 is on the Principal Road inspections visit and is inspected monthly, Nathan our Inspector is aware of the defects and keeping an eye on them. There is also a resurfacing Scheme scheduled for this financial year for Needingworth Road / Station Road.</i></p> <p><i>Regards</i> <i>Brian Murdoch</i></p> <p>Meeting opened 8.08pm</p> | |
| 278 | Dispensation Forms received & decisions given - None | |
| 279 | Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – Mr Alan Moules item 295 – 17/00499/LBC. Mr Gary James item 296 – school car park | |
| 280 | Apologies for absence – Mr Ian Shepherd, Mrs Philippa Hope, Cllr Steve Criswell, Cllr Mike Francis. | |
| 281 | Co-opt new councillor – the parish council met with the 2 candidates prior to the meeting and voted to co-opt Mr Roger Steel onto the parish council. They thanked Mr Richard Kenyon and asked him to join HMC. <i>(Proposed Mr Alan Moules, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.)</i> | |
| 282 | Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 1st March to be approved and signed by the chairman – The chairman signed the minutes. <i>(Proposed Mr Alan Moules, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.)</i> | |
| 283 | Matters arising from previous minutes – None. | |
| 284 | FY2016/17 Accounts to end March 2017 – the clerk updated on the final year end accounts and although both income and expenditure are higher than budgeted this is due | |

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| | <p>to the grants received and equipment purchased for the play park improvements along with the purchase of the new John Deere mower. The final audited accounts will be presented to the PC at the next meeting.</p> <p>Expenditure for March 17 - £9846.30 Income for March 17 - £3093.17 Year end expenditure 2016/17 - £220595.53 Year end income 2016/17 - £209067.27 <i>(Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed.)</i></p> | |
| 285 | <p>Accounts for payment for March payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BACS run 3.3.17 Mr Rob Gore and Mr Alan Moules authorised this BACS run which was a total of £2671.28 • BACS run 31.3.17 Mr Rob Gore and Mrs Cynthia Curtis authorised this BACS run which was a total of £4103.63 <p><i>(Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed.)</i></p> | |
| 286 | <p>Authorise any purchase orders for March – The chairman signed purchase order reference 2017/001 - £80 + VAT for new padlock for field store.</p> | |
| 287 | <p>FY2017/18 Accounts – the clerk advised that due to the changes to the small business rate relief the village hall for this year has a full exemption, therefore a saving of £2300.</p> | |
| 288 | <p>County Council & District Council reports</p> <p>Cllr Robin Carter advised that due to the end of the financial year things are quiet at HDC. The new refuse changes have gone well, any problems please report directly to HDC and ongoing problems to Cllr Carter who will investigate. It was agreed that Colne will join the Earith ward for the 2018 elections. Cllr Carter advised he will be standing for election in 2018.</p> <p>Cllr Steve Criswell was unwell and unable to attend the meeting but the clerk read out the following correspondence received: Cycleway – it would appear that we have now reached agreements acceptable to the land owners. This has been long-winded and involved significant changes to what was originally proposed. I fervently hope we are in the final phase before signing. The barriers erected at White Bridge corner have caused considerable consternation. They were erected at the instruction of the Highway Safety team following complaints that cyclists were dropping off the verge into traffic without warning, rather than cross the grass. As the cycleway is not yet open, they decided to block it off. My concern is that this will also force cyclists onto the road and so I have asked them to be removed. I was very recently able to grab a unique opportunity to obtain funding for the completion of the scheme to Earith. This is government funding for the completion of schemes that can be delivered within 12 months. By realigning the road slightly at the pinch point opposite the church, there will be no need to acquire land. This can therefore proceed at the same time as completion at the bridge area. The clerk is to ask for updated plans for the open morning if available.</p> | Clerk |
| 289 | <p>Parish Council Ditches – Mr Frank Hudson confirmed the location of 4 ditches belonging to the parish council. It was agreed to get these plotted onto a map and then investigate quotes to clear, if necessary. Mr Mark Berg asked if there was any history with any of them flooding in the past and also if there was an access strip for clearing. Once plotted the PC will review the appropriate course of action to take.</p> | Frank Hudson |
| 290 | <p>Community Speedwatch – Mr Rob Gore has contacted all the volunteers who put their names forward and 3 out of the 4 have replied advising they are still interested. Mr Gore has passed this information onto Mr Martin Crowhurst who will contact Adam Renwick for advice about suitable locations and training. Mr Mark Berg advised that money is being given to speedwatch by the A14 project team to purchase 3 sets of equipment to be used by villages signed up to speedwatch. Mr Gary James confirmed if available he</p> | Martin Crowhurst |

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| | would be willing to attend training. | |
| 291 | Open Morning – 22nd April – the clerk asked permission to print the detail onto an A5 postcard style leaflet for delivery. It was suggested to print double sided and to ask for suggestions for the 5 year plan, which could be dropped off to the clerk or at the open morning. It was agreed to use Impressions printing in Somersham for the leaflets. Mr Frank Hudson and Mr Roger Steel confirmed they are not able to attend. | Clerk |
| 292 | 5 Year plan –It was agreed to take off all items which have been completed and to review following suggestions at the open morning. | Clerk |
| 293 | LHI decision & timescale – the clerk advised the PC had been successful with their recent bid to install a refuge island along Station Road to make a safer route to the garage. No details on timescales have been given to date. | |
| 294 | Date of Annual Parish Meeting, date, location & content – The clerk suggested Monday 15 th May at the Baptist Chapel, who kindly offered the venue FOC. Mrs Kathy Searle expressed her upset with the change of venue and feels strongly the meeting should be in the village hall. It was agreed to hold the meeting on Tuesday 16 th May in the Bramley Room of the village hall from 8pm. The clerk advised she would be unable to attend. The clerk is to inform all local charities and to get their reports before the meeting. | Clerk |
| 295 | <p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17/00384/HHFUL – Erection of new boundary fencing & extension to front of property to create new entrance hall. 4 Station Road, Bluntisham. Mrs Kathy Searle questioned HDC as to why this was a full planning application, when the work falls within permitted development, and was advised that as the property falls on a 40mph road planning permission is required. It was agreed to APPROVE the application as the PC felt the changes would improve the appearance to the dwelling. (<i>Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed.</i>) • 17/00499/LBC – Removal of existing small rear extension & construction of larger extension. 26 High Street, Bluntisham. Mrs Kathy Searle advised the works falls within permitted development and it is only listed building consent which is required. The proposal improves the dwelling and recommended the PC APPROVE the application. (<i>Proposed Mr Gary James, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed with exception to Mr Alan Moules who abstained from voting.</i>) • 17/00134/HHFUL – Timber framed garage with studio/store over and pool enclosure to rear. 34 High Street, Bluntisham. The PC were asked to comment on the amended plan submitted to HDC on 28th March. As this now falls within permitted development the PC are unable to comment on the scale & design. Mrs Kathy Searle proposed to REJECT the application based on the potential for commercial use as stated in the design statement. With the existing parking problems to the front of the dwelling, any increase in traffic could be deemed dangerous in such a busy area within the village. (<i>Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.</i>) • Mrs Kathy Searle advised that applications 17/00041/TREE, 17/00042/TREE & 17/00074/PMBPA had been approved by HDC. 17/00258/FUL & 17/00075/PMBPA are still awaiting a decision. A public notice was put in the local paper regarding the land ownership at Sunrise Meadows. Hopefully this will speed up the planning decision for the long term on these plots. • The clerk shared a summary of the results of the recent survey carried out concerning the proposed development along Colne Road. A full report can be viewed on the website, <i>appendix 1</i> 14% of all surveys delivered were returned. 66% of those returned were AGAINST the proposal in its current form 18% of those returned were in SUPPORT of the proposal in its current form 16% of those returned were UNSURE of the proposal in its current form | |

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| | <p>The main concerns were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overdevelopment of site • Road safety • School options • Transport & infrastructure <p>There were concerns raised by members of the public that the PC are sharing detail with Bidwells & they were consulting the village on something that wasn't an application. The PC advised they are happy to share all responses as they have nothing to hide and they wanted to get opinions from as many as possible within the village in order to form their opinion when a planning application is submitted. At the time of receipt of any planning application the PC only have the statutory timescale of 21 days in which to comment. Obtaining views via a survey within this timescale is too tight.</p> | |
| 296 | <p>Village Maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter pick – Saturday 8th April meet at the Baptist Chapel at 10am. The clerk is to provide all safety and litter pick equipment. All children must be accompanied by an adult. • School car park – It was agreed, after a lengthy discussion, that the PC should offer to pay 1/3 of the annual rent and would be willing to contribute towards maintenance on a case by case basis subject to satisfactory invoice and works being completed up to a maximum of £200. The clerk is to account for this within the budget and to inform the school. (<i>Proposed Mr Alan Moules, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed with exception of Mr Gary James who abstained from voting.</i>) • Dog Fouling – It was agreed to use the district council's dog fouling letter to target problem areas within the village on an ad-hoc basis. The clerk is to print copies for delivery and Mrs Kathy Searle is happy to deliver. (<i>Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.</i>) • The clerk shared an update from Mrs Margaret Lumb following a Highway walkabout, road safety & Hanson meetings: Highway - Pothole at T-Junction reported and noted. White Bridge corner reported and scheduled for resurface this financial year. Wood End – road layout already reduces speed. Humps would only slow saloon cars. Black box for 24hr monitoring has been requested and detail on SIDs shared. Road Safety – Concerns with Giffords Farm proposal and increase in traffic on A1123. Parking in St Ives continues to be a problem as it isn't enforced by St Ives Town Council. Hanson – now selling most of sand & gravel extracted. Fewer problems since conveyor has been replaced. CCC has not had any noise complaints since the last meeting in September. Request to increase operating hours may be made to CCC but this will not result in extra vehicular traffic as it would be internal to the site. | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 297 | <p>Committee updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMC meeting – the next meeting is Monday 10th April and the agenda has been published. Mrs Kathy Searle confirmed she is happy with the working from heights risk assessment produced by the clerk. Work to the hall starts on Monday 10th April with the fire alarm, lights maintenance & decorating. • Finance meeting – Mr Rob Gore advised nothing further to add following the meeting on 27th March. • Allotments committee – Mr Frank Hudson advised the water was now on and the clerk confirmed all vacant plots were now filled. | |
| 298 | <p>Correspondence received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Wellings – silver birch tree. The clerk is to confirm the PC are reviewing all | Clerk |

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| | <p>trees on parish land and will come up with a maintenance programme asap. The clerk raised concern with the lack of response from HDC to agree to meet to try and plot all trees. Cllr Robin Carter suggested contacting Mr Neil Sloper – Operations Manager who is undertaking full survey of all HDC trees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EACH letter – Mr Rob Gore suggested the PC adopt a charity each year and offer the village hall at the charity rate and offer stalls at any fundraising events FOC to raise funds. All agreed this was a great charity to support for the first year. <i>(Propose Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.)</i> • HDC Tree Warden – the clerk shared the correspondence received from HDC and Mr Frank Hudson and Mr Roger Steel volunteered to be the parish tree wardens. • Cambs ACRE – the clerk shared the leaflet produced and is to request more for the open morning. | Clerk |
| 299 | <p>Items for consideration (for information only)</p> <p>Mr Ian Shepherd asked if the trees along Mill Lane could be cut. The clerk is to formally write to the Feoffee's to request this.</p> <p>The clerk shared the verbal communication received from the land registry regarding Meeting Walk registration. Further affidavits are needed to provide evidence along with more up dated information and the land registry advised they may not support the application. The clerk also advised of the additional information needed in order to change the address of land owned by the PC.</p> | Clerk |

Meeting closed 21.47pm Next meeting: Wednesday 3rd May 2017

Future Meeting dates

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| 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 |