**Minutes of Blunsdon’s** **Seventh Parish Council Meeting of 2025/26 held on Monday 21st July 2025** at 7.30pm. This meeting was held at Blunsdon Village Hall.

**Cllr Members Present**: Cllrs Ian Jankinson (IJ), Jim Tayler (JT), Ian Selwood (IS), Peter Hughes (PH) & Cllr Poulton (KP) Paul Weston (PW)

**Ward Councilor's Present**: None

**Members of Public** - 1

**Officers:** Claire Boles (A/Clerk) (CB)

**25/83**  **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies received from RFO, Cllr Keates, Gardiner & Nash

**25/84** **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, therefore, no requests for dispensation were made.

**25/85** **REPORTS**

**1. REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS -** None

 **2. RECESS –** No comments or questions receive from the public present.

**25/86** **MINUTES**

1. **MINUTES FROM 7th July 2025 MEETING**

Proposed by Cllr Tayler, seconded by Cllr Weston, 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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| **No** | **Previous Meeting Action Points** | **Assigned to:** | **Status:** |
| 1 | **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 |
| 2 | **Footpaths, The Haul Road Section 106**: 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 |
| 3 | **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 |
| 4 | **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. The new Swindon Plan includes proposed additional housing which will affect traffic, speed and access routes. | Cllr Jankinson  | Ongoing |
| 5 | **PC office build/unit**: Direct Award Framework details are being processed. |  RFO  | In progress |
| 6 | **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 |
| 7 | **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 |
| 8 | **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 |
| 9 | **Local Swindon Plan**: The Local Plan has been received and circulated to all Councilors for their review. A full review of the plan is required, with particular attention to the lack of infrastructure provision in the proposed housing areas, especially Kingsdown, Stubbs Farm, and Turnpike. | Cllr Jankinson& Gardiner  | Ongoing |
| 10 | **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 |
| 11 | **Millenium Garden paving slabs**: Quotation for: slabs, repointing of the walls, trim back hedges & weeding and removal of vegetation. Work has commenced, Cllr Tayler monitoring | Cllr Tayler  | In progress |
| 12 | **Staff review policies**: amendments required to suit BPC staff.  | RFO | In progress |
| 13 | **Electric Speed Sign**: Awaiting details from Road Safety Partnership Delivery Manager on suitable options. ANPR data is not used for enforcement and only records dates, times & speeds. Await further information on options. | Cllr Hughes  | In progress |
| 14 | **Ermin Street Notice Board**: The noticeboard is now made and will be installed over the next few weeks. | Cllr Tayler | In progress |
| 15 | **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 |
| 16 | **Bunker, recreation ground:** Base is now complete, await delivery of shed on 11 August. | Cllr Nash & Tayler | In progress |
| 17 | **WP Landscapes**: Paving has commenced at the Pavilion, additional topsoil and seed added, will be completed in stages over next week to allow for delivery of shed and weather conditions.1st stage complete, work to be checked before signing invoices. | Cllr Nash & Tayler  | In progress |
| 18 | **Storage containers:** alternative sizes: 1x 20ft and 1x10ft, for use at the Pavilion and MUGA. The MUGA site is ready for its container but will be delivered at the same time as the Pavilion unit. | Cllr Nash | In progress |
| 19 | **Stratton bins:** P/O raised. Await confirmation that bins have been installed. | Cllr Nash & Tayler  | In progress |
| 20 | **Water Seepage**: in the middle of the road on bend at Front Lane & Back Lane. Agree to monitor. Cllr Jankinson to report to Thames Water. | Cllr Jankinson | Ongoing |
| 21 | **Cemetery** – Highworth TC have a comprehensive cemetery system that provides mapping, grave history/records & gravestone inspection module. This system is very impressive and enables a trustworthy site for storing all records, enabling the manual books and paperwork trail to be removed. However, the set-up process is quite detailed. A preview of the cemetery system as a bolt on to existing RIALTAS system was also reviewed, although quite basic it does provide a good system but has no ability to upload documents and no mapping system linked to it which is a priority for BPC. RFO to obtain pricing options. A/Clerk reviewing all historical maps and books.  | RFO & A/Clerk | In progress |
| 22 | **Daikin boiler**: A power flush on the system which is not covered on service contract to be booked for September. | Cllr Tayler | In Progress |
| 23 | **New verges**: add GM Contract to mapping. | RFO | In Progress |
| 24 | **Tree report:** from Cotswold Tree Surgeon for 2026, awaiting quote. | A/Clerk | In Progress |
| 25 | **Caretaker JD**: Advertised on social media, will be in the August magazine with extended deadline 14th August. RFO has two applications received so far. | RFO | In Progress |
| 26 | **Dedication gift:** for Cllr Compton | Cllr Jankinson | In Progress |
| 27 | **Electoral Services**: arrange for the Register of Interests to be completed. | RFO | In Progress |
| 28 | **Training for Mapping Online:** Parish Online training required for Clerk & A/Clerk. | RFO | In Progress |
| 29 | **GM Contract & Mapping:** add the approved quotes for £50 to be add on to main GM contract and mapping system for extra verges along High Street.  | RFO/Cllr Selwood | In Progress |
| 30 | **Bins**: Add square bin to Hyde Road mapping system. | RFO | In Progress |
|  | **NEW Actions from these minutes** |  |  |
| 31 | **Speed Watch:** Cllr Jankinson will provide details of a new speed watch volunteer to Cllr Hughes. | Cllr Jankinson | In Progress |
|  | **Actions confirmed as closed** |  |  |
|  | Millenium Gardens: RFO to raise P/O and request start date and timescale of job. | RFO | Closed |
|  | Bunker:RFO to raise P/O & order the shed.  | RFO | Closed |
|  | Unity Bank forms: Now signed. | RFO | Closed |
|  | Kingsdown Traffic Issues to be added to agendas. | A/Clerk | Closed |
|  | BPC to carry out quarterly headstone safety checks. | Cllr Tayler | Closed |

**25/87**  **PLANNING**

1. Planning decisions advised by Swindon BC

**Application: S/TPO/25/1011/MCKELL**

Re: Works to tree within Conservation area.

At: 7 Beech Lea, Blunsdon, Swindon, SN26 7DE

Comments: Granted Consent

**Application Numbers/23/0683/TB**

Re: Erection of 1 no. detached property with associated landscaping works.

At: Land Adjacent To, Little croft Ponting’s Close Blunsdon Swindon

Comments: Granted

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

**Application Ref: S/HOU/25/0861**
Description: Erection of single storey side extension.

Site Address: White Cottage, Broad Bush, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7DH

Comments: The stone wall is a key feature of the village, contributing to its rural character and historic charm, and its removal would disrupt the area's cohesive appearance. Stone walls reflect local heritage and altering them risks weakening the village’s distinct identity and setting a precedent. **The parish agrees to Object.**

3. No further correspondence has been received from SBC. It should be noted that the application for S/25/0809 was not issued to BPC on the standard distribution date. BPC subsequently followed up to request the relevant details, which were then shared with all Councillors. In reviewing the application, consideration should also be given to the Biodigester plant proposal at Castle Eaton, due to potential cumulative impacts and shared infrastructure concerns with the Riven application. Given the scale and volume of supporting documentation associated with application S/25/0809, further research and discussions are recommended ahead of the meeting scheduled for 4 August.

**25/88** **FINANCE**

Due to the absence of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and limited attendance, all finance-related items listed on the agenda were not discussed. These items will be carried forward and addressed at the next Finance Committee meeting on 18 August.

**25/89 POLICIES**

The review of the New Retention Policy and New Standing Orders NALC 2025 will be carried forward and addressed at the next Finance Committee meeting on 18 August.

**25/90** **BANKING**

Updates on Unity Bank, will be carried forward and addressed at the next Finance Committee meeting on 18 August.

**25/91 PROJECTS/FACILITIES**

No urgent matters from projects/sites were submitted.

**25/92** **CORRESPONDENCE**

* Swindon media release x 6: Loaded on Web/FB, and emailed to Cllrs
* A419/A417 Maintenance, July and Aug 2025: Loaded on Web/FB, & emailed to Cllrs
* Wiltshire & Community Messaging x 2: Loaded on Web/FB, and emailed to Cllrs
* NALC Chief executive's bulletin x 3: Loaded on Web/FB, and emailed to Cllrs
* Resident complaint of Parking in Sutton Park: Email cc to Cllr Jankinson & Clerk
* Community message, action fraud: Emailed to Cllrs

**25/93 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC** – There was no reason to exclude the public.

**25/94 STAFFING** – No staffing items were discussed.

**25/95 PARISH MATTERS**

Cllr Hughes suggested about the review of traffic in Sams Lane and High Street. The Kingsdown project includes revised speed limit and traffic calming that will affect this area of concern. Cllr Jankinson will provide details of a new speed watch volunteer to Cllr Hughes.

Cllr Tayler informed all that, following the reported damage to the signpost in Sams Lane, SBC responded promptly, and the signpost has now been replaced.

Cllr Tayler informed all that the pavilion and recreation ground is being used regularly during the week and Saturday mornings by the football club for sessions not on the booking system, it should be added to the next agenda for discussion.

**25/96 KEY MESSAGES FOR MAGAZINE/FACEBOOK/WEB**

Link on social media for planning responses with SBC.

Post on social media for recess process at meetings.

**25/97 CLOSE & SUMMONS TO ATTEND NEXT MEETING**

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

Next Finance meeting to be held on Monday 18th August 2025 at 7.30 pm

Cllr Nash advanced apologies until 18th August. Cllr Weston left at 8.45pm tonight.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm

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 Chairman 4th August 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**