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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,  
Bluntisham**

**Present:** Vice Chairman Mr Gary James, Mr Frank Hudson, Mrs Philippa Hope, Mr Rob Gore, Mrs Cynthia Curtis, Mrs Jayne Smith, Mrs Kathy Searle, Mr Martin Crowhurst & Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk)

**Also present:** 9 x member of the public & Cllr Jon Neish & Cllr Steve Criswell

	<p><b>Open forum</b> Mrs Philippa Hope opened the meeting in the absence of the Chair &amp; Vice Chair. A few members of the public wished to raise concerns with the planning application in Mill Lane and it was agreed to raise at the time of the item being discussed. Mr Gary James arrived and took over as Vice Chair of the meeting. A member of the public asked if the parish council had formally responded to the Local Plan 2036 consultation. The clerk confirmed the PC have fully supported the recommendations for the change back to a small settlement and this has been recorded electronically. Meeting opened at 8.06pm</p>	
206	<b>Dispensation Forms received &amp; decisions given - None</b>	
207	<b>Declarations of interest for items on the agenda</b> – Mrs Philippa Hope pecuniary interest item 217 BACS run 1 <sup>st</sup> February.	
208	<b>Apologies for absence</b> – Mr Mark Berg. No contact from Cllr Besley.	
209	<p><b>Beer Festival Update</b> – Mr Jonathan Clarke updated the council on the Bluntisham Beer Festival which is taking place on Friday 21 &amp; Saturday 22 June 2019. A team of volunteers are meeting regularly to organise the event which includes; beer, food, entertainment, H&amp;S, logistics. A facebook page, twitter page and website have been created as it is hoped that this becomes an annual event. It was agreed the clerk is to check the PC insurance with a view to cover the event. Mrs Philippa Hope asked if funding is likely to be required by the PC. It is hoped that the event will break even, but once sponsorship is confirmed the committee will come back to the PC.</p>	Clerk
210	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19/00313/PIP – residential development of up to 5 dwellings. Land adjacent to 15 Mill Lane, Bluntisham. A discussion around the suitability of the site took place. Concern was raised with the walnut trees, view of the church, site entrance on a busy public footpath. Several members of the public raised objections to the proposal for the same reason. The PC voted to REFUSE the proposal for the following material planning considerations, with the exception of Mrs Kathy Searle who supported the application. <i>(Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed with the exception of Mrs Kathy Searle.)</i> Out of Character – site in the open countryside Conservation &amp; heritage – site situated in direct line of site of grade two listed parish church &amp; development would impact the view of the church from the North. Highways – limited access to the site, on a rough track without lighting, pavements and is a public footpath. Environment – site is bordered by an established hedge and tree belt which may have</li> </ul>	

	<p>protected species.  Previous Planning Decisions – HEELA October 2017 deemed site unsuitable for development.  6 members of the public left the meeting at this point 8.45pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enforcement update – the clerk shared updates from Nigel Swaby on the following cases:  17/00158/ENBOC – Station Road. <i>I emailed the complainant on 4<sup>th</sup> February asking whether the car park was still causing a problem. I have not had a reply. As a month has passed I will email again to say that if we don't hear from the complainant within 2 weeks we will close the case.</i> The clerk has asked about the dead tree and has not had any response.  18/00171/ENBDOM – The Witches Twist Chicken Farm – <i>The owner has accepted that planning permission is required for the change of use of the land to domestic use from agriculture and for the erection of the pigeon loft. We have received a planning application but it is not yet complete and cannot be validated.</i>  18/00255/ENCARA – Sunrise Meadows – <i>The reply to the formal notice about ownership has been received and we have a name and address for the owner. We can now proceed and I will have further information for your next meeting.</i></li> <li>Rose Homes update – the clerk advised that Rose Homes have confirmed the legal agreement has been sent to the landowners solicitors and work to the hedge will start to ensure this is removed ahead of the bird nesting season.</li> <li>Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan Submission – consultation period 11.2.19 – 26.3.19. The clerk advised of the consultation period for this plan, any comments to be sent via the consultation document on HDC website. <a href="http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/planning">www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/planning</a></li> </ul>	
211	<p><b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 6 &amp; 25<sup>th</sup> February to be approved and signed by the Chairman</b> – The minutes were signed by the Vice Chairman. <i>(Proposed Mrs Cynthia Curtis, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)</i></p>	
212	<p><b>Matters arising from previous minutes not on the agenda</b> – Mr Rob Gore gave an update following the planning meeting with HDC on 24.1.19. He advised that the team at HDC were open in their responses &amp; attempts to explain tilted balance. The Colne Road application still remains outstanding awaiting the response from HDC Planning in response to the environmental report.</p>	
213	<p><b>County Council &amp; District Council reports:</b>  Cllr Criswell advised nothing to report. A balanced budget has been agreed for 2019/20 which allows for a 2.99% increase on council tax. Mrs Kathy Searle asked if there was any planned maintenance on Shelford Road, Cllr Criswell advised that a survey is carried out every 2 months and any work scheduled around this.  Cllr Neish advised that he has received lots of correspondence from CRAG in regards to the Colne Road planning application. He advised he didn't think the application would go to DMC in March. The Aldi application in St Ives will be put forward to DMC in March. The full agenda for DMC is published a week ahead of the meeting and can be found by using the following link: <a href="#">Click here</a>  The clerk has not heard from Cllr Besley.</p>	
214	<p><b>FY2017/18 Accounts to end February 2019</b> –  Mrs Philippa Hope advised that the council will end the financial year with an approximate £1800 surplus which the finance committee suggested is put towards village hall energy improvements.  Income February - £3343.96  Expenditure February - £4556.66  Bank Balance: £33839.92  <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)</i></p>	
215	<p><b>Authorise purchase orders</b> – Mr Gary James signed the purchase orders. All expenditure</p>	

	<p>approved by full council:          PO017 – £76.32 – Stadia Sports additional replacement boot brushes          PO018 - £61.50 – Digital printing roll up stand banners village hall          PO019 - £300 + VAT CCC Highways white and yellow lines to village hall          Thanks to Mrs Jo Berg for the artwork in putting the 2 village hall banners together.</p>	
216	<p><b>Approve Tractor Insurance 2019-20</b> – the clerk advised that despite trying to get several quotes the following companies refused to provide renewal quotes for the tractors leaving Shearwater insurance ERS quote the only option at £446.88          Rowett insurance broking ltd – refused to quote          NFU mutual refused to quote          However, both companies were significantly more expensive than Shearwater with previous quotes.          It was agreed to continue with ERS. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.</i>)</p>	Clerk
217	<p><b>Accounts for payment for February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BACS run 1<sup>st</sup> February- £1608.59 authorised by Mr Rob Gore &amp; Mrs Cynthia Curtis</li> <li>• Ad-hoc BACS run 12<sup>th</sup> February - £384.00 authorised by Mrs Kathy Searle &amp; Mrs Philippa Hope</li> <li>• BACS run 28<sup>th</sup> February - £1561.35 authorised by Mr Mark Berg, Mrs Kathy Searle, Mrs Philippa Hope.  <i>(Proposed Mr Mark Berg seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.)</i></li> </ul>	
218	<p><b>Village Maintenance &amp; events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SID update – this has been located on High Street for 3 weeks. It was agreed the next location will be Colne Road.</li> <li>• Summer activity programme – HDC. The clerk advised that the cost for this programme has increased on last year and the 4 sessions will cost £516.96 + VAT. It was agreed and budgeted that this go ahead again due to the success and will be on the following dates: 29.7.19, 5.8.19, 12.8.19, 19.8.19. (<i>Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.</i>)</li> <li>• Quotes tree work – this item is to be deferred as quotes not received in time.</li> <li>• Open Morning – the clerk asked for a show of hands for those attending on Saturday. Mr Martin Crowhurst, Mr Gary James &amp; Mr Frank Hudson all gave their apologies.</li> <li>• Digital Mapping – the clerk shared correspondence received electronically on the possibility of the PC putting their assets, etc on a digital map rather than paper records. All agreed it was a good idea and the clerk is to find out costs and time implications to vote on at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	Clerk  Clerk  Clerk
219	<p><b>Committee updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotment – Mr Frank Hudson advised that BALGA wish to increase the rent of all plots by £2 to include membership to BALGA to allow BALGA to pay for pest control treatments throughout the year. The PC discussed this proposal and were not happy that plot holders will be forced into being a member of BALGA. It was agreed for the clerk to go back to BALGA and make alternative suggestions. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mrs Jayne Smith. All agreed.</i>)</li> <li>• HMC – carbon trust update &amp; Doctors lease. The clerk advised the review of the village hall energy should be completed within a week and this will be shared electronically. However, early indication shows that to change the lights to LED could save 60% against current costs. The clerk has drafted a letter to the doctors regarding the lease advising of the date of the notice period.</li> <li>• Finance – the finance committee met and recommended that the village hall energy improvements should be a priority for the next financial year.</li> <li>• Reports from Mrs Margaret Lumb. A site meeting at Envar on 27<sup>th</sup> February. After observing motorists crossing &amp; turning onto the B1040 from Woodhurst it is thought</li> </ul>	Clerk  Clerk

	<p>that moving the junction from Bluntisham further south would help. This would mean it is more obviously staggered but it will be discussed at Road Safety on 12<sup>th</sup> March. It is unfortunate that a member of the Road Safety Engineering team is unable/unwilling to talk to us. An unofficial speeding camera reported average speed was 52mph. Highways say STOP signs would not be sanctioned. It is hoped to convene another meeting of the representatives from surrounding PC's who met in September shortly. If the PC has any Highway issues I will ask the Highway Officer for a walkabout. The clerk has advised of repainting of the white lines on the zebra crossing at the school and at the top of the junction with Colne Road &amp; East Street &amp; Short Lane. <b>Post meeting note the clerk has reported the lines and faulty school flashing sign directly with CCC Highways who will schedule in the new financial year.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change to April meeting date. The clerk asked if the next meeting could be moved to 10<sup>th</sup> April due to BaCStage using the hall for the first week of April.</li> </ul>	INFO
220	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village map – images by hand. The clerk shared correspondence from a company who would be willing to put an illustrated village map together with 3 year updates for a cost of £500. It was suggested the 100 club fund this. The clerk is to share the details with Mrs Cynthia Curtis to organise.</li> </ul>	Clerk
221	<p><b>Items for consideration (for information only)</b></p> <p>Mrs Kathy Searle asked if an email from Highways England addressed to PC's across the route of the A14 could be shared with the St Ives Road Safety Group. The clerk advised that if they were to be included on the distribution list then they would receive their own invite and that there was a specific request not to share the email with other organisations.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope asked if any feedback from CCC regarding the report of the puddles on Station had been received. The clerk advised this was reported but until this week there had been little rain, she will chase this up and report back.</p> <p>It was mentioned again that the grass is non existant on the new verges following the cyclepath works. Rubble and uneven ground make it impossible to cut with the mower and this now has to be trimmed by hand using the strimmer. The clerk will raise this again with CCC Highways and ask for grass seed to be put down with some top soil.</p> <p>The clerk asked if a replacement pole for the dog bin on the dog walk could be purchased due to the other rotting away. She also asked if the spare bin could be fitted on Meeting Walk to replace the two wire bins which are broken.</p> <p>Meeting closed 10.15pm Next meeting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

**Bluntisham 100 club draw took place:**

**1<sup>st</sup> place wins £200 – 47 Mrs Kathy Searle**

**2<sup>nd</sup> place wins £50 – 6 Mrs Kay Crowhurst**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place wins £30 – 74 Mr Jonathan Clarke**

**A few numbers remain if anyone is interested in joining the 100 club please contact**

**Cynthia Curtis – [BPC.cynthiacurtis@gmail.com](mailto:BPC.cynthiacurtis@gmail.com)**

**Future Meeting dates**

Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup> May	2019
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup> June	2019
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	2019
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup> August	2019
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup> September	2019
Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> October	2019
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> November	2019
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup> December	2019