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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,  
Bluntisham**

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

**Also present:** 29 x members of the public

	<p><b>Open forum</b> The Chairman welcomed the public and advised that the planning applications will be discussed first and any comments from the public can be raised during this section of the meeting. Any other comments to be raised now. Mrs Anne Parker advised that when she used the new play park there was dog mess inside the park. The parish council would like to remind everyone that dogs are NOT ALLOWED in the play park area. All dog owners should be picking up any mess anywhere in the village. A further notice will be placed in the newsletter.  Mr Joe Parker asked why the bench was removed from the play area. Mrs Philippa Hope advised the bench is still there.  Mr David Gedye asked that the PC continue to forbid vehicular crossing across Meeting Walk. The meeting opened at 8.03pm</p>	
171	<b>Dispensation Forms received &amp; decisions given - None</b>	
172	<b>Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – Mr Alan Moules – item 176 Ref: 16/02163/HHFUL</b>	
173	<b>Apologies for absence –Mr Mark Berg.</b>	
174	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 5<sup>th</sup> October to be approved and signed by the chairman – The chairman signed the minutes. (Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All agreed.)</b>	
175	<b>Matters arising from previous minutes – None.</b>	
176	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>16/02061/HHFUL</b> – Garage conversion to form annex. Rear single storey extension. Construction of single storey store. 2 Blacksmiths End, Bluntisham PE28 3JH. The Parish Council voted to <b>APPROVE</b> this application. (Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed.)</li> <li>• <b>16/02069/S73</b> – Variation of condition 2 on application ref: 1201316FUL to allow day time trading between 14:00 – 16:30hrs. Bluntisham Fryer, Bluntisham Service Station, Bluntisham PE28 3PA. The Parish Council voted to <b>APPROVE</b> this application following confirmation from the applicant that there would be no additional delivery vehicles, however, any passing traffic was beyond their control. (Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.)</li> <li>• <b>16/02130/TREE</b> – to fell the only Oak tree in rear garden of 8 Glebe Close, protected by TPO365 2.77.H 1977. The Parish Council voted to <b>APPROVE</b> this application. (Proposed Mrs Kathy Searle, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All</li> </ul>	

	<p><i>agreed.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>16/02163/HHFUL</b> – Creation of new vehicular access to property – 17 High Street, Bluntisham PE28 3LD. The parish council discussed this application in detail and all voted to <b>REFUSE</b> this application. The Parish Council make an annual statement to support no vehicle crossing along this historic footpath and would hate to see this change. The clerk is to share a response for comments before submitting to HDC. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed with exception of Mr Alan Moules who abstained from voting.</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Station Road</b> Mr Highland gave an update on Station Road affordable housing. He has been asked if he would consider building the affordable housing on the site and has been advised by a planning consultant saying there is a window of opportunity if the village still wants it. Mr Highland advised the proposed scheme would be for 10 affordable homes and 15 private dwellings. Mrs Philippa Hope asked about the 20 metre barrier from the existing car park to any new homes, which was a concern with the previous application. Mr Highland advised that this isn't a concern with this new proposal. Cllr Mike Francis advised this site is still a rural exception site and to date he has no knowledge of any changes to allow private dwellings on these sites. Cllr Francis agreed to find out the latest position and confirm with the PC. Cllr Robin Carter clarified the 40% split of housing with private and affordable is only for specific areas, this site is a rural exception site and not applicable to this split. Mrs Margaret Lumb asked when the weeds would be cleared from the car park. Mr Highland confirmed this would be done soon and the white lines on the forecourt would be painted asap.</li> <li>• <b>Giffords Farm</b> – Mrs Margaret Lumb shared a plan with the PC for this proposed development of approximately 2000 homes, school and part industrial estate. The PC support Needingworth PC with their concerns and will submit a similar report to HDC. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed</i>)</li> <li>• Mrs Margaret Lumb advised that a planning application for 4 flats on the car park to the Tesco site in St Ives has been submitted.</li> </ul>	Cllr Francis
177	<b>Newsletter</b> – all articles are to be with the clerk by Friday 11 November.	All
178	<p><b>FY2016/17 Accounts to end October 2016</b> – Mrs Philippa Hope went through the accounts in detail. No concerns raised with exception that the ad-hoc hall hire is well under target but a positive outcome is still forecast for the end of the year. The clerk confirmed the grant from TESCO has been received in full and the report has been submitted for WREN.</p> <p>Total receipts - £8013.24 Total expenditure- £13257.03 Bank balance - £83086.01 Cams B/S - £56901.73</p> <p>(<i>Proposed Mr Martin Crowhurst, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.</i>)</p>	
179	<p><b>Accounts for payment for October payments</b> – Mrs Philippa Hope and Mr Alan Moules authorised all online payments for the month. The clerk is to chase Lloyds bank about the new signatories.</p> <p>(<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed.</i>)</p>	Clerk
180	<p><b>Authorise any purchase orders for October</b> – the clerk raised the following purchase orders following the HMC meeting:</p> <p>017 – Yale alarm system - £75 + VAT 018 – Keysafe - £49.95 + VAT</p>	

	019 – Viking - £92.96 + VAT Mrs Philippa Hope signed all purchase orders.	
181	<p><b>County Council &amp; District Council reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Steve Criswell</b> –Cyclepath update confirmed that the County Council will be taking over full responsibility for the whole footpath. The landowners solicitors are slow to respond but the project will be completed.</p> <p>Road gritting will be affected this year as cuts are now impacting on front line services. Gritting routes have been reduced from 44% of all roads to 30% of all roads will be gritted in the county. The main road not being gritted in Bluntisham is The Heath road.</p> <p>Mr Gary James stated this is a cut too far as lives are now at risk. This road is busy all day. Cllr Steve Criswell stated this is just the start as further savings have to be made by the county council.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope advised that the only road being gritted in Bluntisham is the stretch of the A1123 along Station Road – Rectory Road.</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb advised this will be discussed at road safety. Mrs Margaret Lumb asked how much it cost to grit The Heath road. Cllr Steve Criswell to confirm at a later date.</p> <p>Mrs Joan Gutteridge asked if Bluntisham &amp; Colne are being moved with the proposed boundary changes. Cllr Steve Criswell advised the first draft of changes shows drastic changes as MP Vara has the largest constituency within the country.</p> <p>Mrs Sue Everest asked how CCC are supporting Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Cllr Criswell advised he is no longer not part of this group anymore. However, the hospital can't carry on as it is as it is unsustainable and losing money year on year. The merger will save money but he confirmed he was not qualified to comment, although merging will save the hospital at the moment. Mrs Sue Everest expressed her disappointment that MP Vara has not been very vocal with supporting this.</p> <p><b>Cllr Robin Carter</b> confirmed that HDC were scrutinising the merger of Hinchingsbrooke hospital with Peterborough and Stamford and the panel had reservations with the future governance of the proposed merged hospital. There is uncertainty with Peterborough and Stamford. He did stress that Huntingdon District Council were only a consultee for the hospital.</p> <p>Cllr Carter advised the new bank holiday refuse collection dates will be published shortly. Please note there will no longer be changes to collections on bank holiday Monday's. Check the website for collection dates: <a href="http://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/applications/RefuseCalendarMVC">http://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/applications/RefuseCalendarMVC</a></p> <p>Mr Gary James asked who will pay for the service once the tree warden service is discontinued from April 2017. Cllr Carter advised he would confirm at a later date. .</p> <p><b>Cllr Mike Francis</b> – advised the site in Station Road remains a rural exception site and only affordable houses can be built on it. The rules allow 1 or 2 or perhaps 3 market houses to assist the developers in financing the build of the affordable houses. I am not aware of these rules being relaxed but will check and report back to the PC.</p>	Cllr Criswell
182	<p><b>Bus timetable</b> – the clerk emailed the changes to the bus routes and advised the timetables need re-printing. The PC confirmed they are happy for the printing to be done. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)</i></p>	Clerk
183	<p><b>Speedwatch</b> - Mr Martin Crowhurst asked for volunteers who are willing to help with speedwatch. Mr Martin Crowhurst is happy to coordinate the scheme and once 6 volunteers are available Cambs Police will carry out the training. Anyone who is interested in getting involved is to contact the clerk. Mr Martin Crowhurst advised that to purchase a neon speed sign (which shows the speed of the vehicle) is £2,300 per unit.</p>	Martin Crowhurst
184	<p><b>Project update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>HAGS SMP – play park and outdoor gym</b> – Mrs Margaret Lumb thanked the clerk for organising the official opening and for all the Cllrs and members of the public who turned up and supported the event. The clerk thanked HAGS SMP for</li> </ul>	

	<p>donating £150 towards the opening and to Mr Steve Highland for providing the soft drinks and snacks free of charge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LHI submission</b> – it was agreed the final draft is to be submitted. The clerk is to complete and to write to Mr Steve Highland to ask if he is willing to contribute towards this.</li> <li>• <b>Community right to bid</b> – Mrs Philippa Hope advised that The White Swan Public House has now been registered as an Asset of Community Value. Thanks to Mr Eric Brandle for his excellent application. The clerk is to write a formal letter of thanks.</li> <li>• <b>Phone box</b> – nothing to update.</li> <li>• <b>Website – promoting local businesses</b> – Mr Ian Shepherd has placed an advert on the website and linked to facebook asking for local businesses who wish to advertise on the website to contact him. The clerk is to promote in the newsletter.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
185	<p><b>Village Maintenance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hedge cutting contract 2017 onwards – Mrs Philippa Hope suggested getting a quote for a 2 &amp; 3 year contract. The clerk is to share the current schedule and Mrs Philippa Hope agreed to walk about with Mr David Gedye to check the schedule. It was suggested if hedges can be flailed this is to be suggested. Report back to the next meeting. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed.)</i></li> <li>• Hedge to Mill Lane – The clerk shared costs for purchasing 40 2-3ft green beech hedge plants to be planted across the Mill Lane fence to provide screening to the outdoor gym. It was agreed to get plants from Roger Pinnre at a cost of £28.00 + VAT. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.)</i></li> <li>• Tree on orphaned land – it was agreed that Mrs Philippa Hope is to look at this with Mr David Gedye and report back at the next meeting. The oak tree, crab apple and also the silver birch could do with felling. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.)</i></li> </ul>	<p>Philippa Hope</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Philippa Hope</p>
186	<p><b>Committee updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HMC meeting</b> –the clerk gave a brief update following this meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Finance meeting</b> – next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November. Mr Alan Moules gave his apologies.</li> <li>• <b>Allotments committee</b> – the clerk advised all money had been paid with exception of one plot, who are out of the country. There are 3 vacant plots and the clerk is to advertise these in due course.</li> <li>• <b>Staff management</b> –meeting to be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>• <b>Crime</b> – Mrs Margaret Lumb reported the arson attacks, eggs &amp; apples thrown at properties and other petty vandalism within the village. The police have agreed to carry out additional patrols within the village. Anyone who sees anything is to report it immediately. There is a crime prevention seminar being held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at the chapel in Bluntisham. More details to follow.</li> <li>• <b>Road safety</b> – meeting next week.</li> <li>• <b>Highway warden</b> – no walkabout arranged until the new year due to staff sickness</li> <li>• <b>HCV</b> – meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> November.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p>
187	<p><b>Event update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>19<sup>th</sup> November Craft Fair</b>–the clerk advised all tables now sold. All committee members to be available to help throughout the day, either with the craft fair or for spending time on the parish council table. The clerk asked for any raffle prizes to be given to her asap.</li> <li>• <b>20<sup>th</sup> January Ghost of Mr Dickens</b>– no tickets sold as yet. The clerk is to promote after the next BaCStage performance.</li> </ul>	<p>All</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4<sup>th</sup> February Pop Quiz</b>– tickets available £20 per team (max 6 per team) bar on the night and any volunteers to contact the clerk.</li> <li>• <b>18<sup>th</sup> March Black tie</b>– Mr Mark Berg is yet to confirm this event.</li> </ul>	
188	<p><b>Correspondence received:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HDC – changes to local elections</b> the main reason for the change is to save money. No comments to make.</li> <li>• <b>Feoffees – land registry and ownership</b> the clerk advised that the land registry information held was ambiguous and she has now obtained new documents. The PC apologised to the Feoffees for not obtaining their permission to put the outdoor gym equipment on their land, although the Feoffees are happy with this new equipment.</li> <li>• The Feoffees have asked if the PC would help with contributing towards the larger Christmas Tree and also provide some lights and decorations. It was agreed the clerk is to speak to Mr David Morris about the decorations and the finance committee to agree the contribution towards the tree. Mr Rob Gore advised he will speak with local residents and businesses asking if they are willing to help with lighting this area.</li> <li>• <b>Privy Council Office – Final order old churchyard</b> the clerk advised that HDC are now aware of the formality that both Earith and Bluntisham PC are passing the responsibility for the old churchyard onto them.</li> <li>• <b>Blasters &amp; CCC – hedge solution</b> the clerk shared correspondence advising that CCC had no problems with the blasters hedge solution. The blasters can go ahead with the changes and will be responsible for any ongoing maintenance of this.</li> <li>• <b>Forefront Fitness – Sport relief mile.</b> A fantastic £3004.39 was raised by the Bluntisham Mile. Thanks to everyone for supporting this event.</li> </ul>	Clerk
189	<p><b>Items for consideration (for information only)</b></p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb advised about the remembrance service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November and encouraged as many Cllrs to attend.</p> <p>Mr Rob Gore advised the Christmas tree switch on would be around 10<sup>th</sup> December, more details to follow but it would be nice to make it a larger event.</p>	

Meeting closed 10.00pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016