

**Minutes of Blunsdon’s Twenty-first** Parish Council Meeting of 2025/26 held on **Monday 16th February 2026** at 7.30pm. This meeting was held at Blunsdon Village Hall.

**Cllr Members Present:** Ian Jankinson (IJ), Ian Selwood (IS), Peter Hughes (PH), Jim Tayler (JT), Sandra Keates (SK), & Paul Weston (PW)

**Ward Councilors Present:** None

**Members of Public – 2**

**Officers:** Debbie Braiden (Clerk & RFO) Claire Boles (A/Clerk)

**25/269 APOLOGIES:**

Apologies received from Cllrs Kingsley Poulton (KP), Ward Cllr Weisinger & Cllr Manro  
No apologies were given by Cllr Gardiner

**25/270 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 1 Cllr Tayler declared a declaration of interest on planning application S/25/1072
- 2 No dispensations were requested or granted.

**25/271 RECESS** – No comments

**25/272 MINUTES**

**1. MINUTES FROM 19th January 2026 FINANCE MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** Proposed by Cllr Weston seconded by Cllr Hughes, all **agreed** they be accepted as a true record and the minutes were **approved** and signed by (IJ), Chairman.

**2. REVIEW ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- **Ongoing** – Items outside the control of BPC, awaiting update.
- **In Progress** – BPC actions in progress.
- **Complete** – Action completed; item to be removed from the list.

<b>Finance Meeting Action Points – for discussion</b>			
1	<p><b>MUGA - Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lighting will be considered when looking at the entry system.</li> <li>2. Complete Gate Installation asked to requote for Paxton System – no reply, original quote for keypad £4241</li> <li>Sysflex Paxton access system quote £6350</li> <li>Banham Paxton access system quote £5640</li> <li>A second meeting was held with Baxton, IJ, IS &amp; JT</li> </ul>	Cllr Tayler, A/Clerk  Clerk	In Progress

	<p>Further meeting is now required and flow chart of process from customer booking to gate access. Confirmation of keypad.</p> <p>3. Banham Alarm System quote – £967</p> <p>4. Banham CCTV quote –£2350</p> <p>5. WI-FI – BT Business Package options £47pm with 24hr call out, £44 p/m with 4 days call out. It was agreed that the Wi-Fi should be hardwired to the building via a phone line. It was agreed that the £47pm Pro package is most suitable. A BT cloud phone can be added to our existing package for £18.26 per month for the MUGA office, however this should be reviewed later as there is the option of staff taking their existing cloud phone to the office.</p> <p>6. Water connection – TW installation pending, plus part refund due from original quoted price.</p> <p>7. Awaiting insurance cover quote for wc and office contents.</p>		
2	<b>Daikin boiler:</b> 16/2 Attended callout to shop to advise on programming of heating/air conditioning unit, the shop has been running the unit inefficiently in order to try and keep electric bills low but thus causing the building to be too hot.	Cllr Keates	In Progress
3	<b>BFC meeting action / Formal Hire Agreement:</b> Update hire agreement allowing for any cleaning changes and including storage container following meeting with BFC (arrange meeting) 16/2 c/f	Clerk Cllr Tayler	In Progress
4	<b>Pavilion:</b> Kelly from Pendle Property Design has supplied new schematic plans so contractors can quote.	Cllr Jankinson	In Progress
5	<b>Land Registry Copse:</b> Apply for land registry ownership (previously applied in 1992). The land has been maintained for 20 years. 16/2 C/Fwd.	Cllr Jankinson	In Progress
6	<b>Land Registry Linley Road Area:</b> Apply for (part of area) land registry ownership. 16/2 C/Fwd.	Cllr Jankinson	In Progress
7	<b>Email accounts:</b> It was agreed to review alternative email accounts with Outlook/Microsoft free email account; the current.gov.uk email addresses must be kept. 16/2 C/Fwd.	Clerk & Cllr Weston	In Progress
8	<b>Line Painting:</b> <p>a. Date to be arranged for the line painting at Village Hall.</p> <p>b. To arrange the line painting a CB carpark for loading bay</p>	RFO	In progress
9	MUGA sweeper: Now on site, training to be booked with Lee for Russell and JT	Cllr Jankinson	In progress

10	<p><b>ERMIN STREET</b> – Further mini projects and actions 16/2 C/FWD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To refurbish the Milestones in the village at Blunsdon Hill, Ermin/Turnpike, Paddocks &amp; Broadbush.</li> <li>• Install a new bench and bin on Blunsdon Hill, facing the view north, near the junction with the westbound footpath adj to the Chapel.</li> <li>• Interpretation board for the wildflowers.</li> <li>• To scope out a centurion statue by the 3 concrete planters, High Street.</li> <li>• IJ &amp; IS to set date to review all planting meets standard that can be transferred over to contractor to maintain going forward, including plan for trees, watering, seed collection and redistribution.</li> </ul>	Project Manger/ Clerk	In progress
11	<p><b>BVH Heating</b> – Booking of plumber (Gough Heating) when preschool not on site to reverse the flow on boiler pump system. LED Lights will be completed this week.</p>	Cllr Tayler	Progress
<b>NEW ACTIONS from these minutes</b>			
<b>DEFERRED ACTIONS</b>			
	<p><b>BFC meeting action/ Access</b> explore alternative entry system for pavilion instead of keys. Deferred and wait until refurb.</p>	Cllr Tayler	Deferred
	<p><b>Trees</b> - Produce PO for Amber works from survey in April 26</p>	RFO	Deferred
	<p><b>Speed Signs:</b> SID information received from HTC. <b>15/12</b> To add as a project and to the budget list for 2026. Note costs can range from £2100 to £3200 depending on type of sign used. Meeting to be scheduled with Philip Matlew, IJ &amp; PH</p>	Cllr Hughes/ Clerk	Deferred 1/4/26
	<p><b>Seeding</b> - at Linley Road car park &amp; play area: A revised quote will be required in the Spring – this should be deferred in the meantime</p>	Cllr Tayler	Deferred
<b>CLOSED ACTIONS</b>			
1	<p><b>Staff reviews:</b> Staff policy complete - See agenda item 279</p>	RFO/IJ	
8	<p><b>Support for MUGA Defibrillator</b></p> <p>Funding received from RRT, defib purchased and installed at MUGA office It should be noted that the defib pads at the Shop are not available due to recall from manufacturer, these are on back order and so the defib it shown as unavailable on The Circuit.</p>	RFO	
12	<p>Complete Asset Register for 2026. See minute 275/5</p>	Clerk	
10	<p><b>Charges list for 2026</b> – See Minute number 249/6</p>	RFO	

16	<b>Signage</b> – All signage has been reviewed for carparks, all carparks now complete as per risk assessments	A/Clerk	
17	<b>Golden Gathering</b> – See minute 249/5	Clerk	
18	Cil money to be transferred to Ear Marked Reserves	RFO	

**25/273 PLANNING**

**To receive and note planning decisions advised by Swindon BC**

Application Number: S/TPO/25/1611

Re: Works to Tree under TPO 2025-01. At: Orchard House, Hunts Hill, Blunsdon, Swindon

Decision: Granted

Application Number: S/25/0302/LZWI

Proposal: Erection of 3no self-build homes following the demolition of existing dwelling and garage. Site Address: Dinton, Broad Bush Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7DH

Decision: Granted

Application Number: S/HOU/25/1646/ADHI

Proposal: Erection of rear dormer windows and loft conversion. Site Address: 30 Thames View, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 8AQ.

Decision: Granted

Application number: S/HOU/25/1651/JOPL

Proposal: Erection of side dormer windows, raising of existing roof. Site Address: 24 Sutton Park, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BB

Decision: Granted

Application number: S/25/0809/RACH

Proposal: Erection of a temporary synthetic fuel facility, solar array and associated infrastructure. Site Address: Land off Little Rose Lane, Swindon

Decision: Granted

- 1) To consider and agree** comments upon new applications deposited from Swindon Borough Council for comment listed:

Application; S/26/0115

Re: Erection of part two storey and part single storey rear extension, front porch and bay windows with canopy, new roof tiles, conversion of garage to habitable and associated works. At: 89 Ermin Street, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 8AA

Decision: The PC have no reason to object.

- 2) To receive & note** planning correspondence.

Planning Item S/25/0809 (Rivan) Meeting held on 10 February 2026

Cllr Jankinson provided an update on the recent planning meeting and the increased social media activity following Swindon Borough Council's decision to grant planning permission for the Rivan application, subject to a number of conditions.

Cllr Hughes expressed disappointment with the outcome, noting the significant time invested by both the Parish Council and residents in objecting to the proposal. He questioned the value of the process given the result.

Cllr Poulton had emailed members prior to the meeting to raise the possibility of reviewing options to challenge the decision-making process.

Resident Concerns Reported - Cllr Jankinson noted that residents remain upset by the approval and highlighted several issues raised regarding the planning report and process:

- Inaccuracies identified within the officer's report
- A planning officer reportedly disagreeing with aspects of Rivan's submitted reports
- Incorrect statements regarding the proximity of nearby woodland
- Concerns that methane monitoring would be "self-policed" by the applicant, with no independent verification

Reason for Approval - It was noted that the application was approved because the Planning Committee were advised that, under planning law, there were insufficient grounds to justify refusal.

Key Factors Influencing the Committee's Decision

- No objections were raised by expert consultees. Highways, Environmental Health, Ecology and other statutory bodies confirmed the development was acceptable subject to conditions.
- Planning officers advised that impacts relating to traffic, noise, emissions and visual appearance could be mitigated and were not severe enough to warrant refusal.
- The permission granted is temporary, which was presented as a mitigating factor.

The Parish Council would like to thank the three Ward Councillors that attended and spoke at the meeting, together with the numerous residents that attended and shared valid important information. The Parish Council will review the decision process and look to see if any other avenues of challenge are available.

S/25/1072 Revised documents on SBC portal

Re: Erection of 1 no. self-build dwelling with associated external works including new driveway off the existing access, erection of garage with home office accommodation.

At: Land Adjacent to Bluebells, Kingsdown Lane Blunsdon Swindon

Decision: BPC wish to maintain its objection.

### **25/274 FINANCE – ALL RESOLVED**

- 1) **All approved** regular and pre-authorised payments made from current & operations accounts for 19/1/26 – 15/2/26 as in Appendix A & Regular Payments list, £45,800.02
- 2) **All approved** to make payment for items listed in Appendix B, £1,941.27
- 3) **All approved** income received 19/1/26 – 15/2/26 Appendix C, £8,212.43
- 4) **All approved** bank balances & reconciliations to 31/01/26. The RFO confirmed there was a balance of £53,366.17 in the General Fund with two month's VAT still to claim back. All bank balances total £297,595.21 with £244,229.04 of that balance being in Earmarked reserves.
- 5) **All approved** for the Council to be admin to the Golden Gathering finances due to lack of banking abilities, we will receive payment from Prestbury Trust for the Dial-A-Ride invoices. It is noted that BPC approved management of the banking side only, and no additional other responsibilities in relation to the organisation or admin; BPC maintains the right to withdraw this at any time.
- 6) **All approved** regular booking charges from April 2026 for VH. Most standard charges were increased by inflation only, with some regular bookings raised to realign to realistic pricing.
- 7) **All approved** a retrospective cost of £75 from the contractor for installation of defib at MUGA/Office.
- 8) **All approved** the following training:  
ICCM Management of Memorials with Highworth TC £185 pp for Russell & JT,  
First Aid course £40 for Karen & Play Area inspections for Russell @ £95 pp with St Andrews PC.
- 9) **All approved** the shop management buying & placement of their own grit bin for outside the shop.
- 10) **All approved** the In-Post extension for more lockers at the shop.
- 11) **All approved** the internal auditor for 25/26 year-end as per last year, K Liston, and confirm she is completely independent from the Council.

### **25/275 POLICIES**

- 1) All received the staff appraisals for Clerk/RFO & Assistant Clerk carried out in December 25. Chair & staff signed.
- 2) **All approved** final draft of Asset Register for 1/4/26

**25/276 PROJECTS/FACILITIES:** To receive updates, to discuss and to approve next steps for matters raised for the following:

**MUGA** - Update on Paxton Gate Access System – three quotes now received. A/Clerk to set up flow chart for lemon booking and Paxton 10 for Banham to check. To be reviewed at meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, together with updated quote from Banham.

**ERMIN STREET** - Awaiting feed back from Oliver.

**CEMETERY DIGITALISING** - Update for scanning the ledgers not available due to NG absence.

**PAVILION** - Clear costs required from Oliver on project management and help with funding of project.

**TREES** - None

**25/277 CORRESPONDENCE** - None

**25/278 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC** - None

**25/279 STAFFING**

3-4 enquiries have been received in response to the finance/cemetery position. These include Clerks from other Parishes. Clerk to invite applicants for further discussion based on the possibility of a temporary 1–2-year contract.

**25/280 PARISH MATTERS**

Cllr Jankinson informed all on the topics for discussion for the planning meeting to be held on Thursday with Tim Thomas. Items to be covered will include what infrastructure changes will be made if the Persimmons and Prime Gate developments go ahead. Independent reviews of traffic needed. S106 options – what is due from developers for contributions to local area improvements apart from the bus shelter. Broadband infrastructure needed.

**25/281 KEY MESSAGES FOR MAGAZINE/FACEBOOK/WEB**

Rivan  
Precept

**25/282 CLOSE & SUMMONS TO ATTEND NEXT MEETING**

Next month's Full Council meeting to be held Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7.30pm  
Next Finance meeting to be held on Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.30 pm  
There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

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Signed by Chairman Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026



**APPENDIX B – 16/2/26**

Payments for authorisation list 16/2/26					
17.2.26	HILLS WASTE	inv P1018470	VH waste January	£151.54	DB
17.2.26	SPOT ON SUPPLIES	inv 12263495	consumables VH	£146.45	DB
17.2.26	WILTSHIRE PENSIONS	JANUARY	STAFF PENSIONS	£1,064.26	DB
17.2.26	ALLBUILD	INV 3462	JANUARY WASTE GM	£507.00	DB
17.2.26	ALLBUILD	INV 3466	JANUARY PAV WSTE	£72.00	DB

**Appendix C – Receipts**

R481 Banked 19/01/2026	35.00				
R481 One off Hall Hirer	35.00	1200	200	35.00	1544
R484 Banked 19/01/2026	40.00				
R484 Walking Football - R Dennis	40.00	1360	340	40.00	MUGA HIRE
R485 Banked 19/01/2026	69.00				
R485 UNMATCHED RECEIPTS	69.00	1225	100	69.00	F2R7H GC C1
R486 Banked 19/01/2026	321.00				
R486 UNMATCHED RECEIPTS	321.00	1225	100	321.00	MXN PID 1082360
R487 Banked 21/01/2026	1,840.00				
R487 Blunsdon Pre-School	1,840.00	1200	200	1,840.00	VHALL HIRE
R488 Banked 26/01/2026	24.00				
R488 IPMS Swindon Model Club	24.00	1200	200	24.00	VHALL HIRE
R489 Banked 26/01/2026	40.00				
R489 Walking Football - R Dennis	40.00	1360	340	40.00	MUGA HIRE
R490 Banked 26/01/2026	180.00				
R490 Blunsdon Scout Group	180.00	1200	200	180.00	1529 INV
R491 Banked 27/01/2026	25.00				
R491 One off Hall Hirer	25.00	1200	200	25.00	1552 INV
R492 Banked 28/01/2026	1,616.19				
R492 DONATIONS	1,616.19	4090	100	1,616.19	RRT RECEIPT DEFIB
R493 Banked 28/01/2026	208.68				
R493 Co-operative Funerals	208.68	1400	400	208.68	B1280
R493/2 Banked 30/01/2026	3,734.22				
R493/2 Credit Notes Received	3,734.22	4119	380	3,734.22	CN105047 ERMIN
<b>Total Receipts:</b>	<b>8,133.09 + £79.34</b> <b>(Santander interest)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		
				<b>£8,212.43</b>	