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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,  
Bluntisham**

**Present:** Chairman Mr Mark Berg, Mr Frank Hudson, Mr Rob Gore, Mr Martin Crowhurst, Mrs Cynthia Curtis Mrs Kathy Searle, Mrs Philippa Hope, Mr Roger Steel & Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk)

**Also present:** 5 x members of the public & Cllr Criswell, Cllr Francis & Cllr Carter

	<p><b>Open forum</b> The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting wished all a healthy and happy new year. The forum was opened for questions for items on the agenda. No questions were raised.</p> <p>Meeting opened at 8.00pm</p>	
176	<b>Dispensation Forms received &amp; decisions given - None</b>	
177	<b>Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – Mrs Philippa Hope item 184 BACS run 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017.</b>	
178	<b>Apologies for absence –Mr Gary James</b>	
179	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2036 final consultation &amp; Infrastructure Delivery Plan -</b> Mr Mark Berg asked both Cllr Francis &amp; Cllr Carter how the changes came about to the document with the introduction of the Local Service Centres. Both Cllr’s advised they were disappointed with the proposed change and that Earith meets the criteria, but hasn’t been included. Cllr Carter advised the PC should be commenting on the soundness of the document.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope questioned the soundness of the document as Bluntisham doctor’s only operates for 1 hour per week in the village, which hardly makes it a standard doctor’s surgery. There is no space to extend the village hall or increase the number of football pitches, as recommended in the infrastructure delivery plan document. Mrs Philippa Hope is prepared to write a report on the soundness of the document on behalf of Bluntisham PC.</p> <p>Mrs Parker asked if the District Councillors would take the concerns of the PC &amp; residents to the council. She raised concern with the reduction in services available at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Cllr Carter advised that HDC are aware of the residents concerns.</p> <p>Mrs Everest expressed concern with the timing of the document and stated the dates within the e-petition are incorrect. She raised concern with the PC not consulting with the wider community.</p> <p>Mr Mark Berg asked Cllr Carter &amp; Cllr Francis what the PC could do to stop the proposed changes, which if approved will result in large scale development in the village. Cllr Francis advised the only thing the PC can do is question the soundness of the document. Cllr Francis stated that he felt it very unfair that Bluntisham had been included as he &amp; Cllr Carter made several suggestions for alternative sites for development within the district, which were rejected by HDC.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope asked who will review the soundness of the document. Cllr Carter advised the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Mrs Everest asked if the changes to the Local Plan were as a result of the removal of</p> </li> </ul>	

	<p>the Wyton development. Cllr Carter advised yes. Mr Mark Berg confirmed the action for the PC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Write to the MP</li> <li>ii. Write to the Secretary of State</li> <li>iii. Write to HDC</li> </ol> <p>with their reasons why the document isn't sound. All to be completed within the tight timescale of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note: The PC also agreed to inform the residents via a leaflet.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DC Meeting - Station Road</b> - Mr Rob Gore advised of the decision made at the DMC meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December. The committee agreed to defer the application as they all felt a decision couldn't be made on the removal of the businesses without a decision on the proposed development to create the businesses &amp; housing on the opposite side of the road. He suggested we invite Mr Steve Highland to attend the next PC meeting to discuss his proposal. The clerk is to contact Mr Highland to inform him of the meeting date.</li> <li>• <b>17/02639/TREE</b> - Mr Roger Steel &amp; Mr Frank Hudson carried out a site visit and recommended the PC support the proposal. The PC voted to APPROVE the proposal. (<i>Proposed Mr Roger Steel, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.</i>)</li> <li>• <b>17/02638/TREE</b> - Mr Roger Steel &amp; Mr Frank Hudson carried out a site visit and recommended the PC support the proposal. The PC voted to APPROVE the proposal. (<i>Proposed Mr Roger Steel, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.</i>)</li> <li>• <b>17/02445/HHFUL</b> - Mrs Kathy Searle &amp; Mrs Cynthia Curtis carried out a site visit and recommended the PC support the proposal. The PC Voted to APPROVE the proposal. (<i>Proposed Mrs Cynthia Curtis, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>Philipp a Hope</p> <p>Clerk</p>
180	<p><b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> December to be approved and signed by the Chairman</b> – The minutes were signed by the Chairman. (<i>Proposed Mr Martin Crowhurst, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.</i>)</p>	
181	<p><b>Matters arising from previous minutes not on the agenda</b> – None.</p>	
182	<p><b>County Council &amp; District Council reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Steve Criswell</b> - wished everyone a Happy New Year. He advised the work on the Earith section of the cycleway will start within the next 4 weeks. CCC Officers are working on a timetable of works which can be communicated to all. This should be made available within the next 2 weeks. This will include the details of the road closures for resurfacing work as well. Cllr Criswell advised the question of parking on the road when the speed limit is reduced will not change. There are currently solid white lines in areas, which will remain. There are no other lines on the road at present and vehicles don't park on the road. Nothing else to report and welcomed questions.</p> <p>Mr Mark Berg advised of correspondence received in relation to flooding along Station Road. Cllr Criswell advised he received the same letter and is dealing with it. Highways officers have already been out to look at the area.</p> <p><b>Cllr Robin Carter:</b> advised that HDC are now looking at the budget for 18/19 and is proposing to increase the precept by 2% per property. This will make the HDC element of the precept on an average Band D property £138.60 pa. Cllr Carter advised that HDC faces funding problems as the new homes bonus is being reduced by 26% and the revenue support grant is being reduced by 49%. He advised that HDC has been working hard to achieve a self sufficient budget.</p> <p><b>Cllr Mike Francis:</b> nothing further to add.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Criswel l</p>
183	<p><b>FY2017/18 Accounts to end December 2017</b> – Mrs Philippa Hope went through the accounts and advised of very little change from last month. The village maintenance has an</p>	

	<p>underspend and as we approach the final quarter suggested spending this money on village improvements. The village hall income should end ahead of budget and the village hall accounts look to be on target despite the large investment earlier in the year on improvements to the security of the field store. Thanks to the clerk for her efforts with securing the additional bookings.</p> <p>Income December - £2900.50 Expenditure December -£4933.31 (Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.)</p>	
184	<p><b>Accounts for payment for December</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BACS run 8<sup>th</sup> December- £2564.92 authorised by Mrs Cynthia Curtis &amp; Mr Martin Crowhurst</li> <li>• BACS run 31<sup>st</sup> December - £1431.62 authorised by Mr Rob Gore &amp; Mrs Philippa Hope</li> </ul> <p>(Proposed Mrs Cynthia Curtis, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)</p>	
185	<p><b>Village Maintenance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Holliday's Road</b> - the clerk advised of the works to improve this section of the footpath, as requested by several residents. CCC Highways agreed the footpath isn't adequate, but advised there was no money available for improvements. If the PC wanted to improve the full stretch of the footpath to a width of 1.8m the approximate cost would be £150 per linier metre, the length of the footpath is 250 metres. Alternatives would be to dig out the worst sections and the clerk had investigated the section close to the pond, which showed the tarmac to be sound, however the hedgerow is so overgrown that any improvement to the footpath along this section would be lost until the hedge is cut back.</li> </ul> <p>The clerk obtained a quote from HDC to cut the hedge back to the chain link fence and to clear the pond area including removal of the dead tree. Also for HDC to cut back the grass from the footpath. The cost of this works is £733.00 + VAT.</p> <p>The clerk suggested getting a working party together to cut back the other sections along this footpath once the work had been completed. The clerk also advised she would speak with the neighbours adjacent to the pond ahead of any works taking place.</p> <p>A vote to carry out the maintenance works was unanimously approved. (Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LHI 2018</b> - the clerk shared the project feasibility summary document which showed favourable support for the scheme. The clerk advised she will present the proposal on 17<sup>th</sup> January to the LHI panel.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
186	<p><b>Committee updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMC – Mr Mark Berg advised that electricity options for the village hall is an outstanding project and will be reviewed at the next meeting. Several fund raising events have been organised for 2018 and will be published in due course. The next quiz is a 70's theme on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Teams of 6 at a cost of £20 per team. Tables are booking quickly so please contact the clerk if interested.</li> <li>• Allotment - Mr Frank Hudson advised nothing to report.</li> <li>• Updates from Mrs M Lumb – no report but to advise the poppy appeal in Bluntisham raised £4788.23. Thanks to all who supported.</li> </ul>	<p>HMC</p> <p>INFO</p>
187	<p>Correspondence received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J Heath - Bluntisham Facebook. The clerk shared correspondence received from J Heath electronically. It was agreed the community facebook page is not part of the parish council and any person can request to become a member. The clerk advised that the administration of the page has been agreed so all administrators are working to the same policy.</li> </ul>	

188	<p><b>Items for consideration (for information only)</b></p> <p>Mr Martin Crowhurst advised the Prince of Wales is up for sale again, the reason the previous sale fell through was due to the fact that a residential mortgage can't be obtained on the site as it is a commercial plot. The owner has agreed to improve the security fencing.</p> <p>Mr Rob Gore advised that he had been approached by a member of Colne PC in respect of their good neighbour scheme which has some Bluntisham residents. He advised that they contact the clerk with the details.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope asked if the white lines had been painted at the end of Colne Road. The clerk advised they had and will inform Mr Crocker.</p>	<p>INFO</p> <p>INFO</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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**Bluntisham 100 club draw took place:**

**1<sup>st</sup> place wins £50 - 8 Amy Curtis**

**2<sup>nd</sup> place wins £20 - 29 Rachel Knap**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place wins £10 - 21 - Janet Gedye**

**A few numbers remain if anyone is interested in joining the 100 club please contact Cynthia Curtis - blunticyn@gmail.com**

Meeting closed 9:45pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

**Future Meeting dates**

Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup> March	2018
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup> April	2018
Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	2018
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> June	2018
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup> July	2018
Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup> August	2018
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup> September	2018
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> October	2018
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup> November	2018
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup> December	2018