



2 Sayers Court
Bluntisham
Cambridgeshire
PE28 3NP

Tel: 01487 740230
Mob: 07725 308115

Email: bluntishamclerk@gmail.com

**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting
Monday 1st February 2016 at 8pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,
Bluntisham**

Present: Chairman: Mrs Margaret Lumb, Mr Frank Hudson, Mrs Philippa Hope, Mrs Anne Parsons, Mr Mark Berg, Mr Ian Shepherd, Mr Alan Moules, Mr Mike Francis, Mr Gary James, Mrs Kathy Searle, Mr Rob Gore, Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk),

Also present: 8 x members of the public

	<p>Open Forum: - The Chairman welcomed all Councillors and members of the public with a warm welcome back to Mrs Kathy Searle.</p> <p>Mrs Joan Gutteridge – in the minutes of the finance meeting it was suggested the clerk seek advice for installing solar panels to the village hall. This had been investigated 2/3 years ago and the architect advised the roof of the hall wasn't suitable for panels.</p> <p>Mrs Sue Everest mentioned that it would have been beneficial for all members who attended the timebanking meeting to have introduced themselves. She also raised a concern with the scheme raising a lot of security problems and she asked that the PC think long and hard before taking it further as the responsibility for anything going wrong would fall onto the PC.</p> <p>Mrs Cheryl Pomfret advised that Colne PC voted in favour of timebanking.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope asked the councillors if they received the email from Wendy Lansdown from CCC answering some financial questions raised at the timebanking meeting, all received.</p> <p>The Meeting started at 8.05pm</p>	
2306	Dispensation Forms received and decisions given – Nothing to report	
2307	Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None.	
2308	Apologies for absence –Cllr Steve Criswell	
2309	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 4th January & 11th January 2016 to be approved and signed –The Chairman signed the minutes and all approved. (<i>Proposed Mr Frank Hudson seconded Mr Mike Francis. All agreed</i>)	
2310	Matters arising from previous minutes – no matters arising.	
2311	<p>FY2015/16 Accounts – to end January 2016</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope went through the accounts in detail. The Parish Council payments included £179 was for the December newsletter. The village hall payments included £168.17 maintenance to the garage following attempted break in and additional dog poo paint. A further £561.63 payment for the community marquee & cigarette bin, both of which were funded by the WW2 event and Christmas fair proceeds.</p> <p>Total receipts £2571.40 & total expenditure £3967.90. Closing bank balances: Lloyds 0933915 - £39269.87 Cambs building society - £56639.96 Lloyds 0934024 - £0.00 This account is now closed</p> <p>(<i>Proposed Mr Alan Moules, Seconded Mr Mark Berg. All agreed.</i>) Annex 1</p>	
2312	Accounts for payment and sign cheques for January payments –Mrs Philippa Hope and Mrs Anne Parsons signed the cheques and no concerns with the payments for the month were raised. (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope seconded Mrs Anne Parsons. All agreed.</i>)	
2313	County Council & District Council reports –	

Cllr Steve Criswell emailed the following prior to the meeting:

Timebanking – it was good to see many councillors and some public at the meeting on Monday 25th January, where debate was lively and many good questions were answered. However, I have been contacted for various clarifications since then and will share my responses:

- Timebanking does not replace anything that the County Council or NHS currently do. It achieves a whole range of valuable connections and outcomes. It especially supports the core number of residents who are struggling to cope at any one time, but do not yet require home carers or a care home. Their lives are improved by maintaining their independence at home for longer. The incidental benefit for the County Council and NHS is that expensive statutory intervention is delayed and sometimes avoided altogether.
- Lucy & Sheena both mentioned that Somersham Health & Well-being Group on Monday, this is something I set up over 2 years ago, bringing together service providers, volunteers, local organisations etc so they can operate in a more joined up way. It already encompasses surrounding villages such as Bluntisham which is why Sheena attends. In Somersham, the Timebank provides the connection to residents, who are better served as a result. The same would apply in Bluntisham, Colne & Earith.
- Philippa asked for clarification of the start-up grant I had previously referred to. The application deadline was extended to Feb 15th 2016. Having spoken to officers and knowing of your genuine financial concerns and predicament, should you decide to proceed, I will apply for 50% of the year 1 costs. If successful this will reduce your call on reserves significantly. I know that Earith & Colne PC are keen to take advantage of this opportunity.
- Grant applications and fundraising are a routine part of Timebanking, so expenses as discussed are always going to be “worst case scenario”.
- I am passionate about supporting the residents I represent across all 8 villages. That is the one and only reason I became a Councillor. Timebanking helps enormously, but whatever the outcome, I will not be walking away. I am committed to assist with the process or help fill the void.

Cycleway – you will see that work is progressing. This early work is to build the straightforward Highway sections either side of White Bridge corner. The off-line sections are due to start in late March, so there may be a short break in between. A bridge is being constructed to cross the culvert at White bridge corner, which will need lifting into place by crane and require a road closure, as well some of the work at the cutting. This will probably be done on Sundays wherever possible. Following concerns raised, I have ordered 2 warning signs to be placed ahead of the road crossing near the safety camera.

Cllr Robin Carter – Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) are still committed to freezing council tax, although HDC have to find a further £3 million savings for the next 3 years. It is unknown what CCC, Fire & Police will do with their council tax. HDC are supporting the Clean for the Queen campaign, the clerk advised that the PC have scheduled a date of Saturday 5th March to clean the streets of Bluntisham. The duplicate BT poles in Wood End, Colne Road, Station Road & Rectory Road are still outstanding and Cllr Carter confirmed his commitment to resolving this asap.

HDC have written to all PC's to advise that they will no longer be providing a free emptying service for village litter bins owned by the PC. Bluntisham currently have one additional bin which will not be emptied by HDC after 1.4.16. The clerk is to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Mrs Margaret Lumb asked why the Christmas collection service caused disruption for 3 weeks. Cllr Robin Carter advised it was due to the closure of the tips on bank holidays.

	<p>To prevent this happening again this year HDC have applied for permission to open the tips on the bank holidays to enable them to collect the waste with as minimum disruption as possible. Mrs Sue Everest advised that properties in Station Road didn't receive their bin stickers or collection information and had to rely on the website.</p> <p>Mrs Joan Gutteridge asked for an update on the Minar site in Earith, Cllr Robin Carter advised there was nothing to update. She also asked why the wages bill at HDC has increased as per an article in the Cambridge Evening News, Cllr Robin Carter advised this article was factually incorrect</p>	
2314	<p>Time Banking – outcome from working party meeting 25.1.16</p> <p>Mr Alan Moules reported following the meeting on Monday he picked up on a lot of things Lucy said. There is no dispute for the need to help some people in the village. There are still some unknown costs and concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management of the scheme • Three parishes using one coordinator • Security and insurance of the scheme <p>With this in mind and knowing there is a need he wondered if there was a way of starting something off without setting up a time bank. He suggested setting up a group champion within the PC with perhaps a small reserve, if needed. Call it a time exchange scheme and pilot the scheme for a specific time within Bluntisham. If it works then we could look at a time banking model.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope thanked Mr Rob Gore and Mr Ian Shepherd for their emails but still had fundamental concerns. She stated that the PC only have £33k of unallocated reserves. She felt that this is a lot of money to allocate to one project and agreed with Mr Alan Moules on setting up a smaller scale scheme. The previous experience of working with the 3 parishes raises further concerns around co-operation and communication.</p> <p>Mr Mike Francis added that the meeting was very high on emotion and low on detail. He came away less inclined to support Time Banking than before the meeting. He stated that having looked at it in a less emotional way he didn't think it was value for money. Especially as the PC doesn't know what other services are going to be handed down from CCC and HDC over the coming years and to justify spending PC's reserves on something which is impossible to quantify. There are plenty of voluntary schemes already running in the village who could get more involved. The Neighbourhood watch scheme for example and he would encourage the PC to help developing these further.</p> <p>Mr Ian Shepherd said he had asked Lucy during the Time Banking meeting about insurance and she confirmed that the PC public liability insurance would cover the time bank. He accepted that money saved isn't always quantified, and any savings made wouldn't come back to the PC directly, but suggested they would be reflected in future county council budgets, and would ultimately benefit the parish. He was sceptical about the concerns raised around security and personal safety within someone's home. Overall he felt that the successful example of (e.g) Somersham Time Bank demonstrated that all these questions can be dealt with successfully.</p> <p>Mr Rob Gore stated that if you don't have a paid coordinator then things are less likely to be done. If you don't have someone available to do risk assessments they won't get done. If local groups worked together then we wouldn't need a time bank. This is not the case currently and a Time Banking scheme would need to be fully supported in order to succeed.</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb raised concerns that if there is a shortfall in the parish accounts then individual councillors will be liable for the difference.</p>	

	<p>Mrs Cheryl Pomfret added that she fully understands the PC's concerns, Needingworth run a good neighbour scheme which works really well and they have no need for a Time Banking scheme.</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb asked all councillors to vote for taking the Time Banking scheme forward. 8 Councillors voted against with 3 Councillors voting for the scheme. It was agreed that if anyone wishes to set up a voluntary scheme they could but Time Banking in Bluntisham would not go ahead at this stage. This item will now be removed from the agenda.</p> <p><i>(Proposed Mr Alan Moules, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. 6 Councillors in favour, 3 Councillors against.)</i></p>	
2315	<p>Village Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ouse Valley Way Footpath (OVW) – Mrs Margaret Lumb advised following the meeting held at Buckden with other PC's, CCC & HDC it was confirmed that due to the difficulty of identifying the land owners HDC have advised they will continue maintaining the OVW for the next 12 months. Further details will be shared later this year once all land owners have been identified. • Trees Sumerling Way – The clerk has obtained further quotes and it was agreed to allocate the work to Colne Nursery. <p><i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Mike Francis. All agreed.)</i></p>	Clerk
2316	<p>Parish Plan – The clerk is to update the parish plan with the councillors who volunteered to put themselves forward for each project.</p>	Clerk
2317	<p>Wings for Life World Run – Sunday 8th May 2016. Mrs Philippa Hope and Mrs Margaret Lumb attended a recent meeting in Earith held by the organisation. They are expecting 3500 people to enter in the UK and 34 countries run the race simultaneously. They won't all run 100km, most runners achieve 5 or 10km. Bluntisham is the 79 km point and the road from the Heath Road to High Street and Rectory road will be closed for about 40 mins, emergency services will be allowed entry if needed. Further letters will be sent to residents advising of the road closures about one month before.</p>	
2318	<p>Health & Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Fouling Mrs Philippa Hope has given more paint away to new volunteers. A problem was reported in the High Street which she has cleared up and no further fouling has taken place as yet. Mrs Margaret Lumb thanked everyone for their help. The Clerk is to remind the Blasters about dogs being allowed on the pitch during match days. Mr Ian Shepherd asked about a resident who wanted a tin of paint but didn't want to pick up. It was agreed this only works when the poo is picked up and the area then marked with the paint. The clerk is to remove this item from the agenda as all appears to be working well. • Dog Walk – this item has been added onto the parish plan for investigation into options to improve it in the future during bad weather. 	Clerk
2319	<p>Land off Mill Lane – Nature reserve/protection – Mr Ian Shepherd has written to the land owner who has advised he will take legal advice. This item will be removed from the agenda until further information is received.</p>	
2320	<p>Website – update from Mr Ian Shepherd – all is looking good with the website. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda for future meetings.</p>	
2321	<p>Community Event – agree events committee Mr Mark Berg advised that the most popular event is a beer festival with a hog roast. Other suggestions were investigated but found to be too expensive. A date of 13 August has been pencilled in for this. Mr Mark Berg, Mr Rob Gore and Mr Alan Moules are to organise this event.</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope suggested an event to officially open the new foot/cyclepath. Mrs Philippa Hope and Mr Gary James are to organise this event once a completion date is confirmed.</p> <p>It was agreed to allocated coordinators from the PC for each community event and no</p>	Mark Berg/Rob Gore/Alan Moules Philippa

	separate events committee was needed.	Hope/Gary James
2322	<p>Committee updates:</p> <p>a) HMC Update – Following the meeting on 11th January the committee agreed to painting of the rear lobby, this work is to start w/c 18 April 2016. It was agreed not to carry out any maintenance on the hall floor in this year. The new marquee has been purchased and volunteers put this up and it is now stored in its bags ready for hire/use. The HMC are working on a village hall brochure to be published online to promote the hall and its uses.</p> <p>b) Finance Update – the meeting held on the 18th January was very brief, the committee are looking at ways of maximising the reserves and options for online banking.</p> <p>c) Allotments update – no update</p> <p>d) Crime – Mrs Margaret Lumb advised the latest scam is a postal one, advising you have a parcel. The clerk is to share details.</p> <p>HCV – the recent meeting was attended by Mick George and his transport Manager who confirmed all his drivers have to go through their own Driving Academy and attend refresher training every 5 years. They also have to attend a cycling course. All his lorries have external cameras and inside cab cameras. Tracker devices are fitted which alert the office if the drivers are using routes they shouldn't be.</p> <p>The traffic manager from the police attended the meeting who confirmed that white lines along Heath Road are not part of their plans. CCC have agreed to cut grips into the verges along Heath Road where the water pools. This will be carried out shortly.</p>	
2323	Riparian Ownership– Flood prevention – the clerk is still working on producing a full scale map identifying land owners of each ditch and will share as soon as this is completed.	Clerk
2324	<p>Correspondence received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Malcolm O'Neill –all committee members read the correspondence received regarding the parish councils approach with regards to Mr Highland and the parking at the Budgens site. There was a meeting arranged by the PC with Mr Highland and CCC where suggestions were made (see minutes Jan 2016) Since this meeting CCC have advised Mr Highland not to repaint the lines at the moment due to the amount of salt on the forecourt the paint won't last. All agreed that the parish council have no enforcement powers and this is a police issue. All inconsiderate parking is to be reported to the police with photo evidence where possible for enforcement action to take place. The clerk is to reply to Mr O'Neill. Date of Pathfinder March – the clerk advised that official correspondence had been received confirming the march on 18 June 2016. St Helens School will be a rest centre as in previous years. 	Clerk
2325	<p>Items for consideration (for information only)</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb received correspondence about grants for youth groups which she sent to cricket club who are going to apply for new equipment.</p> <p>Mr Mark Berg asked about the concrete ring which has now been planted and asked if it could be painted to improve its current appearance.</p> <p>The clerk advised that BPC application for a grant towards the outdoor gym equipment has been short listed by the Tesco Community Grant Scheme and further details on the outcome will be shared asap.</p>	
2326	<p>Topics for future meetings –</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb asked for the date of annual parish meeting to be included.</p>	

Meeting closed 21.34pm Next meeting: 7th March 2016

Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings –2016

April	Monday 4 th April
May	Monday 9 th May
June	Monday 6 th June
July	Monday 4 th July
August	Monday 1 st August
September	Monday 5 th September
October	Monday 3 rd October
November	Monday 7 th November
December	Monday 5 th December

Annex 1 – FY 2015/16 accounts to end January 2016