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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 4th January 2017 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,
Bluntisham**

Present: Chairman: Mrs Margaret Lumb, Mrs Philippa Hope, Mr Alan Moules, Mr Gary James, Mrs Kathy Searle, Mrs Cynthia Curtis, Mr Mark Berg, Mr Rob Gore, Mr Frank Hudson, Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk),

Also present: 11 x members of the public

	<p>Open forum Mrs Margaret Lumb welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished Councillors and public a very Happy New Year. A reminder that the open forum is the opportunity for the public to speak and to remind everyone that all questions must go via the Chair. Mrs Joan Gutteridge questioned item 206 from the December meeting regarding parish council ditches. She feels the parish council should find out who owns these ditches not maintained and take ownership for them. It was agreed to add to the next agenda for further discussion. Mr Wraight advised that he pays a drainage fee to the middle level drainage board for clearance of his ditch. Mr Ray Edwards confirmed that he has cleared his ditch but his neighbours is in a bad state. The clerk is to write to Mr Wallis and ask if he has planned to get this cleared. Mr Rob Gore questioned why the parish council were taking responsibility for this as they have no jurisdiction or enforcement powers. Mrs Margaret Lumb advised she would raise it with CCC Highways during her next walkabout. Mrs Sue Everest advised on the ditches she feels are the parish councils responsibility but highlighted the ditch to the rear of the cottages in Station Road has problems. A reminder that all landowners are responsible for maintenance of their ditches and should keep them clear to allow water to flow. Mrs Margaret Lumb advised that the grips will not be cut along The Heath until the new financial year. The meeting opened at 8.10pm</p>	
212	Dispensation Forms received & decisions given - None	
213	Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None	
214	Apologies for absence – Mr Martin Crowhurst, Mr Ian Shepherd, Cllr Steve Criswell.	
215	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 7th December to be approved and signed by the chairman – The chairman signed the minutes. (Proposed Mr Mark Berg, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)	
216	Matters arising from previous minutes – None.	
217	<p>FY2016/17 Accounts to end December 2016 – Mrs Philippa Hope reviewed the accounts and advised of an overspend to the parish accounts due to the purchase of the new mower, which looks worse than it is, and this purchase was approved by the full council on 5th October ref 166. The outcome for the year end still looks to end with a slight surplus if the village hall continues to operate on budget. The S137 payment hasn't been made twice but is a lost cheque which shows as a credit in misc income. Mrs Philippa Hope asked if HMC could review the GAS spend and the possibility of introducing more smart thermostats to heat the hall and foyer more efficiently. Expenditure - £17,331.66 Income - £5,233.32</p>	HMC

	Bank balance - £29,371.97 Cambs building society - £56901.73 (Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)	
218	Accounts for payment for December payments – All payments made by BACS authorised by Mrs Philippa Hope and Mr Alan Moules. (Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed.)	
219	Authorise any purchase orders for December – The chairman signed purchase order 2016//020 for £153.18 + VAT to Ken Booth & Co for cleaning materials for the village hall.	
220	<p>County Council & District Council reports</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb read out email from Cllr Steve Criswell who couldn't attend the meeting.</p> <p>Happy New Year to you all. Just 3 things to mention:</p> <p>1 – The resident in St Mary's Close has a 14 day right of appeal, which is why any official outcome is delayed.</p> <p>2 – Cycleway – I understand any issues that were being discussed through the agent have been resolved and land transfer contracts are with solicitors. This involves 3 locations and 3 separate landowners. I am pushing to exchange asap, I will receive an update next week.</p> <p>3 – Local Highway improvement panel sits on 11 & 16th of this month. Hopefully someone will be attending to present your bid, I will be there to give my support.</p> <p>Post meeting note: the clerk will be attending on 11th January to present the LHI bid.</p> <p>Cllr Robin Carter wished all a Happy New Year and to remind all that the refuse collection is due tomorrow. HDC are working on their budget strategy for 17/18 which looks as though an increase is likely on council tax for HDC. Cllr Carter advised he has stepped down from cabinet & Cllr Jim White is the new cabinet portfolio holder. He also advised he is likely to stand down as a district councillor in 2018.</p> <p>Mrs Joan Gutteridge asked why on the 22 December St Helens school put out 8 recycling bins which were out for a week. Cllr Carter will raise with operations.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Francis wished all a Happy New Year and advised he had nothing to report. He did encourage all to take part in the public consultation on wind energy which closes on 16 January. The purpose of the survey is to help HDC to put draft local plan to 2026. Click here to access the survey. Alternatively visit www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Mr Rob Gore asked if the consultation looked at other forms of energy. Cllr Francis advised it was just wind turbines.</p>	
221	Meeting Walk update – the clerk advised that all the documentation had been sent to the solicitor on 22 nd December and would be reviewed in due course. The cost of £500 + VAT has been confirmed and the only additional expenditure will be the cost of registering the land with the land registry. This figure is based on a valuation of the site. The clerk did point out that following her research it appears that this work was instigated in 1991 and legal affidavits were signed in 1997. However the final process of registering the land was never completed. It was agreed to keep as a regular agenda item until completed.	
222	Cambridgeshire ACRE – the clerk advised the annual membership is due to remain a member of this group. It was agreed to retain this membership so to renew for a further year. (Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.)	Clerk
223	<p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16/ 02581/TREE – Bluntisham House, 2 Rectory Road, Bluntisham. Mrs Kathy Searle advised she had met the applicant and reviewed the tree. She recommended the work be carried out to preserve the life of the tree and to give the light the property needs. (Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed.) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16/02376/CLED – The Witches Twist Chicken Farm, The Heath, Bluntisham. The Parish Council were asked to provide further information on this application. The Parish Council confirmed the building was lived in from 2012 and the applicant confirmed there were no cows on the site nor were there 1400 chickens on site. It was agreed that Mrs Kathy Searle would respond to HDC. <i>Post meeting note: the clerk was asked to reply to HDC and sent the following:</i> <p><i>Bluntisham Parish Council has previously advised that it does not feel that the functional need test has been met (as per original application condition ref 7.5(ii) during the 6 years since the temporary application was approved. Whilst there has been a dwelling on the site since mid-2012, the agricultural use, as per the original application, has not been uninterrupted and the Parish Council raised the matter with the HDC enforcement team in early 2015, stating that it considered the planning conditions had been breached. We understand that the applicant ignored enforcement officer requests for proof of conditions being met in order to allow sufficient time to pass for a Certificate of Lawfulness application to be submitted.</i></p> <p><i>The applicant has not been able to produce sufficient evidence to satisfy the original planning conditions and it is clear that the agricultural business on site is unable to support the need for an onsite dwelling; There are no cattle on the site and haven't been since 2012 and there are not 1400 chickens as confirmed by Mr Wraight during the meeting on 4th January 2017. The agricultural business is a fraction of that proposed in the original business proposal to support the need for an onsite dwelling.</i></p> <p><i>Bluntisham Parish Council objects in the strongest possible terms to the applicant wilfully ignoring planning conditions and subsequent requests to confirm satisfaction of the conditions, over a period of time, to cynically take advantage of being able to retrospectively apply for a certificate of lawfulness despite both the Parish and District Councils taking appropriate action in good time. To allow a certificate to be issued now would send the wrong message to both this applicant and others in this rural location.</i></p>	
224	<p>Village Maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedge cutting contract 2017 onwards – the clerk has sent the schedule out to 6 local contractors and asked for responses no later than 27th January. Mrs Philippa Hope advised that following a request to cut the trees back on the orphaned land at Orchard End, having reviewed now the leaves have dropped cutting of the trees will not improve the light. However, the horse chestnut tree is damaged and it was agreed to allow Mr David Gedye to cut this back along with removal of some of the branches from the Oak Tree. Mr David Gedye is to inform the clerk when the works will take place. <i>(Proposed Mrs Cynthia Curtis, seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed.)</i> • Service of Ransome – the clerk received quotes from the following companies to service the ransome. Ben Burgess - £1200 - £1500 Gog Magog & sons - £1500 Ernest Doe & Sons - £1200 - £1500 Collings & Ibbets unable to service ransome. It was agreed to get the machine serviced and to use Ben Burgess as they provided excellent customer service recently. <i>(Proposed Mr Alan Moules, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i> • Barograph – the clerk has now included the barograph as part of the parish council’s insurance and assets. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed.)</i> 	<p>David Gedye</p> <p>Clerk</p>

225	<p>Committee updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMC meeting –.Meeting Monday 9th January • Finance meeting –.Nothing to report • Allotments committee –.Mr Frank Hudson advised plot 24a has been let. The cost of the quote to clear plot 7 is £170.00. It was agreed to go ahead with clearing but to ensure that it is maintained until it is let so no further clearance is required. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mr Mark Berg. All agreed.)</i> • Staff management –.It was agreed to carry out the clerk’s appraisal after the finance meeting on the 16th January 2017. • Crime –.regular crime reports are shared and published on social media. The recent report includes a break in along East Street and an accident at the cross roads at The Heath. • Road safety –.nothing to report • Highway warden –.village walkabout on 17th January. Mrs Margaret Lumb advised that the works to the lime tree in Glebe Close will take place on 10th January. • HCV –.nothing to report. <p><i>Post meeting note: the clerk has received confirmation from John Talbot tree surgery to confirm the work to the lime tree in Glebe Close will be carried out on Tuesday 10th January. Meeting Walk footpath will be closed while the work is taking place, however, this will be after the morning school run.</i></p>	Frank Hudson
226	<p>Event update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27th January Ghost of Mr Dickens–.the clerk advised that the garage is now selling tickets for this event. All to promote as a minimum of 50 tickets needs to be sold. Mr Mark Berg offered to do a leaflet drop. All to encourage as sales are slow • 4th February Pop Quiz– SOLD OUT 	All
227	<p>Correspondence received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ouse Valley Way – minutes from meeting 26.10.16. The clerk shared the minutes and no comments to raise. • Mr Alan Fitzgerald – Mrs Margaret Lumb read out the email and all agreed to take up Mr Fitzgerald’s offer, the HMC will discuss this at their next meeting. • CCC draft corporate energy strategy consultation. The clerk shared, no further comments. 	HMC
228	<p>Items for consideration (for information only)</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb reminded councillors about emails sent from one email to another are subject to FOI requests.</p> <p>Mr Alan Moules would like the telephone box on the next agenda.</p> <p>Land rear of 22 High St, Bluntisham, Mrs Kathy Searle advised the applicants are going to the next stage, which is to development control panel, before an appeal following the refusal of the planning application. Mrs Kathy Searle advised she is happy to attend the panel to represent the parish council.</p>	

Meeting closed 9.15pm Next meeting: Wednesday 1st February 2017

Wednesday	1 st March	2017
Wednesday	5 th April	2017
Wednesday	3 rd May	2017
Wednesday	7 th June	2017
Wednesday	5 th July	2017
Wednesday	2 nd August	2017
Wednesday	6 th September	2017
Wednesday	4 th October	2017

Wednesday	1 st November	2017
Wednesday	6 th December	2017

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