



Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall beginning at 7.30 p.m.

Eighth Meeting of 2026-27 – Full Council	Held Monday 3rd August 2026
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Cllr Members Present: Ian Jankinson (IJ), Ian Selwood (IS), Lesley Elliot (LE), Vanessa Boyd (VB), Paul Weston (PW), Peter Hughes (PH), Sandra Keates (SK) & Hazel Wakefield (HW)

Ward Councilors Present: Nick Gardiner (NG)

Members of Public: Two

Officers: Debbie Braiden (Clerk)

Minute Ref No.	Minutes	
26/92	APOLOGIES: Apologies received and accepted from K Poulton, N Gardiner, Jo Barnett & C Boles.	
26/93	DECLARATIONS – INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS 1. No declarations of interest from councillors were received. 2. No written requests received for dispensations of disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests. 3. None granted.	
26/94	PUBLIC RECESS 1. Ward Councillor report - - July has been a slower month for council meetings. We did see the first Planning Committee meeting of the new administration with 3 separate planning applications discussed for Blunsdon. - Continuing to explore parking issues with SBC officers for Blunsdon Doctor's surgery. - Working with Highways adoption and resident support for Hayfield Estate. 2. Recess – No matters raised.	
26/95	MINUTES 1. The draft minutes for the Full Council Parish meeting held on 6th July 2026 were ratified as a true copy with the Chairman duly signing. 2. Action points from the above minutes were reviewed and further actions required and approved as follows:	
26/95.1	Water Seepage: bend at Front Lane & Back Lane. Reported to Thames Water twice and SBC Cllr Gardiner to invite an officer from Highways to visit. IS raised concerns of inclement & freezing weather approaching which will create ice in this area. 2/2/26 Agreed annual occurrence, currently dangerous due to icy conditions. Clerk contacted Cllr Weisinger. POST MEETING NOTE: Emailed received from Cllr Weisinger a case has been raised with SBC. Report on JADU system with photos JADU Ref: E38045 (Front Lane 20/5) JADU Ref: E38308 (Back Lane 20/5) IS confirmed even in this dry weather water is still seeping.	PH/ D.Clerk

	SBC system says still under investigation 6.7.26 Thames Water currently have signs up to say work is taking place from 7 th July in this area. 3/8 IJ has reported again.	
26/95.2	High Street Path repairs: 1/6 Highways response HHighwayMaintenance@swindon.gov.uk Report E37695 for the pavement Opp 76 High Street, inspection carried out and a job has been raised. Chased for update 6.7.26 - 3/8 No updates.	PH/D.Clerk
26/95.3	MUGA Gate Access controls: Christys and Banham will do install on 5th August. Electric Car Charging points – No reply from Charge my Street. IJ talking to BEV. CCTV - To investigate RING system for CCTV once gate system completed. 3/8 IS confirmed RING to be a good system. D/Clerk to recirculate the quote to members – The Chairman asked for delegated authority by email to all to move this forward. - IS – to request Ferndale Aerials to install a bracket on the office instead of the container as per current position, he will then ask VM to move the dish over. - To undo the tennis equipment from packaging.	Clerk / D.Clerk SK, IJ, NG D/Clerk IS Caretakers
26/95.4	CEMETERY SYSTEM - Checking of system records against physical books - Mapping of graves	NG
26/95.5	CEMETERY MAINTENANCE - Quotes for cutting back of rear bushes and tree from GM - Quotes for cutting back 2 trees or all trees at the entrance to the cemetery 3/8 IS Delegated authority to decide on contractor. - Quote for new notice board at cemetery entrance. 3/8 Approved green composite A1 Landscape noticeboard up to £850 plus VAT.	IS/ Clerk Clerk
26/95.6	ALLOTMENTS - GM contractor to quote for the car park weeding, trimming of bushes and strimming unused areas. Some of this work will be done in autumn due to nesting. - Quote for the grab lorry at Hillside to remove all the waste.	Clerk/IS Clerk
26/95.7	VILLAGE HALL Caretakers - purchase paint and tidy up the lower areas.	Caretakers
26/95.8	PAVILION Clerk to service the pump at the Pavilion and to cross reference prices from previous services.	Clerk
26/95.9	COMMUNITY BUILDING - Clerk to send out quotes with MS - email authority by all to make the decision as per motion 26/97/5 below. - RW to inspect the top hinges on the door.	Clerk Caretaker
26/95.10	PROJECTS Clerk to do PO for logo £120.	Clerk

	- Clerk to confirm extra watering as approved in Ermin Street. - IS to initiate bracket installation on office and ask VM to move the dish across to the office from the container.	IS
26/95.11	Ask NG to add Sutton Park to gulley and weed killer schedule at SBC	NG
26/95.12	To notify PATA for an increase in manual workers' pay to £14.30.	RFO
Under review	Traffic/footpaths: SBC expects an increase in funding for cycling and walking schemes. We want the footpaths to be improved for school and the surgery. See AP no. 4 of 1/12/25. An update was provided to IJ to say SBC would allow access to S106 funds for pathways to school, bus stop etc to help with the 80 new homes project currently being reviewed. 2/2/26 IJ emailed SBC manager – no progress to report. 11/5 No updates provided so far awaiting traffic data. 1/6 IJ to chase – CWIP - IS confirmed path resurfacing preparation to adopt? No pathway from village to surgery – NG may be able to assist as now on Highways & Transport committee.	IJ
Under review	Ermin Street: Update needed for Parish Online. Confirmation of what maintenance is needed, and who will be carrying it out.	IS/Clerk
Under review	Kingsdown Development: S106 form still to be signed. Current Reserve Matters Plan is not acceptable. 2/2/26 SBC, Tim Thomas and team are still to provide updates. 11/5 Update in April – Reference Reg 19 will be in August C/F 1/6 No reply received, IJ wrote to Tim Thomas to confirm, is S106 signed, as there is activity around the development site. 2015 Local Plan, Persimmon and Primegate to fund infrastructure for 1650 houses. This was agreed in principle with Borough & Developers, but document has not been signed.	Cllr Jankinson
Closed	Community Building Car Charger: Charger installed, await fixing of rubber and bolt. 6/7 SK awaiting update Completed.	SK/Clerk
Closed	Community Building: - To get quotes for timber treatment in outside porch area by entrance doors. 3/8 Quotes obtained SK authority given to decide. - To get quotes to address the water leaking in loft area for pipe lagging due to condensation build up, 5 contractors have been selected to quote. 3/8 Awaiting requote for change in lagging thickness. Delegated authority granted to pay the extra on top of original quote for change in lagging thickness from 13mm to 19mm.	Clerk
Closed	Caretaker Equipment Quotes for Stihl leaf blower, strimmer, shears, hedge cutter & PPE to be obtained. Authorised at July's Finance meeting. Completed.	Clerk
Closed	Community Building AC Obtain quote for cage for air conditioning unit. Quote received and PO sent. Completed.	Clerk
Closed	Cemetery	NG

	• NG to provide log in details for Paul Weston, Clerk & D/Clerk - Completed. • Replacement of resident bench – install quote £122 approved. Cost of bench & install to be submitted to residents. Completed.	Clerk
Closed	High Street: The road mirror at the methodist church has lost its reflective coating and will need replacement, IJ to consult with Highways. 3/8 Completed	IJ
Deferred	Pavilion – electrical jobs – on hold 1) Pavilion Electrical Building Safety Test Certificate. 2/2/26 JT investigated this – few issues arose and on hold. 2) Pavilion – PAT testing for appliances. 2/2/26 Cllr Tayler liaising with BFC to remove all own goods that do not require PAT testing first. Clerk to ask Cricket Club.	Clerk
26/96	PLANNING 1. Decisions granted or not granted by Swindon BC were noted. GRANTED - S/25/1500/RACH Land At Eden Field, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon, Swindon SN25 5DL Erection of 5No dwellings. 2. Comments upon NEW applications deposited from Swindon Borough Council: Application Ref: S/RES/26/0873 Description: Reserved matters application (following planning application S/OUT/23/1499) for details of appearance, landscaping and layout Site Address: Little Rose Farm, Lower Village, Blunsdon SN26 7BJ Respond by 6th August – Comments: <i>The PC has no valid planning reasons to object.</i> Application Ref: S/26/0892 Description: Erection of 4 no. Dwellings in lieu of the 5 no. Conversions approved by Application S/PAG2R/25/1059. Site Address: Stubbs Hill Farm, Broad Bush, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7ES Respond by 11th August. Comments: Object for the following: <i>The Site is an isolated parcel of land, separate from the wider Blunsdon and North Swindon fringe.</i> <i>It is set on a very busy 50 mph straight road leading into Blunsdon on the B4019. The Site is separate from the Village of Blunsdon and has poor and somewhat unsafe access to existing local services, public transport opportunities and walking connections. There is No cycling and walking strategy and no means of safe walking to or from local amenities.</i> <i>The application does not therefore comply with policy TR2, which is a critical prerequisite for assessing transport and access implications. Without this, the proposal lacks the necessary scrutiny regarding safe and sustainable access.</i> <i>The application site is located in a rural area and outside the settlement boundary with relatively poor accessibility and therefore is not compliant with SD2 and Policy of</i>	

the BENP. It is remote from essential services and facilities and lacks pedestrian infrastructure, making it neither safe nor practical to access by any mode of transport other than the private car.

The access point lies near the Cold Harbour junction, which is already critical prerequisite traffic congestion and safety concerns. Adding further vehicle movements from multiple dwellings will exacerbate existing issues and pose risks to both residents and road users.

Adjacent to the Site runs a Public Right of Way (PRoW) to the north of the B4019 (footpath BL9). There is an opportunity for developer contributions to connect to this network to footpath BL8/SF8. There is a very dangerous section joining these footpaths which runs along the edge of the B4019 for 365 metres from Stubbs Farm BL9 to footpath BL8/SF8. If this footpath was rerouted inside the southern hedge of the B4019 along the landowner's property it would significantly enhance safety, permeability and connections to the wider footpath network.

3. To receive and discuss Planning Correspondence (if any) - None

4. SBC Planning Committee Meetings – To discuss any upcoming applications going to committee (if any) - None

26/97

FACILITIES - To receive updates from working groups for the following sites and operations. To approve any further actions.

1. CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS

- a) To receive an update on recent GM meeting on site at the cemetery with contractor. IS confirmed that the round bushes had been trimmed away from graves and the hedge along the frontage had been done. The Clerk confirmed that some of the large holes had been filled in.
- b) To receive and approve quotes and decide how many fir trees to remove at the cemetery. IS was **granted Delegated Authority** to choose between quotes and which trees to remove.
- c) To receive an update on the Minerva court allotment. The rubbish pile had been cleared and removed from site. GM contractor to quote for the car park weeding, trimming of bushes and strimming unused areas. Some of this work will be done in autumn due to nesting.
- d) To receive a quote for the grab lorry at Hillside to remove all the waste. Quote not received in time.

2. VILLAGE HALL

- All **approved** purchase of paints required for caretakers to make improvements over the holiday.
- It was noted that the PC was willing to move to the main hall should the Yoga Class want the small hall on Mondays.

3. PAVILION & RECREATION GROUNDS

- All noted and received the Group Meeting notes for meeting held on Friday July 24th, with the Blunsdon FC and Cricket Clubs.

- All **agreed** for the Clerk to service the pump at the Pavilion and to cross reference prices from previous services.

4. MUGA

- To receive an update on second Banham, visit for gate access installation. The confirmation date for this was now 5th August therefore this will be carried forward to the next FC meeting.
- The Chair mentioned that youths had climbed on to the top of the container and was seen urinating over the office. The Clerk suggested the need to move the grey barriers currently beside the WC to prevent a natural step up.
- IS – CCTV asked Clerk to recirculate the quote to members – The Chairman asked for **delegated authority by email** to move this forward.
- IS – to request Ferndale Aerials to install a bracket on the office instead of the container as per current position, he will then ask VM to move the dish over.

5. COMMUNITY BUILDING

To receive and approve quote for maintenance of the porches. £1285.00.
Note: only one company out of three replied. SK provided another company who did supply a quote for £985.00 plus £100 for scaffolding tower. It was **Approved** to have an email consensus on which quote to choose. Clerk to forward all details once collated.

No update on lagging.

PROJECTS

- To receive an update on the recent on-site meeting for Ermin Street. The Chair confirmed that most of the whips had died due to drought conditions, while those watered by the contractor had survived. The Grounds Maintenance team will now flail the entire area, including the failed whips. Bath Land Management (BLM) will provide a revised quotation for replanting in the autumn. LE asked whether hardier more resilient species could be considered for replanting. SK suggested purchasing more established plants rather than whips, though it was noted that these would be significantly more expensive. A quotation for established plants will be obtained from BLM.
- All **approved** quote for scalable BPC logo £120.
- All **approved** 2 extra watering £600 per time Ermin Street out of EMR.
- The Clerk & IS confirmed there was no update for email transfer. IS to speak to VM re moving the dish and will also mention the email transfer after a week.

26/98	FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & POLICIES – To discuss & approve the following: None	
26/99	CORRESPONDENCE - To note correspondence received & to receive any post-agenda correspondence. To agree on items raised to be added to the next agenda. <i>(To note, decisions cannot be made on matters raised in this section)</i>	

	• Request for a skate park. • Vegetation along the back of Minerva Heights gardens along A419 – pushing into back garden fences, normally cut every year but has not been done. Reported twice to SBC with no feedback/reply. • Reports of youths aggravating Speed watch team at Lady Lane site again. The police have been informed. • Reporter from Swindon 105.5. This summer creating a new series with the working title called Parish Priorities and purpose, interviewing the Chairs of all 20 parishes in Swindon, the aim is to present them under a new light and bridge the gap between constituents and councillors. • Complaints of parking on verges obstructing safe passage from road exits. • Casey Commission – consultation to share re social media and Website.	
26/100	PARISH MATTERS: To receive and note all other Parish issues raised as items to be added to the next agenda. • PH – SIDs Julie F SBC has confirmed the traffic survey information was sufficient to move forward. Clerk has invited Julie F to site to discuss sites further. • There is a water bulge in the middle of the High Street, making the tarmac lift to a dome shape. IJ confirmed that the bulge had been reported four times on the Thames website. • PW - Are the gates at Minerva Court supposed to be locked? IJ – yes but the padlocks keep going missing. Caretakers to purchase and replace padlock. • HW – Golden Gatherings have been encouraging participants to have questions when they come to the group meetings – One request was asking for Sutton Park Road gulleys & weeds to be cleared – Ask NG to add to schedule at SBC. IJ – Road sweeping is only being done along bus routes. PH they had a schedule for weed killing and in place. • A couple of residents found the tap wedged on at the cemetery. The wedge was removed and the next day it had been wedged on again. • SK – The top hinges on the shop door became loose. It was agreed we need to start looking at replacement doors. Budget for next year. RW to inspect. • Caretakers to undo all the packaging around the tennis equipment. • BFC spectators to stand at the rear of the MUGA on the grassed area and not in the car park due to H&S. They wish to store the small kids' nets in the middle storage area.	
26/101	EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC – To resolve public exclusion from the next Motion, under subsection 2 of Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960.	
26/102	STAFFING a) To note the 3-month review and approve new contract amendments for RFO. She has received an increment rise in salary as per her contract and her hours have been reduced from 44 to 38 hrs per month. b) To receive and approve recommendations from Staffing Group for changes in Manual Workers wage (if any). It was approved to raise the manual workers to £14.30 in line with inflation from next month.	RFO RFO



Blunsdon Parish Council

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26/103	KEY MESSAGES & MAGAZINE CONTENT: To receive and note all suggestions received as key messages. • The PC are currently reporting many reports to SBC for overgrown vegetation, both road and path repairs. • The PC are working with the GM contractor to bring the cemetery up together following the growth spurt of the hedges and grass. • Publish the Baroness Letter.	D/Clerk
26/104	CLOSE OF BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING The meeting was closed and ended at 9 pm, and the next FINANCE meeting will be on Monday 17 th August.	


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Signed by Chairman, Monday 7th September 2026