**Minutes of Blunsdon’s** **Sixth Parish Council Meeting of 2025/26 held on Monday 7th July 2025** at 7.30pm. This meeting was held at Blunsdon Village Hall.

**Cllr Members Present**: Cllrs Ian Jankinson (IJ), Martin Nash (MN), Jim Tayler (JT), Ian Selwood (IS) Sandra Keates (SK), Peter Hughes (PH) & Cllr Poulton (KP)

**Ward Councillors Present**: Cllrs Weisinger, Gardiner & Manro

**Members of Public** - 0

**Officers:** Debbie Braiden (RFO/Clerk) (DB), Claire Boles (A/Clerk) (CB)

**25/70**  **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies received from Cllr Weston

**25/71** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1** No declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda were received.

**2** No written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests were received.

**3** No requests for dispensation were made.

**25/72** **REPORTS**

**1. REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Weisinger reported that the Ward meeting held this month was quiet, only one resident attending with concerns of overhanging trees. It was noted that SBC carry out 5-year tree inspections with trees that are at risk only.

**2. RECESS – None**

**3.**The position of casual vacancy was advertised on the BPC website and social media. Ward Cllr Nick Gardiner expressed an interest for the position. The **Eligibility Confirmation** was confirmed by the Clerk for the candidate (legal eligibility criteria under the Local Government Act 1972). The candidate was invited to speak. Ward Councillor Nick Gardiner shared details of his role with Swindon Borough Council and highlighted the breadth of experience he brings to the position. He emphasised the importance of maintaining strong connections with residents and demonstrated clear awareness of the frequent and ongoing issues affecting the area. His commitment to protecting the village’s unique character and supporting the local community was evident. Cllr Gardiner will provide a strong and effective voice for the parish, reinforcing the relationship between Blunsdon Parish Council and Swindon Borough Council. Ward Councillor Nick Gardiner left the room while voting method took place. The Voting outcome was unanimous with all agreeing to appoint the candidate. Nick Gardiner signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct. The Clerk will notify Electoral Services and arrange for the Register of Interests to be completed.

**25/73** **MINUTES**

1. **MINUTES FROM 16th June 2025 MEETING**

Proposed by Cllr Nash, seconded by Cllr Tayler, all **agreed** they be accepted as a true record – the minutes were **approved** and signed by the Chairman.

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

**Ongoing** – Items outside the control of BPC, awaiting update.

**In Progress** –BPC actions in progress, with confirmation due at the next meeting.

**Closed** – Action completed; item to be removed from the list.

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| **Previous Meeting Action Points** | **Assigned to:** | **Status:** |
| Footpaths, The Haul Road: Ward Cllr Gardiner to action a campaign for road closure. Awaiting feedback from Deputy Chief Executive. An alternative option if the road is not closed would be for SBC to take on as a major road with paths & lighting. It was noted that part of the road outside the school and medical center is a private road so it could be closed at any point by the owner, which is not Hills. National Highways/SBC have carried out a site visit, and a report of the visit will be provided.  | Cllr Gardiner  | Ongoing |
| Footpaths, The Haul Road: Cllr Jankinson requested that a previous Section 106 was offered by the developers that had not been claimed, further clarification on how to claim this would be required. | Cllr Gardiner | In Progress |
| Openreach on behalf of Virgin O2 are carrying out groundwork throughout the village including overhead cables to provide broadband to residents. Project to be monitored.  | Cllr Selwood  | Ongoing |
| Traffic meeting: Reply received from Cllr Watts, confirmation that speed is 30mph, there has been no update from developer, no fixed time scale for delivery. The funding & timescales are outside the control of SBC. It is in the developer's interest to complete the plan for SBC to adopt. SBC are awaiting an increase in funding to assist with cycle & walking schemes.  | Cllr Jankinson  | Ongoing |
| PC office build/unit: It was agreed to **approve** design Option A, a revised layout with air conditioning and DDA access door. Direct Award Framework details have been received by the RFO. |  RFO  | In progress |
| High Street Path repair: SBC job for the repair is logged, however there is a back log so no date can be advised. No update, c/forward to the next meeting.  | Cllr Hughes  | Ongoing |
| Pavilion Extractors: Copy of quote **approved** by ALL at £244.93. RFO to raise P/O. Cllr Nash/Taylor to authorise work to commence. | RFO, Cllr Nash & Tayler  | In progress |
| Community Building Car charger: Charge my Street have confirmed they have no agreement to supply a 2nd charger point; the first unit is not profitable so they would not consider a second unit. Check the planning agreement with the developer, Hayfield, and SBC to check if the agreement of 2 x electric charger points was agreed, and does the planning need to be adhered to. Cllr Keates advised that ‘Charge my Street’ will install a second charger if their claim is successful through the customers insurance. | Ward Cllr Gardiner  | Ongoing |
| Local Swindon Plan: Cllr Gardiner has been informed that a preview of the plan should be available in the next week. | Cllr Jankinson/ Gardiner  | Ongoing |
| Kingsdown Development: Cllr Gardiner provided an update that S106 matters have been resolved. Legal specialists have been secured to assist further. The development is progressing but still being reviewed, a time frame for the project is required. | Cllr Jankinson & Cllr Gardiner  | Ongoing |
| Millenium Garden paving slabs: Quotation for: slabs, repointing of the walls, trim back hedges & weeding and removal of vegetation. Work has commenced, Cllr Tayler monitoringRFO to raise P/O and request start date and timescale of job. | Cllr TaylerRFO  | In progress |
| Staff review policies: amendments required to suit BPC staff.  | RFO | In progress |
| Electric Speed Sign: Road Safety meeting on 4/7/25 Tidworth Road Safety was cancelled. Awaiting details from Road Safety Partnership Delivery Manager on suitable options. | Cllr Hughes  | In progress |
| Ermin Street Notice Board: 1 m x 1 m board, re-souring of external board | Cllr Tayler | In progress |
| Broadbush pavement: Regular cutting of the growth alongside the pavement on Broadbush as pedestrian’s safe access is restricted. (This is either Highways or Gas owned land). To find out who owns the land.  | RFO, Cllr Nash, Selwood & Tayler  | In progress |
| Bunker, recreation ground; Base is now complete, await delivery of shed in August.RFO to raise P/O & order the shed. Awaiting delivery of shed.Awaiting delivery of shed to site. | Cllr Nash & Tayler RFO | In progressCompleted |
| WP Landscapes: Paving has commenced at the Pavilion, additional top soild and seed added, will be completed in stages over next week to allow for delivery of shed and weather conditions. | Cllr Nash & Tayler  | In progress |
| To purchase new storage containers alternative sizes: 1x 20ft and 1x10ft, for use at the pavilion and MUGA. | Cllr Nash | In progress |
| Stratton bins: options discussed at the GM Contractor meeting.  | Cllr Nash & Tayler  | In progress |
| Resident report – Seepage in middle of road on bend at Front Lane & Back Lane. Agree to monitor. Cllr Jankinson to report to Thames Water. | Cllr Sellwood | Ongoing |
| Cemetery - A preview of the cemetery system as a bolt on to existing RIALTAS system. A/Clerk reviewing all historical maps and books.  | RFO & A/Clerk | In progress |
| Unity Bank forms to be completed for Cllr Nash & Jankinson as bank signatories. | RFO | In progress |
| BPC to carry out quarterly headstone safety checks. | Cllr Tayler/Nash |  |
| **Actions confirmed as closed**  |  |  |
| Wooden post on Back Lane - £30 repair to be carried out. | Cllr Nash & Tayler | Closed |
| The date for the MUGA meeting is to be arranged by the RFO. | RFO | Closed |
| Grass verges along High St to Ermin St: Cllr Nash & Taylor have cleared the area.  | Cllr Selwood  | Closed |
| Rec ground clearance: Clear bushes, stumps and to cut away ivy growing into neighbouring property. | Cllr Nash & Tayler | Closed |
| Lockable Wheelie bin: Bin on site and locked. Cleaner and Lee have been informed of code for the lock. Liza to be advised. | Cllr Nash & Tayler  | Closed |
| **NEW Actions from these minutes** |  |  |
| Daikin boiler: Further independent inspection required. | Cllr Tayler | In Progress |
| Add new verges from GM Contract to mapping. | RFO | In Progress |
| Request new tree report from Cotswold Tree Surgeon. | RFO | In Progress |
| Advertise Caretaker JD on social media. | A/Clerk | In Progress |
| Kingsdown Traffic Issues to be added as a point of discussion | Cllr Selwood | On going |
| Dedication gift for Cllr Compton | Cllr Jankinson | In Progress |
| The Clerk will notify Electoral Services and arrange for the Register of Interests to be completed. | RFO | In Progress |
| Training for Mapping Online – Parish Online required for Clerk & A/Clerk | RFO | In Progress |
| Add to GM Contract and mapping the approved quotes for £50 to be add on to main GM contract for extra verges along High Street.  | RFO/Cllr Selwood | In Progress |
| Add to GM Contract and mapping for the installation of an additional square Bin at Hyde Rd, to have existing bin and new bin fixed to floor and original round bin to be stored for later use at MUGA. Raise P/O for the Agreed quoted price £714 | RFO/Cllr Selwood | In Progress |

**25/74**  **PLANNING**

**1** Planning decisions advised by Swindon BC

**Application Ref: S/25/0516/BURGE**
Description: Erection of 1 no. Dweling with associated external works incl driveway, erection of garage.
Site Address: Land adjacent to Bluebells, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon

Comments : Application Withdrawn

**Application Ref: S/25/0526**
Description: Change of use of garage to Nail Salon (retrospective).
Site Address: 93 Ermin Street, Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 8AA

Comments: Planning Permission Granted

2. New application deposited from Swindon Borough Council for comments:

**Application Ref: S/25/0688**
Description: Change of use from Residential (Use Class C3) to a mixed use as residential and for day care of dogs including use of existing outbuilding/summer house for the housing of dogs.
Site Address: 39 Ermin Street, Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 8AA

**Comments**: Concerns have been raised over adequate parking provisions, an Animal Activities License is required, there is no details on the application of how the commercial dog waste will be stores and disposed of.

Agreed to Object.

**Application Ref: S/HOU/25/0690**

Description: Erection of a new roof to facilitate first floor, 2 no. dormer windows to front and rear and erection of a single storey rear extension.

Site Address: Rockley, Hillside Way, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 8BU

**Comments:** Agreed to support.

 **Application Ref: S/HOU/25/0760**
 Description: Erection of a timber framed conservatory replacing existing conservatory to rear elevation, replacement flooring.
 Site Address: 45 High Street, Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 7AG

 **Comments:** Agreed to support.

**Application Ref: S/LBC/25/0761**

Description: Erection of a timber framed conservatory replacing existing conservatory to rear elevation, replacement flooring.
Site Address: 45 High Street, Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 7AG

**Comments**: Agreed to support.

**Application Ref: S/AMEND/25/0740/TB**

Description: **Notification of Non-Material Amendment** from previous application

S/23/0883 relating to removal of stone surrounds.

Site Address: Land At Hill Cottage, Blunsdon Hill, Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 8BZ

**Comments**: Agreed to support, no reply needed as non-material amendment only.

**Application Ref: S/HOU/25/0785**
Description: Erection of side dormer window and enlargement of existing dormer window.
Site Address: 24 Sutton Park, Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 7BB

**Comments:** Concerns have been raised regarding the scale and massing of the proposed development, as well as the potential for overlooking from the front, rear, and side elevations of the property. Clarification is sought as to whether a Deed of Covenant exists requiring the use of Cotswold stone in order to maintain consistency with neighbouring properties. Agreed to object.

 **Application Ref: S/HOU/25/0748**
 Description: Erection of single storey side and rear extensions.
 Site Address: The Old Police House, 38 Ermin Street, Blunsdon Swindon SN26

 8AA

 **Comments:** Agreed to support.

**3** To receive & noteplanning correspondence received

**Application Ref: S/25/0431**

Description: Erection of a 3 bedroom residential childrens home building (Class C2), associated access and car parking.
Site Address: Ringstones, 1 Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL

A planning case officer report and request to consider removing BPC request for the application to be heard by SBC planning committee.

Comments: BPC continues to express concerns regarding the adequacy of the sewage system proposed for the two properties and would like to see this completed first. In addition, the absence of a backup generator for the sewage system to maintain functionality during power outages. Additionally, there remains no provision for footpath access for children, staff, or visitors, nor has staff car parking been accounted for in the plans. BPC supports the concerns raised by residents through the planning portal and maintains its objection.

**25/75** **FACILITES**

1. VILLAGE HALL – It was **Approved** to purchase of small fridge replacement for hall users (not preschool fridge) Priced at £179.10.
2. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & OPEN SPACES –

The GM Meeting notes were received.

It was **Approved** for the quotes for £50 to be add on to main GM contract for extra verges along High Street.

It was **Approved** for the installation of an additional square Bin at Hyde Rd, to have existing bin and new bin fixed to floor and original round bin to be stored for later use at MUGA. Agreed quoted price £714.

To discuss complaint of verges Front Lane, Ivy Lane & Back Lane. This area was previously maintained on occasion by Swindon Borough Council. In recent years, however, maintenance has been limited with an occasional cut by BPC and boundary upkeep by individual property owners. Due to the size of the site and the level of regular cutting required to keep it presentable, the council is unable to do ongoing maintenance as is currently beyond the scope of our budget.

1. COMMUNITY BUILDING –

It was **Approved** retrospectively for the emergency works carried out by Cllr Tayler to café door.

It was **Approved** for the renewal of the annual Daikin service contract for the boiler/air conditioning system priced at £399. A recent repair was carried out under contract by Daikin due to an emergency call out (leaking valve and fans not working), the boiler is currently working but it is noted from the engineer that the system should be reviewed in the next few weeks. A check will be required to see if the system should be drained down and an inhibitor added by an authorised independent engineer. Cllr Taylor to obtain quote.

**25/76 POLICIES**

To review or adopt the following:

1. New Financial Regs 2025 – Approved.

2. New Standing Orders NALC 2025 - C/Forward to 21/7

**25/77** **PROJECTS**

To receive updates.

1. MUGA – It was **Approved** for the stone pick and seeding £475 – as extra

costs.

2. ERMIN STREET – Prior to the meeting, Oliver gave a presentation to update councillors on Ermin Street landscaping project costs, and explain the changes brought about by the consultation phase with SBC, he will return to another meeting soon to outline the final costs and schedule. It was **Approved** for the Guy Davies architect invoice for £610 to be paid.

3. TRAFFIC CALMING – Cllr Hughes confirmed that the meeting he was going to attend did not take place. See Action points above.

4. BROADBAND - None

5. REVIEW TREE PLANS – The last tree plan was carried out in 2022, a new inspection should be requested from Cotswold Tree Surgeon, including the updating of several tree removals from the parish. Clerk to action.

**25/78** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED TO 7TH JULY**

* Swindon media release x 5: Loaded on Web/FB, and emailed to Cllrs
* NALC Events newsletter: Emailed to Cllrs
* Wiltshire and Swindon community messaging x 9: Loaded on Web/FB, and emailed to Cllrs
* Road management, notification of road works: Loaded on Web/FB, and emailed to Cllrs
* NALC x 3: Emailed to Cllrs
* Your Swindon x 2: Loaded on Web/FB, and emailed to Cllrs
* Report a problem - overgrown verges Front Lane/Back Lane/Ivy Lane - Added to Agenda, Item 75.2
* Report a problem - Lonsdale drug usage: Responded to resident with police reporting contacts, emailed local police 26.6.25
* Fostering News: Loaded on Web/FB, and emailed to Cllrs
* Riven Plant - Resident information email: Emailed to Cllrs, response required
* Police & Crime Commissioner: Loaded on Web/FB, and emailed to Cllrs
* Report a problem - GM overview of unkept village: Email sent to Cllrs 7.7.25 - Response required

 **25/79** **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

 To resolve public exclusion from the next Motion 53, under subsection 2 of Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 - Not applicable

It was **Approved** for the new caretaker combined role x 2 to be advertised and costs approved where needed. Initial advertising would be FOC via website and social media. A/Clerk to action.

It was **Approved** for the payment of invoice from Guy Davis architect – Ermin Street £610.00

It was **Approved** for the terms from SBC for releasing S106 monies – S/13/1223 £118,855.83 & S/13/0364 & S/RES/15/0720 £125,956.70 for Local Landscaping Projects such as Ermin Street.

**25/80 PARISH MATTERS**

* Cllr Selwood raised concerns regarding ongoing traffic issues in Kingsdown. It was agreed that this matter will be added as a standing agenda item to ensure regular review and follow-up at future meetings.
* It was noted that the skip in the cemetery had been used by the public to dispose of rubbish.
* Cllr Jankinson confirmed that a suitable gift/dedication would be sourced for Ex-Cllr Compton.
* Cllr Nash advanced apologies for absence of next 3 meetings (21st July, 4th Aug & 18th Aug)

**25/81**  **KEY MESSAGES FOR MAGAZINE/FACEBOOK/WEB**

Job advert for Caretaker Role.

Thank you note for planting of flower boxes.

Introducing new Cllr Nick Gardiner to BPC

Request for LLoyd Preston to share details of litter pick within magazine.

**25/82 CLOSE & SUMMONS TO ATTEND NEXT MEETING**

Next Finance meeting to be held on Monday 21st July 2025 at 7.30 pm

Next month’s Full Council meeting to be held Monday 4th August 2025 at 7.30pm

Cllr Nash gave his apologies for the next three meetings.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35 pm

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 Chairman 21st July 2025

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS** **PROJECT/ACTION POINTS FOR FUTURE**

Date Raised June 23

Project/Action Turnpike Parking issues

Status **Ongoing**

Date Raised 2022

Project/Action Ditch in Kingsdown Lane

 SBC awaiting waste plan from Care Home Nov 2022

Status **Ongoing**

Date Raised 2024

Project/Action Ermin Street Planting Project

Status **Review again 2025**