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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,  
Bluntisham**

**Present:** Vice Chairman Mr Gary James, Mr Frank Hudson, Mr Rob Gore, Mr Martin Crowhurst, Mrs Kathy Searle, Mrs Philippa Hope, Mr Roger Steel & Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk)

**Also present:** 8 x members of the public & Cllr Criswell & Cllr Francis

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|     | <p><b>Open forum</b><br/>The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the forum. Mrs Sue Everest expressed her dissatisfaction with the recent correspondence from Cllr Bull in relation to the Local Plan 2036. Meeting opened at 8.03pm</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                           |
| 215 | <b>Dispensation Forms received &amp; decisions given - None</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                           |
| 216 | <b>Declarations of interest for items on the agenda</b> – Mrs Philippa Hope pecuniary interest item 225 BACS run 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2018.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                           |
| 217 | <b>Apologies for absence</b> – Mr Mark Berg, Mrs Cynthia Curtis, Cllr Robin Carter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                           |
| 218 | <p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>18/00378/PMBPA</b> – Change of use from agricultural to dwelling. Agricultural building, Mill Lane, Bluntisham. The clerk advised this application was in Earith and as it is a change of use doesn't require consultation but was for information only.</li> <li>• <b>18/00379/TREE</b> – remove large branch to give clearance for cyclists on new cycle path. Bluntisham House, 2 Rectory Road, Bluntisham. Mr Frank Hudson advised the branch needs to be removed to allow clearance. (<i>Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Public Meeting</b> – 29<sup>th</sup> March. The clerk advised that the MP had confirmed attendance at the meeting and she is still waiting to hear back from Cllr Bull, Clara Kerr, Cllr Francis, Cllr Fuller, Gavin Sylvester, Laura Nuttall. The meeting will start at 7pm and leaflets will be delivered to all households ahead of the meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Review of Development Management Committee</b> – HDC seek PC views. The PC agreed for the clerk to draft a response based on the comments discussed at the meeting and the draft local plan 2036.</li> </ul> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 219 | <b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 19<sup>th</sup> February to be approved and signed by the Chairman</b> – The minutes were signed by the Vice Chairman. ( <i>Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.</i> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                           |
| 220 | <b>Matters arising from previous minutes not on the agenda</b> – None.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                           |
| 221 | <p><b>County Council &amp; District Council reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Steve Criswell</b> – updated on the overnight road closures for resurfacing work. There is a slight delay to the cycle/footpath due to the recent bad weather. The team working on white bridge corner will start on the bridge footpath asap. The bridge for white bridge corner has been delayed until April and will be delivered in sections so no need for a road closure. When the work is completed the new 30mph speed restriction will be enforced. Mrs Kathy Searle asked if transport would be provided for those children going to Cromwell secondary school. Cllr Criswell asked those parents to contact him directly. Mrs Ann Parker asked if those people who have given/lease the land for the cycle/footpath</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                           |

have been formally thanked by the CCC and PC. It was agreed the PC will formally thank once the work is completed and Cllr Criswell advised CCC will do this also.

**Cllr Robin Carter:** Emailed the following report: *Please convey my apologies. The only issue I was going to raise was the impact of two planning matters, that of departure sites and the update to the scheme of officer delegation for determination of “single dwelling” matters. I will leave Mike to deal with both of these. From my perspective the recent Local Service Centre (LSC) issue has led me to reconsider whether I want to stand for election as a Conservative, I have concluded that I do not and as a result have withdrawn my application. This decision has not been taken lightly, but given the strength of feeling within the community together with the way in which the matter was dealt with by HDC Leadership has led me to this conclusion. I still believe that the draft local plan on the whole is a good document and will serve the District well, but sadly not Bluntisham if it is adopted in its current form. The lack of any evidence to justify the creation of the LSC despite receiving assurances at scrutiny together with the inconsistency in the justification process is a serious flaw in the development of this strategy. I do not know who will now be selected to represent the Conservatives, no doubt they will introduce themselves to the parish councils over the coming weeks. In conclusion I have thoroughly enjoyed my past 5+ years as the District representative for this ward and the three parishes in particular.* The PC thanked Cllr Carter for his support during these 5 years and wish him well with his future plans.

**Cllr Mike Francis:** advised Giffords Farm has not been included within the local plan 2036 due to the infrastructure and traffic flow. Further traffic surveys are likely to be carried out by the developer. Single dwelling applications that are not in a conservation area can only be called in to DMC by the Ward Councillors. The policy took effect from 1st March. There needs to be clear planning policy statements presented in support. There is now a 28 day (increased from 21 days) period for calling in and this should hopefully allow sufficient time for representations from the PC and/or Parishioners.

There was a recent DMC training session. The essence of this is that because HDC's planning policies are out of date, it will be more difficult to defend against proposed large scale housing applications until the Local Plan is adopted.

Finally Cllr Francis advised he will not be standing as a candidate for the conservatives in the May election. A copy of this resignation can be found as **appendix 1**

Mr Rob Gore raised comments from the infrastructure delivery plan which states that as a result of Bluntisham changing its status to a LSC a desirable amount of improvements are required, these are at a cost of £8million. 90% of this expenditure is unidentifiable. Where this investment will come from is not identified in the IDP.

Mrs Philippa Hope advised that since the Local Plan 1995 Bluntisham has had 99 new dwellings which is an approximate 12% increase. The question “What has changed to the village since the 1995 Local Plan” has been made to HDC as the services available now are less than in 1995 due to the loss of the post office.

Cllr Criswell advised he was disappointed with Cllr Francis & Cllr Carters decision to stand down and will miss working alongside them. He thanked both and wished them well.

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**FY2017/18 Accounts to end February 2018** – Mrs Philippa Hope went through the accounts and confirmed that an expected surplus is forecast of £8k. The finance committee discussed in detail the savings made and made recommendations for spending some of this saving within the current financial year, where possible.

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|     | Income February - £4077.52<br>Expenditure February-£4312.45<br><i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                 |
| 223 | <b>Authorise purchase orders for February</b><br><b>PO016</b> - £153.18 ex VAT – Ken Booth & Co Ltd<br><b>PO017</b> - £50.00 ex VAT – M Murray Signs Ltd<br>The Vice Chairman authorised & signed the purchase orders.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                 |
| 224 | <b>Agree Tractor insurance for policy for 2018/19</b> – the clerk confirmed 3 quotes had been obtained for the coming year as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rowett Insurance Broking Ltd - £521.92</li> <li>• NFU Mutual - £620.85</li> <li>• <b>Shearwater Insurance - £432.62</b></li> </ul> Mr Rob Gore asked who was the underwriter for Shearwater, the clerk confirmed this is Equity Red Star (ERS). It was agreed to go with Shearwater insurance for the coming year.<br><i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Clerk                           |
| 225 | <b>Accounts for payment for February</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BACS run 2<sup>nd</sup> February- £2467.76 authorised by Mrs Cynthia Curtis &amp; Mr Martin Crowhurst</li> <li>• BACS run 28<sup>th</sup> February - £484.71 authorised by Mr Rob Gore &amp; Mrs Philippa Hope</li> </ul> <i>(Proposed Mr Martin Crowhurst, seconded Mr Rob Gore. All agreed.)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                 |
| 226 | <b>Village Maintenance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Holliday’s Road footpath</b> – this item is deferred until the next meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Gates to Colne Road entrance to recreation area</b> – the clerk shared quotes received to install metal gates or wooden options to the entrances to the recreation ground from the Colne Road car park:<br/><b>Earith Timber products - £500 + VAT</b><br/><b>Safety Works &amp; Solutions - £4400 + VAT</b><br/>The timber solution was voted on. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.)</i></li> <li>• <b>Bus Shelter Block Hill</b>- the clerk advised that the work to the ceiling of the bus shelter on block hill remains outstanding and asked if the PC would be willing to fund the repairs. It was agreed to get quotes for fire proof plasterboard to replace the holes in the ceiling. <i>(Proposed Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mrs Philippa Hope. All agreed.)</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Clerk                           |
| 227 | <b>Committee updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMC – to agree the following items:<br/>ESPO – Gas contract 2019 onwards – it was agreed to continue with this contract. <i>(Proposed Mr Martin Crowhurst, seconded Mrs Kathy Searle. All agreed.)</i><br/>Party in the Park advert 2018 – it was agreed to place an advert in this year’s programme promoting the village hall. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i><br/>Pop up night – 23 April – this has been cancelled and the clerk will rearrange another evening later in the year.</li> <li>• Finance update – FY17/18 surplus proposal – The committee examined the accounts and have identified a surplus of £8,000 for this financial year. They would like the PC to spend the money on improvements for the community rather than add to existing reserves. The suggestions for the expenditure are as follows:<br/>Footpath improvements – Hollidays Road - £733 - agreed at previous meeting<br/>Colne Road car park improvements - Earith Timber - £500 - agreed above<br/>Meeting tables village hall - £2070 <i>(proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i></li> </ul> | Clerk<br><br>Clerk<br><br>Clerk |

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|     | <p>Chair trolleys village hall - £445 (<i>proposed Mrs Kathy Searle, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.</i>)</p> <p>Mobile Bar village hall - £375 (<i>Mr Rob Gore, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.</i>)</p> <p>HDMI Projector village hall - £535 (<i>Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, seconded Mr Martin Crowhurst. All agreed.</i>)</p> <p>The finance committee clarified that the primary savings made in this financial year were on the administration budget. Despite the large expenditure on improvements to the security of the field store the additional ad-hoc income on the village hall &amp; fund raising community events has ensured the village hall budget will balance at the end of the year. The finance committee confirmed they have not increased the precept in 3 years and will closely monitor the budget throughout the coming year and if possible look to reduce the precept for the following year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allotment - Mr Roger Steel advised some minor thefts had taken place, but no further issues to report.</li> </ul> |              |
| 228 | <p>Correspondence received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emma Benson – Giffords Park Project team. The clerk read the correspondence received and no action to be taken.</li> <li>RAF – Annual Pathfinder March. The clerk advised the annual event will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and has passed the details onto the Ouse Valley Way team.</li> <li>Ministry of Housing, communities &amp; local government – response to local plan. The clerk read the correspondence out and this can be found as <i>appendix 2</i>.</li> <li>Mal O’Neil – email. This correspondence was shared and no action is to be taken.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |              |
| 229 | <p><b>Items for consideration (for information only)</b></p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope advised she is still in correspondence with HDC Planning Officers regarding the Local Plan 2036 and will continue to share responses electronically when received.</p> <p>The clerk asked Mr Frank Hudson if the RBL are organising any celebrations to commemorate the end of WW1.</p> <p>Meeting closed 9.20pm Next meeting Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Frank Hudson |

**Bluntisham 100 club draw took place:**

**1<sup>st</sup> place wins £200 – 83 Dave Brass**

**2<sup>nd</sup> place wins £50 – 43 Sally Richardson**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place wins £20 – 84 Jo Berg**

**A few numbers remain if anyone is interested in joining the 100 club please contact Cynthia Curtis - blunticyn@gmail.com**

**Future Meeting dates**

|           |                           |      |
|-----------|---------------------------|------|
| Wednesday | 2 <sup>nd</sup> May       | 2018 |
| Wednesday | 6 <sup>th</sup> June      | 2018 |
| Wednesday | 4 <sup>th</sup> July      | 2018 |
| Wednesday | 1 <sup>st</sup> August    | 2018 |
| Wednesday | 5 <sup>th</sup> September | 2018 |
| Wednesday | 3 <sup>rd</sup> October   | 2018 |
| Wednesday | 7 <sup>th</sup> November  | 2018 |
| Wednesday | 5 <sup>th</sup> December  | 2018 |