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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting
Monday 9th February 2015 at 8pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,
Bluntisham**

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

Also present: Cllr Robin Carter, Cllr Mike Francis & 20 members of the Public

Open Forum

Sue Everest expressed dissatisfaction having seen the plan of the new footpath to find out that 4 of the street lights have to be moved. On top of this the footpath has been laid before the lights have been moved, therefore generating further disruption as and when the lights are moved. Not to mention the additional expense. Mrs Margaret Lumb advised that UK Power networks have to move the street lights and although CCC have been in contact with them they haven't been in a position to complete the move before the footpath works commenced. CCC have confirmed the top layer of the footpath won't be laid until the street lights have been moved.

Fred King asked what the cost implication was and who would be paying for this. Why can't CCC join up with other organisations and save money.

Post meeting note: Ross Hamilton from CCC confirmed the funding for this scheme has come from S106 contributions, towards the St Ives Market Town Transport Strategy, rather than CCC Capital funding.

Janet Eaton – spoke on behalf of some of the residents of Mill Lane and raised concerns with the proposed affordable housing. They are very upset and angry and opposed to any housing on Mill Lane which is outside the village boundary and on agricultural land. The track and landscape is lovely, look across fields and see church & water meadow. She went on to say how they will lose the view and also raised concerns with the access. If the development goes ahead it will double the amount of housing down this quiet lane. Concerns with the quality of life for all lane users and occupiers. The lane is well used by dog walkers, Nordic walkers, horse riders, cyclists, and general walking. Any development will bring additional traffic and street lighting which will impact on the current wildlife. They would like to strongly object to any planning application and are concerned that this may set a precedent for further development in the future. A request for a detailed current analytical report for the need for affordable housing in Bluntisham. A final plea to urge the Councillors to wait until another suitable site is found in the village.

Jonathan Clarke – Mill Lane, proposed development built on a survey which is a few years out of date. He would like to know if the need is still there as he fully supports this if the need is required, just not in this location. He would like to know if the Minnar site in Earith and the other site in Colne would fulfil the housing need for Bluntisham. He agrees with

Clerk

	<p>all points raised by Janet Eaton. This site is very remote from the village and out on a limb, why urbanise a well used nature reserve? Risking potential accidents with the children who use the lane to ride their bikes and scooters. The highway isn't up to standard which will mean an additional expense of installing a footpath will be required. The lane is used for overflow parking when there are football/cricket matches being played.</p> <p>Ian Shepherd – add voice of support to all concerns raised.</p> <p>Margaret Firth – raised concern for children who use the road to play and ride their bikes, run freely without any danger. The road is narrow and on match days it is difficult to pass along the road and no large vehicle could use this road as it is.</p>	
1983	Dispensation Forms received and decisions given – Nothing to report	
1984	Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None	
1985	Apologies for absence – Mrs Cynthia Curtis & Cllr Steve Criswell	
1986	<p>County Council & District Council Reports –</p> <p>Cllr Carter –Hinchingsbrooke Hospital due to be handed back to the trust in March. Concern for the future of the hospital. Pleased to see the PC attended the Local Plan meeting at HDC, the PC have time to get any concerns to HDC and the plan is due to be adopted in 2016. HDC are freezing council tax for 15/16 and looking to maintain that until 2019/20. HDC continues to state that all services are to be retained. Still waiting for a quote for the moving of the lighting column in Holliday's Road. Mrs Kathy Searle asked why 20 Presses Close, a 3 bed social housing property, is still empty and has been since July 2014.</p> <p>Mike Francis would like to agree with all concerns raised about the proposed site in Mill Lane. He stated that the PC represents the village in an unbiased way and the PC takes decisions carefully. Mr Gary James wants it noted that Cllr Mike Francis represents the village of Bluntisham as an elected member and people should remember this as and when any planning application is received.</p> <p>The PC are only consultees the District Council and Councillors make the decisions.</p>	Cllr Carter
1987	<p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1402148FUL – Demolition of existing garage, new double garage to front/side of house. 23 High Street, Bluntisham. The PC approved the application. (<i>Proposed Mrs Kathy Searle, Seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.</i>) • Neighbourhood Development Plan – Mr Gary James advised this is a Government scheme to encourage parish and town councils to identify specific areas, within the village, they want to protect. There is a small grant available to help if the PC want to move forward. Mr Gary James is happy to lead on this and will investigate options. Cllr Robin Carter advised that HDC will offer a consultancy service. Mr Gary James asked for the named contact at HDC. This will then form a regular agenda item for future PC meetings. • Affordable housing – Mrs Joan Gutteridge read the following statement of progress with affordable housing needs within the village and answered any further questions. <p><i>The Parish Council undertook an affordable housing needs survey in 2007</i></p>	Mr Gary James & Cllr Carter

in conjunction with Cambridgeshire ACRE. This was to establish the housing needs for the village.

December 2007 the results indicated that 32 households in the village were in need of affordable housing.

Spring 2010 the village newsletter advises that Station Road could have 11 new affordable properties. If the site is sold to Accent Nene and subject to a suitable planning application.

June 2010 the PC carried out a review of 4 sites in the village which had been proposed as suitable sites. (See plan Station Road, C, A & B) The PC approved Station Road and site C but favoured Station Road.

November 2012 a further needs survey was carried out by Cambridgeshire ACRE.

December 2012 and the results indicated that 69% of all households were in favour of affordable housing with 22% against it and 9% not voting either way. The results indicated that 14 households were in need of affordable housing.

Throughout 2013 & 2014 the PC have been talking to HDC and Accent Nene to establish the situation with the Station Road site. In November 2014 it had been confirmed that Accent Nene were no longer talking to the owner of Station Road and were reviewing other sites in the village for affordable housing.

In December 2014 the PC were invited to meet with HDC and Accent Nene to review a new potential site for affordable housing. Due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed this meeting was advertised as a closed meeting. The Parish Council were then asked to approve in principal the location of the site in Mill Lane. The PC approved the site and Accent Nene are working with their legal team to establish an agreement for the sale of the land and will work in partnership with HDC to submit a suitable planning application. They have both confirmed the PC will be kept informed of the progress of the application and any preliminary plans will be shared with the PC for comments prior to a full submission.

January 2015 – the PC advised the rest of the committee of the new site proposal at their monthly meeting.

Additional questions raised: *Mrs Kathy Searle confirmed that 19 people are currently on the housing list for Bluntisham. Both surveys carried out were independent and carried out by Cambs ACRE. Further discussion on how a housing need is qualified. An example given was if you had parents who required care, you could then come back to the village, to save on the health service, by providing that care for them. A question regarding if this is written down and guaranteed by HDC was raised. Mrs Joan Gutteridge confirmed that it is perpetuity. A request for such proof was asked for. Homes will not be left empty if there isn't a need from Bluntisham residents then it will go out to Colne and Earith before going out on a wider scale. The PC advised that a full planning application will have to be submitted and they hoped they would have something to share by April/May of this year.*

As this has been going on for over 9 years now the PC are keen to get some commitment and agreement for well needed affordable housing in the village.

Steve Highland added that he hasn't just not sold his land for affordable housing, but the initial plan put forward was for 10 affordable houses, 1 shared ownership and 1 private dwelling. As he originally bought the land

	<p>for the overflow car park he refused this proposal. He has since met with HDC after the planning application was approved to discuss proposals for the remaining land. He advised the door is not closed on this site and he is hopeful that HDC will contact him in the coming weeks to discuss options. He stressed that residents could assist this by contacting HDC directly with their views.</p> <p>Mrs Kathy Searle advised the PC has worked hard with HDC to try and get a suitable site in the village. Cllr Carter confirmed the sites are rural exception sites and can only be developed under strict guidelines. He advised they will be shared ownership and not affordable housing for social rent. Mrs Kathy Searle advised that the PC were under the impression that there would be 4/5 properties for social rent and the rest for shared ownership.</p> <p>Mr Ian Shepherd would like to encourage the PC to pursue the Station Road site.</p> <p>Mr Gary James advised that the District Council are the decision makers so you need to share your views with your Councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan 2036 – Mrs Joan Gutteridge attended a meeting at HDC and received a hard copy of the Local plan (336 pages). She is ploughing through it and will report at the next meeting. Cllr Robin Carter advised to concentrate on the policies and Earith ward. 	
1988	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 5th January to be approved and signed – Minutes approved and signed by the Chairman. <i>(Proposed Mrs Margaret Lumb, Seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed)</i>	
1989	Matters arising from previous minutes –.None.	
1990	FY2014/15 Accounts – to end December 2014 No concerns raised with the accounts. Total receipts £3092.58 & total expenditure £3716.78. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, Seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.)</i> <i>Annex 1</i>	
1991	Accounts for payment and January 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>	
1992	Committee updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Allotments Committee – the clerk advised she had received an email from the Allotments Association advising of the progress of funding for the toilets. Mrs Joan Gutteridge advised that the Community Fund Committee had received an application for funding, however, a decision hadn't been made yet. The PC hadn't agreed to fund the toilets. Hall Management Committee – the clerk updated following the meeting held on 12 January 2015. Minutes on the website. Next meeting 9 March 2015 at 8pm. Finance Committee – A meeting was held on 19 January 2015 albeit very short. Agreed to meet after the end of the financial year. 	
1993	Date of Annual Parish Meeting – agreed to have this meeting on Monday 11 May 2015 at 8pm, followed by the Annual General Meeting.	
1994	Parish Council 5 year plan & Annual Action Plan – the clerk updated the group on the actions from both the 5 year and annual action plan. Copies to be shared with the minutes.	Clerk
1995	Crime, Road Safety & Highway Warden Update (to include HCV,	

ENVAR & Hanson reports as appropriate)

ENVAR & Hanson – meeting in March.

Crime: Due to a problem with email no up to date burglary figures and priorities are available. Mrs Margaret Lumb attended a NHW seminar recently. Attendees heard from CI Laura Hunt, the Area Commander & CI Chris Savage. Attendees asked for better communication as NHW members need to know when a crime has just been committed not a week later so any suspicious activity, which could be relevant, can be reported. Modern slavery is a problem & stop & search powers now include checking for vulnerable children in vehicles. Targets have been withdrawn & NHW members will have the opportunity to meet with police regularly & set the meeting agenda. Police are keen to use expertise from NHW members for some routine tasks to free up police time. Special constables are being trained to do more regular police work in investigating crimes.

Highways: A walkabout took place just after the January PC meeting. The Highways budget has been cut further than expected for 2015/16 & major roads & emergency repairs will take precedence. Potholes less than 40ml will no longer be repaired. Two potholes at the junction of Orchard End & St Marys Road were found to be deep enough and have now been filled. St Marys Road footpath is in a bad state but the Highways Officer can only submit repair requests. The damage to the footpath alongside 17 East Street has been repaired but it is thought a builder's truck has parked on it as it is not as good as it should be. Cllr Carter read from the Transport Plan, which he will forward onto the clerk, of repairs for Bluntisham but it didn't state which financial year. He also reported that the re-building of the wall to 21 Wood End has damaged the footpath. The overhanging conifer in Frog's Hall has been trimmed but it still overhangs the footpath. Mrs Margaret Lumb to monitor. Another shrub overhanging was noted. Work to resurface the Causeway will not be done until it becomes a footpath/cycleway. It will only be patched up where it is really bad. The Highways Officer is happy for Mrs Lumb to continue to send him emails about problems although a new email reporting system has been created. Mrs Lumb had a guided tour of the work to the new Cycle/Foot path and expressed concern that works to the car park might damage any footpath already constructed. The contractor said that work would stop just before the car park entrance until the car park work was done. This would not affect the rest of the work & the final surface would be laid once all other works were done. In the next financial year the next phase of the cycle path would be done to go around White Bridge corner. Vegetation has already been cut back near the quarry entrance in preparation for this. It will go through Needingworth with a crossing from north to south by the turning to Needingworth. In the autumn it should be completed to link with the St Ives to Needingworth section by the golf club. It is hoped that the area bypassing the bridge will also be completed soon.

Road Safety: The new Speedwatch co-ordinator, Brian Robins, attended the meeting & put the Constabulary's views on Speedwatch volunteering. This was not well received as he said St Ives sector had a high inaccuracy rate, when committee members, most of whom have done a session know this not to be true. Unfortunately views on both sides are entrenched. Mrs Margaret Lumb as Chairman of Road Safety, has been invited to a meeting at Police HQ on 5th March & will attend to discuss the way forward. Speedwatch now has access to speed monitoring boxes which work for 24 hours for 7-10 days & distinguish between cars & lorries. Cyclist

	<p>made an announcement to thank the clerk for her efforts with ticket sales. Mr Gary James uncovered an old newsletter from 1995 this was given to the clerk. Mrs Kathy Searle advised the school had a recent litter pick and wants this included in the next newsletter to thank all the children for their efforts around the village. Mrs Joan Gutteridge advised that a tree has been planted by the war memorial in Rectory Road. She is trying to find out who has planted this in memory of their family. HDC approved the planting without consultation with the PC.</p>	
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Meeting closed 10.30pm

Next meeting: 2nd March 2015

Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings –2015

March	Monday 2 nd March
April	Monday 13 th April
May	Monday 11 th May
June	Monday 1 st June
July	Monday 6 th July
August	Monday 3 rd August
September	Monday 7 th September
October	Monday 5 th October
November	Monday 2 nd November
December	Monday 7 th December

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