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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,  
Bluntisham**

**Present:** Chairman Mr Mark Berg, Mr Gary James, Mr Frank Hudson, Mrs Philippa Hope, Mrs Cynthia Curtis, Mrs Jayne Smith, Mr Roger Steel & Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk)

**Also present:** 3 x member of the public & Cllr Jon Neish & Cllr Steve Criswell

	<p><b>Open forum</b> The Chairman welcomed the public to the meeting and formally opened the forum. A member of the public raised concerns with the planning application 1901788FUL. Firstly they had not received any notification from HDC despite being a neighbouring property, secondly there concerns raised previously had not been transferred and thirdly they are not happy with the proposal for the reasons submitted to the PC. The Chairman noted these comments and Cllr Neish spoke to the case officer at HDC about why they were not consulted and reason being investigated. Meeting opened at 8.03pm</p>	
126	<b>Dispensation Forms received and decisions given - None</b>	
127	<b>Declarations of interest for items on the agenda</b> – Mrs Philippa Hope pecuniary interest item 137 BACS run 13 <sup>th</sup> September.	
128	<b>Apologies for absence</b> – Mr Rob Gore. No contact from Cllr Besley.	
129	<b>Sports Clubs &amp; Events</b> – nothing to report.	
130	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Neighbourhood Plan</b> – the clerk shared all correspondence received from CRAG in August regarding a Neighbourhood Plan. CRAG were invited to attend the meeting to answer any questions. The PC discussed the pro’s and con’s of a Neighbourhood Plan and sought advice from Cllr Neish &amp; Cllr Criswell. A healthy discussion took place and the PC agreed not to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan at this stage as they felt the formal adoption of the Local Plan 2036 protects the village and agreed to review again in 3 years time. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.)</i></li> <li>• <b>Enforcement Update</b> – 19/00104/ENOTH – breach of planning identified following site visit. Application to progress further. 19/00110/ENBOC – no update as out tree officer is liaising with the owner directly as to the specification of the tree for the forthcoming tree planting season (Nov – March) 18/00171/ENBDOM – under planning application 19/00969/FUL still pending consideration. 18/00255/ENCARA – due to be inspected soon. 19/00185/ENCARA – letting of mobile home. No breach identified following site visit. Application closed.</li> <li>• <b>Planning application update</b> – the clerk went through the applications decisions and changes to the list. This document can be found on the website under planning. <a href="#">Click here</a> to access.</li> <li>• <b>E/3003/18/CM</b> – Willow Hall Farm, Hillrow Causeway, Haddenham – the PC discussed the site and their previous objection remains. Therefore, a vote to <b>REFUSE</b></li> </ul>	Clerk

	<p>the application was taken. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FMW/044/19</b> – Land at Colne Fen Quarry, Chatteris Road, Somersham. The PC discussed this application and agreed to <b>REFUSE</b> the proposal due to the additional vehicle movements for a further 5 years. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mr Roger Steel. All agreed.)</i></li> <li>• <b>Consultation for Bury Neighbourhood Plan</b> – 19.9.19 – 31.10.19. Purely for information purposes only if anyone wishes to comment.</li> <li>• <b>19/01737/FUL</b> – change of use of the land to Gypsy and Traveller residential with the siting of one static caravan and one touring caravan and the development of a block of stable/utility block, part retrospective. 2 Green Acre, Needingworth Road, Bluntisham. A site visit was carried out on 30<sup>th</sup> September by Mr Frank Hudson, Mr Gary James, Cllr Neish and the clerk. The plans submitted match the retrospective work carried out and the plot is in keeping with the neighbouring plots. The PC voted to <b>APPROVE</b> the application. <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James, Seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i></li> <li>• <b>19/01810/HHFUL</b> – rear extension, minor internal work &amp; minor work to rear elevation. 40 High Street, Bluntisham. The PC Voted to <b>APPROVE</b> the application following a site visit in August. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.)</i></li> <li>• <b>19/01788/FUL</b> – change of use of land to commercial fish farm, associated utility building, engineering operations and siting of mobile home for temporary period. Land South East of Wood Farm Bungalow, Needingworth Road, Bluntisham. The PC discussed the application and agreed to <b>REFUSE</b> the application for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development in the open countryside</li> <li>Highways</li> <li>Environment</li> <li>Principle</li> <li>Waste &amp; Minerals</li> </ul> <i>(Proposed Mrs Jayne Smith, Seconded Mrs Cynthia Curtis. All agreed.)</i> </li> <li>• <b>19/00969/FUL</b> – change of use of existing sheds from agricultural to be incorporate into the domestic residential curtilage. The Witches Twist Chicken Farm, The Heath, Bluntisham – amended plan received. The PC reviewed the amended plan and agreed that no changes had been made from their earlier comments and therefore the PC voted to <b>REFUSE</b> the application for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development in the open countryside</li> <li>Lack of detail on plan submitted</li> <li>Site visit refused to review development on site</li> <li>Application contradicts aerial photographs taken which show buildings not on site</li> </ul> <i>(Proposed Mrs Cynthia Curtis, seconded Mrs Jayne Smith. All agreed.)</i> </li> </ul>	
131	<p><b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to be approved and signed by the Chairman</b> – The minutes were signed by the Chairman. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i></p>	
132	<p><b>Matters arising from previous minutes not on the agenda</b> – None.</p>	
133	<p><b>County Council &amp; District Council reports:</b></p> <p>Cllr Criswell – advised that patch repair work would be carried out on 3<sup>rd</sup> November to Shelford Road. A road closure will be in place for this day. Long term funding options are being reviewed as improvement works will cost in excess of £7 million, which CCC doesn't have in its repair budget.</p> <p>Wheatsheaf Crossroads – an options appraisal took place and the results are to be shared at a meeting later this week. A full report will be shared in due course. It was agreed to add this</p>	

	<p>item to the next parish newsletter to inform residents of the work being undertaken.</p> <p>Cllr Neish – advised that HDC are also reviewing Wheatsheaf Crossroads and hope to be able to work with CCC on making improvements to the junction. The A141 St Ives Strategy Group are still meeting on a frequent basis but at the moment these meetings are confidential. A question was raised if this group are looking at a 3<sup>rd</sup> river crossing, Cllr Neish advised this is being reviewed by another group.</p> <p>The clerk has not heard from Cllr Besley.</p>	Clerk
134	<p><b>Heritage Project Update</b> – Mrs Philippa Hope updated the PC on the progress made since the last meeting. All the upgrade work to the website has taken place and thanked Mr Peter Lusmore for this and the new equipment has also been purchased. New content has been published and a newsletter is due to go out later this month and further open mornings are planned for later in the year. Permission for the following expenditure:</p> <p>£150 printed newsletter as a one off as future Newsletters will be sent electronically</p> <p>£700 PA system to be used for open mornings in the village hall. This can then be used by other hall hirers in the future.</p> <p>£100 Mac training for the clerk to attend</p> <p>£184 digital recording system to capture conversations</p> <p>All expenditure was approved by the PC. (<i>Proposed Mrs Cynthia Curtis, Seconded Mrs Jayne Smith. All agreed.</i>)</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mrs Philippa Hope for all her hard work with this project.</p>	
135	<p><b>FY2019/20 Accounts to end September 2019</b> – Mrs Philippa Hope went through the accounts in detail. A projected surplus of £5900 by the end of the financial year based on income and expenditure to date.</p> <p>Income September - £51024.63</p> <p>Expenditure September - £7923.50</p> <p>Bank Balance Lloyds: £72021.85</p> <p>Savings Account: £57,311.60</p> <p>(<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.</i>)</p>	
136	<p><b>Village Hall &amp; old village hall</b></p> <p>Village Hall Events</p> <p>Saturday 16 November – Craft Fair from 2-4pm. The clerk asked for help on the day with selling raffle tickets and refreshments. Also raffle prizes.</p> <p>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Upwood Ukuleles. Tickets now on sale at £7.50. The clerk asked for help selling tickets and for a helper to man the bar on the night.</p> <p>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Quiz. Tickets now on sale at £20 per team.</p> <p>The clerk suggested an outdoor cinema event in 2020 but it was agreed not to pursue due to the costs and high risk dependency on the weather.</p> <p>Village Hall Maintenance</p> <p>The clerk advised that she had only received one quote so far for the bin store improvements so would share this with the others at the next meeting.</p> <p>The boiler service is now due. The quote has come in the same as last year from St Ives Gas. Further work to the water tank is outstanding and this work came out at £568 + VAT. It was agreed to undertake both the boiler service and additional water tank work at the same time ahead of switching the heating on. (<i>Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.</i>)</p> <p>A quote for new CCTV cameras around the hall was obtained from Business Watch and it was agreed to ask for some amendments. The clerk also obtained a quote for a solar CCTV unit but this wouldn't be compatible with the existing equipment and software. It was agreed to obtain a further quote for this work ahead of the next meeting.</p> <p>Old Village Hall</p> <p>The clerk advised that following the recent door incident, which was repaired by Earith Timber Products free of charge, further concerns with the long term use of the old hall was raised. A leak inside has been identified although it doesn't appear to be coming from the</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>INFO</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>roof. All agreed the building had seen better days and it wasn't worth investing in any improvements to the existing building but to consider looking at a similar replacement. The clerk is to try and get quotes for a replacement and costs for removal of the existing ahead of the next meeting.</p>	Clerk
137	<p><b>Accounts for payment for September</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BACS run 13<sup>th</sup> September- £4778.82 authorised by Mr Gary James &amp; Mrs Cynthia Curtis</li> <li>• BACS run 30<sup>th</sup> September - £2424.95 authorised by Mrs Philippa Hope &amp; Mr Mark Berg.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.)</i></p>	
138	<p><b>Village Maintenance &amp; events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SID update – nothing to report as still sited in Colne Road. The clerk to move next week.</li> <li>• LHI19/20 – approve design specification. The clerk shared the design with the councillors and also consulted with 19 residents of Wood End &amp; The Heath. Only one response was received and was shared ahead of the meeting. The PC agreed that CCC Highways were the experts and the plans were compatible with their advice. By reducing the speed on the entrance to the village will hopefully slow vehicles down entering and leaving the village ahead of the road narrowing feature. CCC advised the work would be carried out in the early part of next year before the end of the financial year. The PC voted to APPROVE the plan. <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All agreed.)</i></li> <li>• Street lights – solar, existing or LED. The clerk shared the costs of all 3 options for the 2 street lights located on Mill Lane which are the PC responsibility and the electricity costs will be passed onto the PC by CCC on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. Solar - £1583.96 – to install 2 units. No additional running costs Existing - £50 pa maintenance contract plus electricity costs approx. £200 pa. No bulb replacements possible as no longer make the unit. LED - £1200 to install 2 LED units plus electricity costs pa. Further quote of £525 to install LED lights and electricity costs pa. The PC voted to go with installing of SOLAR units and have £0 running costs plus being better for the environment. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.)</i></li> <li>• Village sign – plaque. Mrs Philippa Hope suggested installing a small plaque paying tribute to Mr Harry Lee who designed the original sign. It was agreed this was a good idea and the PC supported this suggestion. <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i></li> <li>• Trees &amp; shrubs surrounding village hall car park – The clerk suggested getting a quote from HDC to cut back the trees and shrubs adjacent to the village hall car park ahead of the car park improvement works. It was agreed that HDC are competitive for this work and only one quote was needed.</li> <li>• Solar lighting options - the clerk shared a quote she had received to install solar lights along the dog walk. While it was agreed this was a good idea concern was raised that there wouldn't be enough daylight to illuminate these lights during the dark winter days. Therefore the clerk is to obtain further evidence to support this for the next meeting. The cost of this was £4213.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
139	<p><b>Committee updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotment – the clerk advised that there are still 3 plot holders who haven't paid for their plot for the coming year. Further correspondence will be sent to these people. The clerk will then fill the vacant plots with people from the waiting list.</li> <li>• Finance – the committee met and will be discussing the budget for 2020/21 at their meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November to present to the PC on 4<sup>th</sup> December. Any projects or</li> </ul>	Clerk

	<p>suggestions for inclusion are to be sent to the clerk asap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports from Mrs Margaret Lumb</li> </ul> <p><b>Hanson</b> – some legal points still to sort out with car park off Shelford Road so not ready until spring at least. What was thought to be a 3000 year old logboat is not but the wood from it &amp; around has revealed a prosperous Iron Age settlement. Extraction &amp; sale of sand &amp; gravel up to forecast. All drivers have been reissued with the transport routing directive. Birds: A pair of cranes nested &amp; hatched young but they did not fledge. Very important visitors as there are only 50 pairs in the whole of the UK. Bitterns continue to do well. Concern was raised at the state of the Shelford Road &amp; the District Councillor for Willingham is trying to reduce the speed limit to 30mph while it remains in this condition.</p> <p><b>Road Safety</b> – we are continuing to try to reduce the HCV traffic through the villages. Also working with St Ivo school &amp; HCV group to monitor air pollution in the environs of the school. The Chairman of the committee is meeting with school, police &amp; district to try to persuade students to pay attention when crossing the highway as we know motorists do run the traffic lights at High Leys &amp; Hill Rise at times. Concern also raised at the accidents at the Wheatsheaf crossroads &amp; are compiling data from motorists who do, or will not use this junction. Have also expressed concerns with Shelford Road condition.</p> <p><b>HCV</b> – collating data from the SmartCitizen monitors attached to properties in locations where a resident is a member of the committee. Also expressed concern about the state of Shelford Road &amp; the possible use by HDV's going to and from Willow Hall Farm if consent is given in November.</p>	All
140	<p><b>Items for consideration (for information only)</b></p> <p>The clerk advised that she had received a positive response to the request for planting daffodil bulbs around the village donated by the Bluntisham 100 club. Any more volunteers willing to help with planting are to contact the clerk asap.</p> <p>Mr Gary James advised that a recent burst water main in Wheatley Crescent which flooded 4 properties garages or conservatories raised awareness of the location of their front doors with the water level and suggested everyone look at this ahead of the winter and potential heavy rain fall.</p> <p>Meeting closed 10.02pm Next meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.</p>	

**Bluntisham 100 club draw took place:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place wins £50 – 3 Jan Bullin**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place wins £20 – 39 Marion Potter**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place wins £10 – 83 Dave Brass**

**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)**