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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting
Monday 13th April 2015 at 8pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane, Bluntisham**

Present: Chair: Mrs Joan Gutteridge, Mrs Margaret Lumb, Mrs Kathy Searle, Mr Frank Hudson, Mrs Cynthia Curtis, Mr Gary James, Miss Emily Godfrey, Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk),

Also present: Cllr Robin Carter, Cllr Steve Criswell & 12 members of the Public

	<p>Open Forum: Howard Dolby expressed upset with the way in which the cycle/footpath has been managed. Starting with the installation of the street lights being in the wrong place. The use of the yard for storing the equipment caused a stir. Finally the land ownership hasn't yet been drawn up legally so the whole footpath is unable to be completed until this time. Cllr Steve Criswell advised that he will chase this up and get the Project Manager Ross Hamilton to contact Mr Dolby. The clerk is to follow this up. Mrs Gedye asked when the annual parish meeting is as she saw it advertised as the 13 April on the website. The Clerk is to check this and confirmed the Annual Parish Meeting is Monday 11th May at 8pm. The Chairman thanked Mr & Mrs Gedye for their hard work making the flowerbeds look tidier outside the village hall. Jonathan Barker attended the meeting to support his planning application and to answer any questions the PC might have at 13 Mill Lane. Sue Everest asked if the PC had received any notification of the powercuts and cause of these. The Chairman advised that she had spoken to UK Power network who advised that a problem of leaves and branches on the cables was causing the outages. Further reasons had been published on the village facebook page. The clerk is to contact UK Power network to express the dissatisfaction from the village. Jonathan Clarke wanted to register his disappointment with the information in the latest newsletter regarding the affordable housing at Mill Lane. He felt advising that Mill Lane as being the chosen site was incorrect and misleading. Elizabeth Rollin supported Mr Clarke with the newsletter and felt it could have been handled better by the Parish Council. The meeting started at 8.15pm.</p>	<p align="center">Clerk</p> <p align="center">Clerk</p>
2031	Dispensation Forms received and decisions given – Nothing to report	
2032	Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – Mrs Margaret Lumb is a close friend of the applicant for the Tree Application item 2036 – 15/00357/TREE. Mr Gary James is an allotment holder and therefore has a personal interest in item 2041 – a) allotment committee application for funding.	
2033	Apologies for absence – Mr Mike Francis (received after the meeting)	
2034	County Council & District Council Reports – Cllr Robin Carter (HDC) – said there is very little from HDC at the moment. It	

	<p>was good news that HDC has managed to freeze council tax for this year and it is hoped they can freeze it for a further 4 years. The only local issue is the street light in Holliday’s Road, although a quote has been received for a new lighting column, this isn’t correct and he has gone back to ask for a new quote for a pole mounted light. All other street lights are working well, although it had been confirmed that the street light along Nobles Lane continues to be an intermittent problem and comes on during dull days.</p> <p>Clr Steve Criswell (CCC) – advised this was a brief visit as the meeting clashed with Somersham PC. He wanted to apologise if it appeared that he bullied the PC into getting involved with TimeBanking. He was happy to stay to listen to the road safety item and contribute where needed. Mrs Margaret Lumb asked if there were any plans for the street lights to be dimmed or switched off in Bluntisham to save money. He confirmed that this wouldn’t be done without prior notification; however, it isn’t that noticeable when the lights have been dimmed as it is only about 30% less bright. Concerns were raised regarding an increase in crime if this happened, he advised that although this is always a risk there isn’t a lot of evidence to support crime goes up when street lights go off.</p>	
2035	<p>Road Safety Measures – St Helen’s School reduce speed limit to 20mph</p> <p>Charlotte Daleworth attended the meeting on behalf of the school. She is a school governor and a parent. The school have enrolled in a programme of Modeshift STARS and want to educate pupils in road safety. However, they would like the Parish Council to support them with this programme. Ideas on safety improvements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the speed along Colne road to 20mph at all times, not just the current times around the school drop off and pick up times. • Cut back the hedge to make it easier to see to exit the junction of the car park along Colne Road • Improve the brightness of the traffic beacons on the zebra crossing • Repaint the markings on the crossing to make it more visible • Cut back trees to ensure all beacons are visible • Improve the flashing lights on the school signs so they both work at the appropriate times. <p>While the school are raising this they feel it isn’t just a school issue but a wider community concern and therefore should be the responsibility of the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Parish Council agreed to speak to the police to get a speed detection box installed for a week to establish if speeding is an issue. They agreed to add it onto their 5 year plan as the Parish Council is up for an election next month the new committee may well change their priorities. Clr Steve Criswell did advise that funding could be available via a LHI grant, although not guaranteed, to help fund new signage, advertising the changes, etc. However, the mention of making the whole village a 20mph zone was advised as not being effective as the wider the limit the less impact it has on danger areas.</p>	Mrs Margaret Lumb
2036	<p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing – The Chairman advised that no information had been shared from HDC or the Housing Association regarding either affordable housing site in Bluntisham. Clr Robin Carter did advise that discussions had taken place with Mr Highland and HDC, however, it is likely that a decision won’t be made until the planning applications are submitted. Mrs Kathy Searle reminded the committee that the sale of the land has to be agreed prior to any planning application being submitted. Until the planning application(s) are received it will remain as an agenda 	

	<p>item to ensure everyone is kept updated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15/00357/TREE – Dolphin House, High Street, Bluntisham – this application involves two trees. The old lime tree which needs topping to survive (approx 15ft) to revive the tree & the removal of a walnut tree which is only about 20 years old. It was agreed that the Lime Tree can be topped and to seek the recommendation from the expert at HDC regarding the removal of the Walnut Tree. <i>(Proposed – Mrs Kathy Searle, Seconded – Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i> • 15/00258/FUL – 13 Mill Lane, Bluntisham – the amended plans submitted for this application removed the flat roof. There have been no objections from the neighbours and the proposal is in-keeping with the rest of the properties. The recommendation to APPROVE this application was made. <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James, seconded Mrs Margaret Lumb. All agreed)</i> 	Clerk
2037	<p>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 2nd March 2015 to be approved and signed – Minutes approved and signed by the Chairman. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, Seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed)</i></p>	
2038	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes – Mrs Margaret Lumb asked if any information regarding the WEEE recycling collection had been received. The clerk advised this usually takes a few months.</p>	
2039	<p>FY2014/15 Accounts – to end February 2015 No concerns raised with the accounts. Total receipts £2714.72 & total expenditure £4242.56. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, Seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed.)</i> <i>Annex 1</i></p>	
2040	<p>Accounts for payment and March income summary – No concerns raised with the accounts for payment and income summary. Mrs Cynthia Curtis and Miss Emily Godfrey signed the cheques. <i>(Proposed Mrs Cynthia Curtis, seconded Miss Emily Godfrey. All agreed)</i></p>	
2041	<p>Committee updates:</p> <p>a) Allotments Committee – the clerk read out a letter received from BALGA requesting a contribution from the Parish Council towards the new toilet. The clerk also mentioned the possibility of a grant from HDC and has advised the group that she is happy to help with the application if needed. It was agreed that a contribution of £200 towards the cost be given. <i>(Proposed, Mrs Margaret Lumb, Seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed.)</i></p> <p>b) Hall Management Committee – the clerk advised that the heating pump has been repaired, quotes have been obtained for repairs to the under floor heating. Also quotes for an electricity survey, which is required on all public buildings every 5 years have been sought. The coffee machines currently on free loan have been requested to be returned as the coffee purchases have been nil over the past 12 months. The clerk is obtaining quotes for new and second hand machines.</p> <p>c) Finance Committee – meeting Monday 20th April at 8pm.</p>	Clerk
2042	<p>Parish Council 5 year plan & Annual Action Plan– it was agreed not to review this at this stage due to the election. The clerk will add a foot note to the plan to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce speed along Colne Road to 20mph • Time banking • Neighbourhood Development Plan 	Clerk
2043	<p>Neighbourhood Development Plan – Mr Gary James and the clerk were due to</p>	

	<p>meet with HDC today but cancelled this meeting due to the election. HDC are happy to meet with the Parish Council to discuss this if the new committee see this as a priority. Mr Gary James did advise that a lot of work was required for this project due to the number of consultation phases and it would involve large amounts of money, although grants are available to assist.</p>	
2044	<p>Crime, Road Safety & Highway Warden Update (to include HCV, ENVAR & Hanson reports as appropriate) ENVAR & Hanson – Sales of materials are exceeding extraction so working full time. Will do 2 strips this year to meet demand. A car park is proposed by 2018 off the Shelford Road to allow access by visitor’s cars. No planning permission required as already in the 2000 application. Intermodal did a traffic survey over a full year & found that the morning rush hour was a problem but not the evening as it seemed to be staggered. However a committee member was late due to being stuck in traffic along this road. Envar kindly allowed the allotments to have some compost. Thanks were sent to the compost manager. Crime: burglaries 37 since last meeting. Thieves are now removing doors from hinges as well as beading from windows. Rogue traders are causing a nuisance Gary reported one (& was mentioned in despatches) Generators are being stolen & still tools from vans. There was an attempted burglary of an out building last month but householder's son disturbed the 2 young men who ran off. As nothing had been stolen police did not attend. Mrs Margaret Lumb will raise this at the police forum meeting on 22nd April as surely there could have been potential forensic evidence Dave McCandless is finally bowing out of Speedwatch. Highway Warden: no walk about since last meeting. NHW Meeting: Main concern is the number of burglaries and cold callers. Road Safety - Speedwatch reinstatement considered a priority. Motorists are still parking across dropped kerbs in Market Hill, St. Ives in spite of road markings. Results of the electronic speed survey using GRT survey box along Rectory Road Bluntisham (opposite Prince of Wales Public House) from 22.3.15 – 29.3.15: Speed limit is 40mph 11147 vehicles in total, all speed east & westbound Vehicles recorded over the speed limit 880 recorded between 41-45mph (this is still classed as an acceptable speed) 248 recorded between 46-50mph 82 recorded between 51-55mph 19 recorded between 56-60mph 8 recorded between 61-69mph The highest speed recorded was 68mph on Monday 23 March at 01:09 by a motorcycle. Vehicle types measured by length recorded travelling over 46mph Motorcycle – 489 – 2 in excess of 50mph Cars – 10758 – 12 in excess of 60mph Vans – 838 – 34 in excess of 50mph Trucks – 7 – 2 in excess of 46mph</p>	
2045	<p>Time Banking – update from Gary James. An email was circulated highlighting the meeting notes from February’s meeting. The critical part in the project is having a fully committed coordinator. Somersham PC fund this post along with match funding from CCC totalling approximately £10k pa. Although it is planned that the coordinator be self funding over time, to date this hasn’t happened and is still being paid by the PC. If Bluntisham committed to this</p>	

	project a significant amount of money would be required over the next 5 years to make the project a success. It was agreed to add it onto the 5 year plan but the new committee to decide on the future of this project.	
2046	WW2 Update – the clerk updated the PC on the progress of this celebration. £300 has been secured in funding from CCC and 80% of it has been paid to the PC. The remaining 20% will be paid on receipt of the project closure report following the event. The clerk has booked St John’s Ambulance and arranged for additional insurance for this celebration. Other tasks have been shared among the volunteers including Colne PC, who have agreed to apply for the Heritage Lottery Grant to help with recording the event and the history, which will be available to all. The next meeting is scheduled for the 27 April at 8pm, all welcome.	
2047	Insurance Claim – the clerk advised that the PC had received a liability claim for an incident involving the badger holes around the teenage shelter. Zurich have confirmed that they do not support the allegations and have responded as such. The clerk has arranged for the area around the teenage shelter to be concreted to try and prevent further holes appearing and has arranged for more regular monitoring of this area to take place.	
2048	Pitch Maintenance – further work to the pitches has taken place by UK Amenity and quotes for aeration to the men’s football pitch have been obtained. It was agreed to go ahead and get the pitch aerated at the end of the season by UK Amenity at a cost of £500.00 <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James, Seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.)</i>	Clerk
2049	Chairman Training – Mrs Joan Gutteridge attended a refresher course recently along with 7 others. The following points were raised as either changes to existing policies or points to ensure are adhered to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open forum should only last for the allotted time on the agenda with 3 minutes per speaker. • Should it be deemed necessary Councillors can agree an extension to the open forum before the meeting starts but must agree on the extension time. • When a vote is proposed the clerk should be responsible for reading it out before a vote is taken and then it is advisable for individual names to be quoted for “fore, against & abstain”. • The Chairman has the right to curtail any discussion if it is taking too long. • When a name appears in the action column of the minutes this action must be completed before the next meeting, so it doesn’t appear as an ongoing item. • Any apologies for absence must include the reason for absence Other Chairpersons were surprised with the way in which Bluntisham PC deals with their accounts for payment and all agreed it was a robust system to have full control over the finances.	
2050	Sunrise Meadows – a planning application has now been received and will be discussed on 20 April 2015 at 8pm. The application is now asking for the site to be permanent. Cllr Robin Carter confirmed if HDC do not have any other suitable sites in the district then an extension of the temporary permission is likely to be granted.	
2051	Little London – This is the row of cottages along Station Road. Concerns were raised with vehicles parking over the kerb on the new footpath, also wheelie bins blocking the footpath. Mrs Margaret Lumb advised that the footpath is wide enough and the wheelie bins are only out on the collection day, and possibly the	

first time in living memory that no Godfrey has been on the PC. The committee all thanked Emily for her efforts. Mrs Cynthia Curtis advised the “Colne Road” sign has been removed, the clerk has advised this was reported to HDC on 1.4.15 under reference: 179382. A resident asked a councillor if steps to the small slide had been repaired The clerk advised this was done in November 2014. Mrs Joan Gutteridge wished everyone well in the forthcoming election on the 7th May. It was to be welcomed to have new Council members as previous efforts had failed. It is only fair to inform prospective members of some of the tasks involved by members under the assistance and guidance of the clerk:

- Attendance at Parish Council, Finance, Hall Management & Planning Meetings

Involvement with the following community projects & committees:

- Allotments
- Trees
- Footpaths
- Road Safety
- Heavy Goods Vehicle committees
- Hanson & Envar meetings
- Highway warden for village
- Time Banking (planning stages at present)
- Neighbourhood Development Plan (early stages at present)
- Involvement with running of the hall in the absence of the caretaker and clerk
- Production and distribution of the newsletter

This is aside from the routine correspondence received from the clerk and parishioners. All of this is performed on a voluntary basis with no expenses claimed and all apolitical in our dealings.

Finally the Chairman thanked everyone for their efforts in keeping the village so well managed.

Meeting closed 10.05pm

Next meeting: 20th April 2015 (Planning item)

Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings –2015

May	Monday 11 th May
June	Monday 1 st June
July	Monday 6 th July
August	Monday 3 rd August
September	Monday 7 th September
October	Monday 5 th October
November	Monday 2 nd November
December	Monday 7 th December

Annex 1 – FY 2014/15 accounts to end February 2015