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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Meeting
Monday 4th January 2016 at 8pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,
Bluntisham**

Present: Chairman: Mrs Margaret Lumb, Mr Frank Hudson, Mrs Philippa Hope, Mrs Anne Parsons, Mr Mark Berg, Mr Ian Shepherd, Mr Alan Moules, Mr Mike Francis, Mr Gary James, Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk),

Also present: 5 members of the public

	<p>Open Forum: The Chairman welcomed all councillors and members of the public and wished them a very Happy and healthy New Year. Members of the public were invited to speak for 3 minutes each. It was agreed that Item 2288 would be moved up the agenda and be discussed following item 2284.</p> <p>Mr Roger Steel raised concern with the minutes from the December meeting regarding time banking. He feels the scheme won't help the needy people in the village as it requires people with skills to volunteer to give time. It could also take custom away from local small businesses. He was unhappy about the comment regarding not consulting with the parishioners about the proposal. Also as a vote was taken during the December meeting regarding time banking, which had a majority reject it, why was it still being discussed. What is the point in voting if you are going to go ahead and do something anyway? Mrs Philippa Hope replied with the concerns raised by councillors at the December meeting couldn't be answered fully, therefore the vote was to set up a working party from the parish council to meet and obtain the answers to the concerns before bringing it back to discuss with the full parish council. She stated that consultation with parishioners, in her opinion, is essential prior to any decision being made. Since the December meeting she has done some research into how Somersham's time bank was set up and what percentage of the population of the town are using the scheme, this is currently 4%.</p> <p>The meeting started at 20:10.</p>	
2280	Dispensation Forms received and decisions given – Nothing to report	
2281	Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None.	
2282	Apologies for absence – Cllr Robin Carter, Cllr Rob Gore, Cllr Kathy Searle, Cllr Steve Criswell	
2283	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 7th December 2015 to be approved and signed –The Chairman signed the minutes and all approved. (<i>Proposed Mr Mark Berg seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed</i>)	
2284	Matters arising from previous minutes – no matters arising.	
2285	<p>FY2015/16 Accounts – to end December 2015</p> <p>Mrs Philippa Hope went through the accounts in detail. A new hard drive was needed as the clerk had no back up drive and the main drive had started to cause problems. It was agreed that an additional hard drive to be used as a back-up is also required replacing the existing aging main hard drive. The allotments have a major overspend and other quotes should have been obtained for the recent clearance work. While it was agreed the work done was excellent and timely, in order to get the allotments reallocated quickly, this is a lesson for the future. The additional electricity expenditure for the village hall was following an accurate meter reading being</p>	Clerk

	<p>submitted. The clerk is looking into alternative energy suppliers for the electricity to see if savings can be made in the future. The village hall maintenance was for repairs to a leaky sink and repairs to the fencing around the bin store.</p> <p>Total receipts £3358.44 & total expenditure £4407.98. Closing bank balances: Lloyds 0933915 - £41357.90 Lloyds 0934024 - £0.00 This account is now closed Cambs building society - £56639.96 <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, Seconded Mr Mark Berg. All agreed.) Annex 1</i></p>	
2286	<p>Accounts for payment and sign cheques for December payments –Mr Gary James and Mr Alan Moules signed the cheques and no concerns with the payments for the month were raised. <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James seconded Mr Alan Moules. All agreed.)</i></p>	
2287	<p>County Council & District Council reports – Cllr Robin Carter and Cllr Steve Criswell emailed in advance of the meeting to advise they had nothing to report.</p>	
2288	<p>Bluntisham Cricket Club – application for funding for nets Steve Dighton introduced himself on behalf of Bluntisham Cricket Club. He outlined the proposal for twin cricket nets facing out to the school to rear of the village hall. The parish council approved this in 2015 and since then planning permission from HDC has been obtained. The cricket club are looking to raise the money for the nets and have 3 quotes from companies all registered with the ECB (English Cricket Board) these vary in price from £32,300, £33,800 and £36,500 which includes nets, surface, security fencing. The cricket club have approached a company 4Grants to work on their behalf to obtain grant funding, the company have asked for Bluntisham Parish Council to be the applicant for the grant as they are the land owners, and will be the overall owners of the cricket nets. The cricket club would like to go with the £36,500 quote as it offers the best playing surface, which in the long run will be more cost effective. The 10% finders fee to 4Grants will be paid for by the cricket club and they already have these funds in their accounts. The parish council asked who would be responsible for the maintenance of the nets and the insurance. The clerk is to obtain quotes for the insurance and the cricket club have confirmed they will be responsible for the maintenance and will contribute towards any additional costs for the insurance. A lease agreement needs to be drawn up as the cricket club will pay a peppercorn rent for the facility. The cricket club confirmed that the old nets and concrete base would be removed and the soil dug out from the new nets would be used to fill this area and turn into grass again. Bluntisham Parish Council agreed to be the applicants and Mr Dighton is to liaise with the clerk for all relevant information and applications. <i>(Proposed Mrs Philippa Hope, Seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i></p>	Clerk
2289	<p>Village Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ouse Valley Way Footpath (OVW) – the clerk showed a large map of the OVW site and highlighted the area which will fall into BPC responsibility. A meeting has been arranged on the 20th January 2016 with other PC's and HDC and CCC to discuss the way forward with maintaining this path. Mrs Margaret Lumb and Mr Frank Hudson are to attend this meeting and report back at the next PC meeting. • Trees Sumerling Way – the clerk has obtained quotes but additional quotes for this work have been requested. The clerk will bring a summary to the next meeting. 	Margaret Lumb/Frank Hudson Clerk
2290	<p>Old Telephone Box - a discussion regarding the telephone box took place and it was</p>	Mark

	agreed to ask the community what they would like to use it for. In the meantime Mr Alan Moules and Mr Mark Berg are to share their ideas. The clerk is to put a notice on the website to ask for ideas and suggestions for its use.	Berg/Alan Moules/ Clerk
2291	Feoffees – Bus Shelter – Mrs Margaret Lumb had a conversation with David Morris who advised that by the end of January there should be a new bus shelter in Block Hill. The Feoffees are to ask the school if they would like to get the children involved with decorating the new shelter. The chairman thanked the Feoffees, on behalf of the parish council, for the Christmas Tree and Lights around the barograph area.	
2292	Clean for the Queen – it was agreed to get involved in this and the clerk is to speak to Jonathan Clarke and arrange the date. She will advise the WI and the Baptist chapel of the dates.	Clerk
2293	Parish Plan – Mrs Philippa Hope agreed to review the parish plan and to add the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Christmas lights • Phone box • Volunteers • Dog Walk • White Lines – Heath Road This will then be shared with the council to allocate names to tasks. (Proposed Mr Mark Berg, Secoded Mr Gary James. All agreed.)	Philippa Hope
2294	Health & Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Fouling – Mr Ian Shepherd confirmed that once he used the paint in Sumerling Way he hasn't seen any more mess on the school route. Mrs Philippa Hope is to issue another tin to Mr Mark Berg. It was agreed that the PC are to continue to monitor the fouling and to use the paint as and when fouling appears. It was agreed that since the use of the paint a significant improvement has been made. • Dog Walk – It was agreed to add the dog walk to the parish plan as the problem with the excess water in the far corner is a long term problem. It was suggested to use the dog recreation area to avoid the muddy corner during the winter months. 	Philippa Hope
2295	Land off Mill Lane – nature reserve - Mr Ian Shepherd asked for this item to be deferred to the next meeting.	
2296	Website – update from Ian Shepherd. Since the last meeting a new page for the parish council's cash book has been added, which has been viewed. The website is now at the top of the google search list. www.bluntishamparishcouncil.org	
2297	Committee updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) HMC Update – the meeting due to be held on the 14th December didn't have a quorum and has been rescheduled to the 11th January at 8pm. All welcome. b) Finance Update – no meeting c) Allotments update – no update d) Crime – Following the recent break in to a property in East Street the police have advised they will be doing more patrols. The main items stolen from all the recent burglaries has been jewellery. The advice given by the police is to be aware and be observant and to report any suspicious behaviour to them. 	
2298	Riparian Ownership– Flood prevention – the clerk is still working on producing a full scale map identifying land owners of each ditch and will share as soon as this is completed.	Clerk
2299	Correspondence received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from Kay Couch – re time banking the clerk is to contact Kay to 	

	<p>advise of the action being taken from the parish council regarding time banking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chairman received an email from the Chairman of Houghton & Wyton PC thanking the clerk for her recent telephone discussion regarding hall management and maintenance. 	Clerk
2300	<p>Items for consideration (for information only)</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Lumb asked if any CIL money had been received yet for 45 Wood End. The clerk advised that nothing had been received and this money is only issued twice a year by HDC.</p>	
2301	<p>Topics for future meetings –</p> <p>Mr Mark Berg asked why there are no white lines along Heath Road, where they have been previously. Mrs Margaret Lumb confirmed that the CCC Highways advised the lines won't be re-instated in line with policy. It was agreed to add it onto the parish plan and to ask again. It was also noted to ask if the channels in the verge would be re-cut to prevent the surface water on the road which is also a danger when it is wet. Mrs Margaret Lumb is to speak with CCC Highways and Cllr Steve Criswell.</p> <p>The council have until Thursday 21st January to raise agenda items with the clerk for the next meeting.</p>	Margaret Lumb

Meeting closed 21.20pm

Next meeting: 11th January 2016 – Special Meeting Planning applications

Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings –2016

February	Monday 1 st February
March	Monday 7 th March
April	Monday 4 th April
May	Monday 9 th May
June	Monday 6 th June
July	Monday 4 th July
August	Monday 1 st August
September	Monday 5 th September
October	Monday 3 rd October
November	Monday 7 th November
December	Monday 5 th December

Annex 1 – FY 2015/16 accounts to end December 2015