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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting
Monday 6th October 2014 at 7.30pm at The Village Hall, Mill Lane,
Bluntisham**

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

Also present: Mr Mike Francis, & 15 members of the Public

	<p>Open Forum – Mr David Gedye has almost finished fire hook notice and has found some old documents showing the old park rules and regulations and he is now putting a history of the park together. Thanks to Ed Cameron for putting a map together showing who owns what areas. He suggested when this is finished to consider naming the park. The clerk is to add this onto the agenda for Novembers PC meeting to discuss. Triplow Park is the suggested name. David commented on the hedge cutting so far, the overhang onto the road from the park looks scruffy. The clerk is to investigate options here for trimming back. The clerk made a mistake in the newsletter when talking about the new benches in the village. These were purchased and donated to the village by the Feoffees and not the Godfrey’s as stated. Lastly he has concerns with the Barograph design as it looks as though it is narrowing the road, Mrs Margaret Lumb confirmed this will not be the case and the design will not come outside of the existing white lines.</p> <p>Mrs Sue Everest referred to the lack of response to her email sent to HDC and although she has received an acknowledgement from planning she hasn’t had any detailed reply. Mrs Joan Gutteridge mentioned this may be their process as looking at other planning applications replies to comments raised have been included in the officers final report. She also mentioned the footpaths within the village are not all accessible using a pushchair. The clerk will inform Cllr Steve Criswell but advised that Sue did this also. Mrs Margaret Lumb advised that money was only available for emergency work. Two members of the public had concerns with the new planning application including: flooding issues, land use as rural exception site, trees protected with TPOs, car park will lead to larger development of housing in the future. The Chairman confirmed that the land remains as a Rural Exception Site and can only be built on if social housing is built, as the land hasn’t been sold to a social housing association. Also following a complaint from a resident that trees were being cut down the Parish Council acted immediately and HDC Tree Officer came out to speak with Mr Highland, Mr Highland has to submit a Tree Management Report to HDC.</p> <p>Mr J Magee representing Mr Highland who couldn’t attend due to an awards ceremony. He advised that Mr Highland had sent an email to the clerk on 14 July and no reply has been received. The Clerk advised this email had not been received and to resend it to: bluntishamclerk@gmail.com for a response. The email was then read out.</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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	<p>Mrs Parker concerned with the parking in the village between public house and wood end as large numbers of cars parked on the road at busy times especially near the junction. She asked if Bluntisham could be tidied up to enter a Village in Bloom contest and asked if the PC would support this. The Clerk is to add this onto the agenda for the next PC Meeting.</p> <p>One member of the public asked why the Inner hedge has been cut in the dog recreation area when this is due to be cut down. The Clerk advised she asked the Hedge cutting contractor to leave this hedge due to the removal so apologies for this.</p> <p>One member of the public commented that the work carried out in the wood to the rear of the planning application advised that it was only shrubs had been cut down, however Mrs Margaret Lumb and Mrs Kathy Searle advised that a fruit tree and a further tree had been removed at the time of inspection.</p>	Clerk
1864	Dispensation Forms received and decisions given – Nothing to report	
1865	Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – Mrs Margaret Lumb 1878	
1866	Apologies for absence – Mr Steve Criswell, Mr Frank Hudson, Mrs Cynthia Curtis, Mr Robin Carter	
1867	<p>County Council & District Council Reports – Cllr Mike Francis advised following concerns with parking issues in Presses Close he is actively working on improvements. Mrs Margaret Lumb advised that residents had previously raised this and the PC had contacted HDC regarding extra parking & possible loss of amenity land & would most probably have to stand the cost so it was dropped.</p> <p>The Clerk read out the following email from Cllr Steve Criswell: I recently met with Mr Dolby & Mr & Mrs Rose and both are still agreeable to allowing the cycleway to cross the edge of their fields. Discussions and plans are ongoing. I have also met Mrs Joan Gutteridge and Mrs Margaret Lumb to discuss helping with some “community resilience” activity, further discussions will take place.</p>	
1868	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 1st & 8th September 2014 to be approved and signed – Minutes approved and signed by the Chairman. <i>(Proposed Mrs Margaret Lumb, Seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed)</i>	
1869	Matters arising from previous minutes Nothing to report.	
1870	FY2014/15 Accounts – to end August 2014 No concerns raised with the accounts. Total receipts £2747.72 & total expenditure £4241.34. <i>(Proposed Mrs Margaret Lumb, seconded Miss Emily Godfrey. All agreed.)</i>	
1871	Accounts for payment and September income summary – No concerns raised with the accounts for payment and income summary. Mrs Margaret Lumb and Miss Emily Godfrey signed cheques. <i>(Proposed Mrs Margaret Lumb, seconded Miss Emily Godfrey. All agreed)</i>	
1872	H & S Inspection – repair quotes The clerk has received quotes for all the work to be carried out including the medium risk items raised as part of the ROSPA report. These total £1239.00. Concerns regarding where the finances would come from were raised however due to the rebate the clerk has secured from overpayment of business rates this will cover the costs of repairs.	Clerk
1873	<p>Committee updates:</p> <p>a) Allotments Committee – The clerk advised that the Allotment AGM was well attended and 5 new tenants have signed up. All rents with</p>	

	<p>the exception of 2 are in. The clerk is chasing these outstanding amounts. Minutes of the AGM are waiting for approval by the committee before publishing. The clerk had received comments from a previous allotment holder who was upset with the way he was asked to clear his plot having had agreement from the committee that the plot was fine. The Chairman thanked Mr Frank Hudson and the Clerk for their efforts with the allotments.</p> <p>b) Hall Management Committee – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 10th November.</p>	Clerk
1874	<p>Crime, Road Safety & Highway Warden Update (to include HCV, ENVAR & Hanson reports as appropriate)</p> <p>Crimes: The October "Get Closer" campaign is focussing on cyberbullying. 26 burglaries since the last meeting. One was in East Street, Bluntisham. Still taking cash, jewellery & small electrical items often when residents are away & entering property through rear doors or windows. A scam has reared its head again. Households receive several silent calls & then a call offers to block nuisance calls but householder must pay for this. DO NOT GIVE ANY DETAILS OF CARDS OR BANK DETAILS OVER THE TELEPHONE.</p> <p>Road Safety: The safer cycling campaign is getting under way. Parking by disabled & other drivers on double yellow lines in Market Hill, St. Ives is causing problems for HGV delivery drivers & emergency vehicles & the police would like to issue leaflets to errant drivers asking for them to park considerately. It is an offence to cause an obstruction even if the driver has a disabled badge. Speedwatch has been temporarily suspended while new guidelines are formulated which are acceptable to both the police & volunteers. There are 2 new PCSO's in St. Ives.</p> <p>HCV Forum: Concern was raised about the approval of Ely bypass as the Forum believes HCV traffic will still use local roads, including A1123. There is a proposal to increase HCV speed limits to 60mph in 2015. If HCV's are thought to be ignoring the advisory freight routes in breach of the operating licence conditions the company can lose its licence.</p> <p>If a proposed wind turbine on Berry Fen, Haddenham goes ahead the blades will have to come along the A1123 from the A14 at St. Ives due to road conditions. This would mean closure of the A1123 & a dummy run would have to be carried out as Bluntisham has White Bridge corner & the railway bridge.</p> <p>Hanson: Archaeology will shortly commence at the Earith end before stripping commences. Business is already ahead of 2013 levels which is better than previous years. The gate installed at the Earith entrance has almost stopped fly-tipping & motor cycles do not now go on to the site. The Minerals & Waste manager at CCC has retired & there is, as yet, no replacement. Drivers of HCV's leaving the site continue to be monitored to ensure they comply with the agreed routes.</p> <p>ENVAR: An Operations manager has now been appointed. Heathtops House has been mothballed due to the sale of an offshoot so fewer staff are needed. The site office is now on the site itself. A new lagoon has been dug to catch excess rain & a water tank installed to catch run off from the tunnel roof. Dust complaints have been received but the lack of summer rainfall has been the cause. The site works closely with the Environment Agency to manage this. The site capacity is 105,000 tonnes but so far 90,000 to 95,000 is expected to be processed this year. To counteract any odours from the processing the waste is now on a 7 day cycle & not 3 or 4. They would now</p>	

	<p>like it to be known as Compost Corner.</p> <p>Parish Highway Warden: No recent walkabout. The footpath edge along Colne Road has been strimmed but the ditch will not be cleared out as water does flow. The highway Officer is only able to carry out urgent/ emergency repairs now due to lack of funds. The worst of the Causeway potholes have been filled in. A land owner has agreed to look at the ditches alongside his land with a view to slubbing them in the hope that this could help with the rainwater which runs down Wood End.</p>	
1875	Parish Council 5 year plan –No further updates on the plan to date.	
1876	<p>Cricket Net – move to new area – Mrs Joan Gutteridge received apologies from Richard Saltmarsh and Geoff Curtiss who couldn't be at the meeting to discuss the proposed plans to move the cricket nets to the rear of the village hall. The Chairman explained that agreement is needed on where the cricket nets are to go especially as approximately 100tons of soil needs removing. Concerns were raised with moving the nets to this area and investigation to keeping them in the same place needs to be considered. The Clerk is to add onto the next agenda and invite both Richard and Geoff to attend to answer questions. It will need to be approved by HMC and if planning permission is required will have to go to the PC.</p>	Clerk
1877	<p>Hedge Cutting –Years 2 & 3 – The clerk shared the written quote for years 2 & 3 which was previously verbally approved. The costs for cutting in both years will be £3600.</p> <p><i>(Proposed Mrs Margaret Lumb, seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.)</i></p>	
1878	<p>Planning: 1301360FUL – Change of use of first floor above service station from residential to Health & Beauty Suite (retrospective) and additional associated staff parking.</p> <p>The PC had received an amended plan for the proposed car park which was in two phases and asked to comment on. A discussion regarding the principal of the car park was had and the parish council voted on refusing the amended plan on the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The red and blue line drawn to the footpath is incorrect as this land is highways and is maintained by the Parish Council, the property line starts at the back of the grassed areas. This has been confirmed by HDC during phone calls between Kathy Searle and Planning. • The land to the read of the plan hasn't been sold to any housing association and therefore the land carries the title of rural exception and not for private housing or a commercial car park without such social housing. • The trees namely Cherry Plum, were planted in the late 1970's by the Parish Council and are named in the 1999 Conservation Character Statement and should be retained. • To the left is a stated timber cabinet, which is more commonly known as a well. • To the left of the plan an area is marked as Earth Mound that obstructs the ditch which water flows to the culvert in Station Road, where the proposed car park is to sited, causing flooding on the part which the proposed car park is situated. • A shingle surface is unsuitable for vehicles to egress onto the footpath as the loose stones can be a hazard for pedestrians. <p>The Parish Council is asking this land be returned to its former status of Agricultural Land when a new rural exception site is found.</p> <p><i>(Proposed Mrs Kathy Searle, Seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.)</i></p>	

1879	Enforcement Issues – None.	
1880	Barograph Update - £1500 contribution – The Clerk raised concern with the £1500 contribution which had to be paid as per the application for this upgrade. The committee were not aware of the large contribution and asked if the Feoffees could contribute towards this as the Barograph is owned by them. The Clerk is to write officially to the Feoffees to ask. The Clerk in conjunction with Mrs Margaret Lumb has sent a letter to 10 residents including the plan of the upgrades. The order has been raised and it is hoped that the start date will be early November. Originally CCC advised they were not able to resource the conservation kerb slabs, however, since then they have managed to secure the kerbs.	Clerk
1881	WREN application – the clerk advised that this application has been refused as it has been classed as routine maintenance and not development.	
1882	NNDR rebate – the clerk is pleased to confirm that a rebate of £8350.92 due to the application of Small Business Rates Relief from 2010 – 2015. 35% of this is to be paid to Goodman Nash as per the agreement leaving the parish council with £5428.10. The Chairman thanked the clerk for her efforts in securing this money.	
1883	Village Maintenance: a) Coronation Bench – Wood End. Thanks to Mr Dench for his excellent work on repairing this bench. Please can receipts for the expenses occurred be passed onto the clerk for reimbursement. b) War Memorial – this has been cleaned and repainted and with the tree now cut looks lovely. c) Mower Service – the clerk advised that annual mower maintenance is needed and asked for permission to go ahead and get this done. The clerk advised this year won't be too expensive as it can be repaired on site, however, next year blades will need replacing and it will have to be sent away. All agreed for the clerk to get this maintenance done. d) Dog Walk – fencing, boundary, removal of inner hedge – as per the meeting on 8 September it was agreed to remove the hedge but to use the volunteers to do the work. This won't be carried out for 6 – 8 weeks due to holiday commitments. The clerk is to advise the dog walkers that there will be a delay. Concerns regarding the exact measurements have been raised with the clerk.	Clerk Clerk
1884	Reported problems – None	
1885	HMC Terms of reference – Minor changes to the terms of reference were shared and approved. <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James, seconded Mrs Margaret Lumb. All agreed.)</i>	
1886	New Contract for store of Tractor at Heath Farm – The clerk read out the letter received from Mr Rose on 12.9.14 advising the annual fee for storing of the Tractor would be £120. The clerk will advise Mr Rose of the date the tractor is being moved. Thanks to Mr David Gedye for clearing of the barn. The gang mowers sold for £99 and disposal of scrap metal raised a further £70. <i>(Proposed Mrs Jaon Gutteridge, seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.)</i>	Clerk
1887	Website usage & update – The clerk has done some research on the volumes of usage of the website and confirmed it is used fairly regularly although more updates are needed and will ensure all standing orders are updated and suggested sending links to documents rather than attachments for future agenda/minutes. This will be trialled and any problems with opening the links to contact the clerk.	

1888	<p>Correspondence received –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural CAB have written asking for funding to support the rural service. It was agreed to allow advertising space in the next newsletter asking if anyone wanted to donate as the Parish Council were not in a position to help. • Kendall Amusements – further information regarding the travelling fair had been received. A discussion around where this could be held confirmed the Parish Council are not able to accommodate this request, however, the clerk is to advise that maybe the school car park might be suitable and to write to the school. • Gavin Dodge – has written regarding the amount of dog mess on the field. The clerk is to write to advise that a lot of foxes are around and also badgers so not all of it may be dog mess. The clerk is to contact HDC Dog warden Stephanie Harlock to ask for help with monitoring the dog mess in the village. If anyone witnesses misuse of the playing field by dog owners to report them to HDC, if they have driven then to take their registration number. Reminders that the Dog Exclusion Order was a 12 month trial period and discussions would take place early 2015 to its success. We are all responsible for reporting misuse and the Parish Council ask that the Blasters help with this by speaking to any spectators with dogs watching the games. • Stop the NHS sell off – the clerk received a letter advising of the sell off. • Huntingdonshire Flood Forum – the clerk asked for a volunteer to attend the new Flood Forum meeting on 19.11.14 at 7pm in The Civic Suite, Pathfinder House. Miss Emily Godfrey agreed to represent Bluntisham Parish Council at this meeting. • Mr Haines emailed to advise of the refusal of his planning application and wanted it noted the reason for the refusal. • Dr N Cross emailed to express concern with the barograph improvements and to ask if white lines could be painted across his driveway. The clerk has provided contact details for Highways who carry out this work. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>												
1889	<p>Various Magazines & mail shots for general interest – nothing to share.</p>													
1890	<p>Dates of meetings in 2015 –</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="325 1447 1321 1677"> <tr> <td>Monday 5th January</td> <td>Monday 6th July</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday 9th February</td> <td>Monday 3rd August</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday 2nd March</td> <td>Monday 7th September</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday 13th April</td> <td>Monday 5th October</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday 11th May</td> <td>Monday 2nd November</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday 1st June</td> <td>Monday 7th December</td> </tr> </table>	Monday 5 th January	Monday 6 th July	Monday 9 th February	Monday 3 rd August	Monday 2 nd March	Monday 7 th September	Monday 13 th April	Monday 5 th October	Monday 11 th May	Monday 2 nd November	Monday 1 st June	Monday 7 th December	
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1891	<p>Items for consideration (for information only)</p> <p>Miss Emily Godfrey advised that 9 tables have booked and paid and more enquiries have been received. Mrs Margaret Lumb suggested that a thank you to Ed Cameron for all his work on producing the bus guide, all agreed to fund a couple of bottles of red wine. Mrs Joan Gutteridge thanked Mr Joe Parker for the installation of the new bench on station road, it looks lovely. The Clerk is to write to the Saywell Charity to thank them for the donation, it was agreed the PC would take responsibility for any future maintenance of the bench.</p> <p>The clerk advised that following the WEEE recycling event £36.12 will be reimbursed to the PC. A future date of 17th March 2015 has been agreed. An</p>	<p>Clerk</p>												

	<p>email from Cambs Home Improvement Agency asking for funding has been received, it was agreed that if they receive an application for a Bluntisham resident to contact the PC at the time and they will review case by case. Jo Philpott from HACT has asked to attend the next PC meeting to promote the bus service. The Feoffees have offered to pay for the restoration of the Fire Hooks, the clerk is to investigate the expense and liaise with the Feoffees. The 2015/16 precept is due by 19 December, as an election is due in 2015/16 allowances of £1500 need to be made in the budget. The clerk is preparing a draft budget for discussion at the finance meeting on Monday 13 October.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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Meeting closed 10.25 pm

Next meeting: 3rd November 2014

Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings – 2014

November	Monday 3 rd November
December	Monday 8 th December

Annex 1 – FY 2014/15 accounts to end August 2014