

**Minutes of Blunston’s Twenty-third Parish Council Meeting of 2025/26 was held on Monday 2nd March 2026** at 7.30pm. This meeting was held at Blunston Village Hall

**Cllr Members Present:** Jim Taylor (JT), Ian Selwood (IS), Sandra Keates (SK)

Cllr Paul Weston (PW) (arrived 8pm), Cllr Kingsley Poulton (KP) (Left at 8.30 pm)

**Ward Councilors Present:** Steve Weisinger (arrived 8.20 pm)

**Members of Public** – None

**Officers:** Debbie Braiden, Clerk. Claire Boles, A/Clerk

**25/283 APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Cllrs Ian Jankinson (IJ), Peter Hughes (PH) & Nick Gardiner (NG). In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Selwood acted as Chair for this meeting.

**25/284 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. There were no declarations of interest from councillors. **Note:** Declarations of interest were asked to PW upon arriving at meeting.
2. No written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests were received, therefore, no requests for dispensation were made.

**25/285 PUBLIC RECESS**

1. Ward reports received – none
2. No public present.

**25/286 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED: MINUTES from the Full Council Meeting 2nd February 2026 & the Extra-Ordinary meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**

1. The minutes of the Full Council & the Extra-Ordinary meetings held on **2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026** were **approved** as true records of the meetings, with Cllr Taylor proposing, seconded by Cllr Keates – both minutes were duly signed by the acting Chairman (IS).
2. To **review** the Full Council action points for the above Full Council meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> February) and **to approve** further actions to be taken.
  - **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.

No	COUNCIL ACTIONS	Assigned to:	Status:
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1	<b>Community Building Car Charger:</b> Cllr Keates confirmed that an email has been received confirming the post has been ordered to mount the charger, the charger will then be ordered and any damage to path made good.	Cllr Keates	Ongoing
2	<b>Electric Speed Sign:</b> Await copy report on the traffic survey. IJ and P.Martlew to meet to discuss plans for Ermin Street, and update on Blunston Hill report. IJ chasing Philip re Ermin Street. PH confirmed next stage is to receive the traffic survey report & he will chase Martin. Cllr Hughes reviewed details provided by Highworth TC on signage and reports data to police, he is awaiting recommendation from Highways. IJ confirmed that planning permission for signage/post would need to be applied for. 2/2/26 Meeting with P Martlew & survey not yet received. Potential sites to be confirmed – IJ gave Julie Furneval as a contact at SBC for post positioning. <b>2/3 C/F</b>	IJ & PH Clerk	Ongoing
3	<b>Pavilion refurb</b> - IJ to obtain quotes. 5/1/26 IJ has requested that Pendle Property Designs produce a proposal for refurb, to include electrics, mechanics, insulation, method statement for Feb 2026, this will be supplied to 3 builders to quote and provide a phased pricing to allow for budgeting. 2/2/26 Clerk has contacted Cllr Kevin Small at SBC for funding advice. To ask Oliver for a proposal of his services. <b>2/3 C/f</b>	IJ  Clerk	In progress
4	<b>Water Seepage:</b> middle of the road, 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. <b>2/3 C/F</b>	NG	Ongoing
5	<b>High Street Path repairs:</b> SBC job reference E30409 – Started but not complete. 3/11/25 A patch is missed around the utility access points towards the church, part towards the Blunston House, the narrow single path opposite the bungalows. Report again with specific instructions and pinpoint positions. Added 10/11 Reference numbers with SBC E31353 & E31354 2/2/26 PH has requested assistance from Cllr Weisinger. IJ mentioned JADU will be a good tool to follow progress. <b>3/3</b> Re-report further to resident complaint, under reference E36650.	PH A/Clerk	Ongoing
6	<b>MUGA</b> Water connection: JT meeting on 3/2 to obtain a Water Regs Certificate to provide to TW so they can give an install date. Ongoing.  Arrange training for the new Hyundai sweeper on site with GM. <b>2/3 C/F</b>  Clerk to enquire to <b>insurance</b> company regarding CCTV & Alarm – does this affect the premium and cover? <b>2/3 C/F</b>  <b>Gate Access controls</b> – 3 Quotes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banham £4472 plus VAT for Paxton 10 system</li> <li>• Sysflex £5304 plus VAT for Paxton 10 system</li> <li>• Gate Access £4241.54 plus VAT (not for Paxton 10 system)</li> </ul> <b>2/3 APPROVED</b> for Works Order to be raised to Banham as the preferred supplier due to locality, technical representative and price to list for project.  <b>Electric Car Charging points</b> – Octopus/Zest have been contacted.	JT  IJ & JT  Clerk  A/C  RFO IJ	Ongoing    In Progress   In Progress  In progress
7	<b>Gritting Module</b> - IS to create new module to add gritting/winter maintenance. <b>2/3</b> IS confirmed £35 per session	IS	In Progress

8	<b>Village Hall</b> – Lights now installed. One light unit was replaced with a plastic sheet as the glass shattered, it is advised due to H&S to replace the other 3 units too – all <b>APPROVED</b> that this should be done – cost £220.80 RFO to send PO	JT RFO	In Progress
9	<b>Pavilion Refurb</b> – 2/2/26 <b>APPROVED</b> - Send a PO to Pendle Property to appease the 5 planning conditions. To arrange meeting on site with Oliver.	RFO	In Progress
10	<b>Linley Play Area</b> – JT to chase Breeves on repairs.	RFO	In Progress
11	The Clerk to contact neighbouring PCs to seek applicants for <b>administrative support</b> with finance tasks and cemetery digitalisation, with a view to attracting suitably knowledgeable candidates. 2/3 See minute 292/1.	Clerk	In Progress
<b>ACTIONS UNDER REVIEW</b>			
12	<b>Traffic/footpaths:</b> SBC expect an increase in funding for cycling & walking schemes. We want the footpaths to be improved for the school and the surgery. Also 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. <b>2/3</b> A/Clerk shared comments for PH with regards to cycling and walking plan consultation: I think it is appropriate that we pass a comment stating that we think it essential that a footpath and cycle path are added, to link the existing footpath on Blunsdon Hill and the academy and surgery at Tadpole Garden Village. There are currently no viable options to link Blunsdon and beyond with Swindon for pedestrians and cyclists to travel safely. This is an opportunity to potentially introduce a "northern flyer" for more ecofriendly travel. It is also an opportunity to improve a currently unsafe unadopted road under the A419 and introduce a safe road system for all users which should include a reduction in speed limit. <b>Approved</b> for this statement to go forward.	Cllr Jankinson Cllr Hughes  Clerk	Ongoing
13	<b>Kingsdown Development:</b> S106 form still to be signed. Current Reserve Matters Plan is not acceptable. <b>2/2/26</b> SBC, Tim Thomas and team are still to provide updates. <b>2/3</b> C/F	Cllr Jankinson	Ongoing
14	<b>Openreach:</b> On behalf of Virgin O2; carrying out groundwork through village. Project to be monitored. No reply received for updates from contractors. 2/2/26 No update. <b>2/3</b> C/F	Cllr Selwood	Ongoing
15	<b>Council Garages:</b> SBC - audit on all council garages in November; contact details have been provided to the Clerk & A/Clerk by (SW). Neighborhood warden said the report had been started but not completed, hoping for January completion. Delays were caused by residents not responding to removing goods from the garages. A/Clerk shared feedback with Ward Cllr Wesinger. 2/2/26 No updates for meeting. POST MEETING NOTE: SBC has since shared info for all garages within the parish to A/Clerk. <b>2/3</b> C/F	Cllr S Weisinger A/Clerk	On Going
<b>CLOSED ACTIONS (from these minutes)</b>			
9	<b>Pavilion Refurb</b> – Send a PO to Pendle Property to appease the 5 planning conditions. To arrange meeting on site with Oliver.	RFO	Closed
<b>DEFERRED ACTIONS</b>			
14	<b>Pavilion – electrical jobs – on hold</b> 1) Pavilion Electrical Building Safety Test Certificate. 2/2/26 JT	Cllr Tayler	In Progress

	<p>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.</p>	Clerk	
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**25/287 PLANNING**

**1. Planning decisions advised by Swindon BC were noted:**

**Application number:**S/HOU/25/1662/WOODCL

Proposal: Amendment to roof construction of previously approved single storey side/rear/ extension REF: S/HOU/25/0099/WOODCL. Site Address: 93 Ermin Street, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 8AA  
 SBC Decision: **Approved**

**Application Number:**S/25/0570/JP

Proposal: Erection of 2no detached self build dwellings (Class C3) and associated works. Site Address: Land At 26 Turnpike Road, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7EA  
 SBC Decision: **Approved**

**2. To consider and agree comments upon new applications deposited from Swindon Borough Council for comment listed:**

None received.

**3. To receive & note planning correspondence received**

**Application: S/25/1072** - Land Adjacent to Bluebells, Kingsdown Lane - will be going to SBC Planning Committee on 14th April 2026.

Application: S/RES/25/1647/REPPER - **WITHDRAWAL**

Re: Reserved matters application in respect of scale, layout, appearance and landscaping in relation to approval of outline application reference S/OUT/20/0549 for the erection of 8 no self builds dwellings. At: Land East of Woodbine Cottage, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon, Swindon, SN25 5DL

The Clerk confirmed that legal advice was still being sourced in relation to planning 0809 Rivan application.

**25/289 FACILITIES**

**1. Village Hall**

a) All approved retrospectively Gas quote from Utility Trade for 1/4/26 – 31/3/28 price obtained in September 25 is better than prices for today’s quotes, especially due to increase of 10% today.

b) To discuss Community Pilot for Older People – The members agreed for Village Hall could be used as an appropriate booking slot, however it was noted the PC's involvement would be limited to providing a warm space.

A/Clerk informed all - IPMS model club has been moved to a Wednesday to fall in line with the other once a month booking. The UKE Club will not be rebooking even though their new rate was still largely discounted. The A/Clerk will advertise availability for the new slot now open on Tuesdays. An Irish Dancing Club have booked provisionally for 2 days a week, on the basis that that floor is protected from shoe damage. The Medieval Group bookings have come to an end as summer training is held outdoors.

**2. Grounds Maintenance & Open Spaces** - Grass cutting starts in April, IJ to get confirmation from Lee on dates. Clerk has arranged a meeting with IS, JT & Lee for next Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 4-5 pm.

IJ & JT to meet with Lee regarding Bramble removal at Minerva Court, quote to be sent to Clerk.

Oliver requested a meeting on 11th March a.m. to discuss future maintenance of Ermin Street planting with GM contractor & Members (it is noted that this meeting is chargeable).

**3. Community Building** – A P/O has been raised for valve replacement, once payment is received, Robert Heath will then arrange a call out. It was agreed after various feedback that further advice should be obtained from the original engineer with regards to the workings/controls on the existing heating/cooling system and its capabilities. Once information is obtained a further meeting will be arranged for Cllrs to review options going forward.

**4. Cemetery & allotments** – NG will be working on the project from 16th March where he will look to get all burial books uploaded onto the new system. A/Clerk confirmed that all allotment users had been emailed and invoices will be raised in April.

**5. Pavilion, Recreation Ground & Play areas** –

a) Darwin Ecology for Bat Assessment quote £784.80 inc. VAT C/Forward

b) Sharples Tree Services for tree protection & survey quote C/Forward

**6. MUGA** – Quotes show in action point 25/286/6, it was **APPROVED** for Banham's quote to be accepted and that Paxton reviews as a good system, to ensure it meets our needs, a works order should be raised to Banham to cover the work and operations expected.

JT confirmed that the holes for the car park pillars had been dug. JT raised concerns over the cables for the BT connection, a pole may be required to join up the office and the office being of low height. The gate between the office and the cabin is being manufactured.

A/Clerk informed all that the winter football bookings have now come to an end and would look to chasing existing and new teams for regular bookings for next winter.

Members **agreed** that future bookings can go ahead.

## **25/289 FINANCE, GOVERNANCE AND POLICIES**

1. Finance Regulations – amendments were shared by the Clerk to all members who **RESOLVED** to approve the policy.
2. It was **agreed** by all to claim S106 money from SBC for C278a LEAP play area improvements Linley Road and C279a LOS existing space improvements at Linley Road. C255a should be discussed with Cllr Jankinson and further information to be obtained from Vijay Manro. Cllr Weisinger informed that council could ask for Section 278 advice, where the developer at planning stage would provide, cycle paths etc as an alternative.
3. To note the usual Internal Auditor is unable this year. All **approved** Charlotte Mathews to carry out the 2025/26 audit and to confirm that she is independent from the Council with no connections.
4. All **approved** the Clerk to sign the Rialtas Data Processing Policy.
5. The Clerk confirmed the current insurance policy does cover contents for our sites. Currently the sums are. Office contents: £10,955 General Contents: £30,350

### **25/290 CORRESPONDENCE**

A suggestion has been received from Helen at Golden Gatherings for the Parish to allow use of the village hall for Voluntary Action Aid – this was dealt with in minute 288/b above.

JT confirmed that a recent email received from public regarding help in Lyall Close, was for St Andrews Parish Council and not BPC.

**25/291 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC** - No public were in attendance.

### **25/292 STAFFING**

1. Chairman to continue discussions with Clerk in respect to the Council's current staffing levels and approval of an RFO being appointed.
2. The Parish Council Allowances of £244 per member for 2026/27 were noted and all **APPROVED** for these to remain in the budget against allowances, and to agree what to spend them at year-end, December onwards.
3. All **APPROVED** for the following WALC training, year-end Audit for DB £35 & basic clerking for Claire £35
4. All **APPROVED** to go ahead after the staffing issues in item 1. above was sorted, for Rialtas cloud price £495 plus vat for 1/4/26 to enable more than one staff access to system.
5. All **APPROVED** retrospectively the changing of Microsoft family membership over to a business plan membership to gain Outlook email system as previously agreed. £4.60 per month per person. Family membership was due early March, so this was amended to prevent automatic renewal of the Family membership.

### **25/293 PARISH MATTERS**

Fly tipping opposite the cemetery – JT confirmed that there was not much and he would arrange for this to be removed.

IS reported a resident's concern about tarmac damage on Back Lane caused by Thames Water sewerage works. IS will send photos of the damage and requesting a Google "before" photo to be sent jointly to Cllr Weisinger, since the property belongs to the Borough. Reported. A/Clerk has also reported on JADU ref: E36649.

Cllr Weisinger gave council a contact for advice with email providers.

**25/294 KEY MESSAGES FOR MAGAZINE/FACEBOOK/WEB**

- Budget information for magazine and website to be provided by Clerk.
- Extra-ordinary meeting update.
- Tennis availability.

**25/295 CLOSE & SUMMONS TO ATTEND NEXT MEETING**

Cllr Poulton gave advanced apologies for the next meeting.

Next month's Full Council meeting to be held Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm

Next Finance meeting to be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

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Signed by Chairman, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026