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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,  
Bluntisham**

**Present:** Vice Chairman Mr Gary James, Mr Frank Hudson, Mr Roger Steel, Mr Rob Gore, Mr Martin Crowhurst, Mrs Cynthia Curtis & Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk)

**Also present:** 13 x members of the public & Cllr Criswell, Cllr Francis & Cllr Carter

	<p><b>Open forum</b> The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the forum for questions with items on the agenda. Mr Harry Potter wanted to compliment HDC on the great job they did on cutting the village hedges, however he did advise that some debris was left on the grass area of the hedge at Orchard End which he has cleared away. He then asked if the PC would reconsider their earlier decision to claim ownership of this stretch of hedgerow and Mr David Gedye offered to help the clerk if the PC agree to this. Finally Mr Harry Potter thanked the clerk for reminding CCC Highways of their earlier decision to install bollards on the entrance to this footpath. Mr Gary James thanked Mr Harry Potter for clearing up the debris and the clerk will add the footpath onto the next agenda for discussion. A resident of Wood End asked how they can object to the proposed development at the top of Wood End. The clerk advised that until a formal planning application is submitted there is nothing to comment on as yet. A resident of Station Road asked what the work to the highways which is due to start on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. The clerk advised this was the final phase of the cyclepath from Bluntisham to Needingworth. Mrs Sue Everest asked why the LHI money obtained for the refuge island couldn't be spent on improving the cross roads at The Heath as she feels that introducing a traffic island is dangerous. Mr Gary James advised that by adding a refuge along Station Road and also Rectory Road will enable the parish council to apply to reduce the speed limit along this road to 30mph. Something which the majority of residents have been asking for over the years. Meeting opened at 8.13pm</p>	Clerk
139	<b>Dispensation Forms received &amp; decisions given - None</b>	
140	<b>Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None.</b>	
141	<b>Apologies for absence –Mrs Kathy Searle, Mr Mark Berg, Mrs Philippa Hope.</b>	
142	<p><b>Planning:</b> <b>17/02045/HHFUL</b>– single storey rear extension &amp; internal alterations. 21 St Mary's Road, Bluntisham PE28 3XA. The Parish Council discussed the application with the applicant who confirmed he had spoken to his neighbour who had no objections and advised that no light will be lost as a result of the proposal. Other properties along this road had a similar extension. The PC voted to APPROVE the application on this basis. (<i>Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.</i>)  <b>15/00364/FUL</b> – continued use of land for 11 pitches for romany gypsy occupation and the siting of 1 mobile home, 1 or 2 touring caravans, dayroom/amenity block on each pitch and the retention of the access drive, private sewage treatment plants &amp; associated works. Sunrise Meadows, Needingworth Road, Bluntisham.</p>	

	<p>The PC had previously approved this application but were on the understanding it was for a further temporary basis. As no other concerns were raised all councillors voted to APPROVE the application on a permanent basis. (<i>Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mr Roger Steel. All agreed.</i>)</p> <p><b>Housing &amp; Economic Land Availability Assessment: October 2017</b> – the clerk advised the only sites which HDC had deemed suitable were the ones that had already had planning applications on. The other sites identified in the village have been deemed unsuitable by HDC. The clerk stressed that while the sites are deemed suitable, this doesn't mean that planning will be granted. The sites are: Colne Road (large and small), Station Road, High Street.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Francis added that this assessment does not include rural exception sites as these can only be developed if the rural exception criteria is adopted. He did stress that although part of the Station Road site is deemed rural exception the site in the HELAA document is larger and includes part of the orchard area which is protected with a TPO. He stressed that although sites may not be developed immediately the pressure from central government to build makes it inevitable that at some point in the future there will be further development. The main concern for the Parish is to have as much control as possible over any development to ensure maximum benefit and minimal disruption.</p> <p><b>17/02231/TREE</b> – Ash, sycamore &amp; walnut trees – 3 The Paddock, Bluntisham. Mr Roger Steel and Mr Frank Hudson carried out a site visit on 31<sup>st</sup> October and recommended that the ash tree would benefit from having a branch removed that overhangs the estate road and the tree that slightly overhangs the village road could be reduced by 1 metre. It was recommended to APPROVE the application with reservations detailed above. The clerk is to pass these recommendations onto HDC. (<i>Proposed Mr Roger Steel, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.</i>)</p> <p><b>17/01358/TREE</b> – 33 Wood End, Bluntisham – Mr Roger Steel and Mr Frank Hudson carried out a site visit on 31<sup>st</sup> October and recommended the tree could be reduced by 1/3<sup>rd</sup> which would maintain the shape and give room to the overhead cables. The neighbour stressed he would like the tree removed. The tree is healthy and sits close to the boundary. It was recommended to APPROVE the application with reservations detailed above. The clerk is to pass these recommendations onto HDC (<i>Proposed Mr Roger Steel, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.</i>)</p>	
143	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> October to be approved and signed by the vice chairman</b> – The minutes were signed by the Vice Chairman. ( <i>Proposed Mr Roger Steel, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.</i> )	
144	<b>Matters arising from previous minutes</b> – None.	
145	<b>Cricket nets lease</b> – the clerk updated the PC on the progress so far and unfortunately a delay with the draft lease meant it isn't available to discuss at this meeting. The concerns raised with the specification from Total Play have been answered and a full scheme of work is due to be shared with the clerk prior to work commencing. It is hoped the work will commence in November but this won't happen until the lease is signed. The clerk will share a draft lease as soon as it is ready.	Clerk
146	<b>FY2017/18 Accounts to end October 2017</b> – The clerk discussed the accounts in detail and no concerns were raised. A projected under spend on the whole budget, based on today's forecast, is predicted of £7k Income October - £5105.91 Expenditure October -£4236.33 ( <i>Proposed Mr Martin Crowhurst, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.</i> )	
147	<b>Authorise purchase orders for October &amp; sign new debtor set up forms</b> Mrs Cynthia Curtis signed the new debtor forms. No purchase orders to sign.	

148	<p><b>Accounts for payment for September</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BACS run 13<sup>th</sup> October- £2460.01 authorised by Mrs Cynthia Curtis &amp; Mr Rob Gore</li> <li>• BACS run 31<sup>st</sup> October - £800.65 authorised by Mr Rob Gore &amp; Mrs Philippa Hope</li> </ul> <p>Mrs Cynthia Curtis signed the payment record. Mr Frank Hudson &amp; Mr Rob Gore signed the cheques for the allotment deposits. <i>(Proposed Mr Martin Crowhurst, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)</i></p>	
149	<p><b>County Council &amp; District Council reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Steve Criswell</b> advised work starts on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November to the railway cutting for the final stage of the cyclepath. If the police are in agreement then CCC Highways are happy to propose a 30mph speed limit along Station &amp; Rectory Road. As a road traffic order will have to be submitted for the speed reduction from Earith to Bluntisham as part of the Earith – Bluntisham cyclepath, if approved, this could be submitted at the same time at no extra cost.</p> <p>Mrs Ward &amp; Mr Potter asked about the refuge island and the width of the road. Cllr Criswell advised it will be widened to the required specification.</p> <p>Mrs Everest raised concern about safety of the users of the refuge and felt that all residents should have been consulted.</p> <p>Cllr Criswell and the parish council had been made aware that there was only one suitable location for the refuge and plans had only been shared last week. The PC applied for the funding and had been clear in what the grant was for back in November 2016.</p> <p><b>Cllr Mike Francis:</b> apologised for not attending the PC for so long but the meeting date often clashes with other meetings at HDC. Cllr Francis shared his thoughts on housing and advised that at times sitting on the development management committee can be both frustrating and challenging. HDC has to meet their 5 year housing supply and while committee members don't always approve of developments they have to ensure that the council as a whole meets their housing commitment. Appeals are time consuming and costly and HDC try to avoid these as much as possible.</p> <p><b>Cllr Robin Carter:</b> reiterated how frustrating it can be at times when dealing with planning. He stressed that he will support the PC as much as possible but all councillors have to remain impartial. He stressed that Huntingdonshire is being targeted for large scale development.</p> <p>Ouse Valley Way (OVW) reports are being submitted but repairs are not being carried out on certain areas. The clerk is to raise these again. He did advise that the RSPB are very quick to carry out repairs on the area they are responsible for.</p> <p>Mr Martin Crowhurst asked if any further decision on Giffords Farm development had been made. Cllr Francis advised that at the moment this has been rejected by HDC due to the infrastructure but it is likely to be resubmitted in the future.</p>	Clerk
150	<p><b>Village Maintenance:</b></p> <p><b>Risk Assessments</b> – the clerk reviewed all risk assessments in August 2017 for the following areas: Allotments, plant and machinery, village hall, fire. No concerns were raised and all actions have been completed. <i>(Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.)</i></p> <p><b>Traffic calming</b> – Mrs Cynthia Curtis suggested picket fencing on the entrance to the village from Heath Road. Flower boxes could then be planted to see if it reduces the speed. The clerk advised that these measures will all be reviewed as part of the LHI 18/19 bid, which was submitted and will be reviewed with CCC Highways before January. It was agreed to wait to hear CCC opinion first.</p> <p><b>LHI – refuge island location</b> – the clerk shared the proposed layout of the refuge island and the PC listened to all concerns. The PC voted to approve the location of the island and to pursue the possibility of reducing the speed limit to 30mph. <i>(Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.)</i></p>	

151	<p><b>Committee updates:</b>  Allotments committee – the AGM was held on 7<sup>th</sup> October and was well attended. The clerk confirmed that all plots were allocated and all payments received. Mr Roger Steel raised concern with plot holder 13b who hasn't attended the plot since it was allocated. The clerk is to contact her to make sure all is ok.  Updates from Mrs M Lumb – no updates.</p>	Clerk
152	<p>Correspondence received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alan Moules – Tree. It was agreed to allow the works to remove the tree due to the potential risk to the summer house but at the individual's expense. The clerk is to write to notify. (<i>Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Roger Steel. All agreed.</i>)</li> <li>Lloyds bank – changes to terms and conditions</li> </ul>	Clerk
153	<p><b>Items for consideration (for information only)</b>  The clerk shared a thank you note put through her door from Daisy Philips, Charlotte Baker, Lily Norman who without prompting cleared up all the Halloween debris from the park area. The clerk shared this with the school.  The Parish Council thanked the winning quiz team for their kind donation of their winnings towards the defib fund: Darren Pingree, Anthony "Badger" Mullee, Pete Nash, Andrew Crocker, Gary Hartley.  Thanks to Malcolm O'Neil for the maintenance to the War Memorial and the offer to cut the grass and tidy up before Remembrance Sunday.  All to note: Village Hall Garden tidy up &amp; bulb planting Saturday 11 November 10am.  18<sup>th</sup> November Craft Fair – all helpers welcome.</p>	
<p><b>TO RESOLVE to exclude the Press and the public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in respect of the following items:</b></p>		
154	<p><b>Staff appraisals – salaries</b>  The clerk left the meeting and no notes have been taken for this item.</p>	

**Bluntisham 100 club draw took place:**

**1<sup>st</sup> place 77 Alison Jones wins £50, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Marion Potter 39 wins £20, 3<sup>rd</sup> place 1 Judy Brass wins £10**

Meeting closed 9.40pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

**Future Meeting dates**

Wednesday	3rd January	2018
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup> February	2018
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