Blunsdon Parish Council

keeping it clean, keeping it safe, keeping it beautiful

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

Tenth Meeting of 2026-27 – Full Council	Held Monday 5th October 2026

Cllr Members Present: Lesley Elliot (LE), Vanessa Boyd (VB), Peter Hughes (PH), Sandra Keates (SK), Nick Gardiner (NG) and Hazel Wakefield (HW)

Ward Councilors Present: Nick Gardiner (NG)

Members of Public: None

Officers: Debbie Braiden (Clerk), Claire Boles (D/Clerk)

Minute Ref No.	Minutes	
26/142	**APOLOGIES:** Apologies received and accepted from Ian Jankinson (IJ), Paul Weston (PW), Ian Selwood (IS), Kingsley Poulton (KP) & Jo Barnett (JB) **Note:** In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman – members approved Nick Gardiner to lead as Chairman of the meeting.	
26/143	**DECLARATIONS – INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS** **1.** To receive declarations of interest from councillors for items on the agenda – None declared. **2.** To receive written requests prior to the meeting for dispensations of disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests. None received. **3.** To grant dispensations received. - None granted.	
26/144	**PUBLIC RECESS** **1.** Ward Councillor report – The new planning process & legislation begins 31/10/26 and will soon be in operation under the revised terms and procedures. At Swindon Borough Council, Helen Benbow is the Chief Planning Officer and Councillor Daniel Adams is Chair of the Planning Committee and will make the decisions under the new regulations as to whether an application will be taken to committee stage for decisions. Swindon Borough Council will shortly be launching its annual winter maintenance programme. Residents are encouraged to report any grit bins that are damaged, require replacement, or need refilling so they can be included in the Council's maintenance schedule. We are currently awaiting the completion of the latest road and footpath patching schedule for the next two months (NG will monitor on behalf of Blunsdon). NG confirmed this would include all bridlepaths. Once received,	

INITIALLED:

	the Parish Council will be able to monitor progress and planned improvements affecting roads and pavements across Blunsdon. The Borough Council has been allocated £2 million towards the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, with tenders currently being sought for the project. NG hopes to programme in two EV chargers for the MUGA as a starting point but encouraged all for ideal locations. SBC will be installing 600 chargers over the next 4 years, hoping to start by next May/June. Ward Cllr meeting at the cafe – generally quiet with four conversations. Turnpike Road Update - Parking on the yellow lines along Turnpike Road is currently much improved following tickets being issued. Swindon Borough Council maintenance teams have recently cut back vegetation, making the road signage clearly visible again. NG has written to Highways regarding sections of verge believed to be under their ownership and has requested an inspection to determine whether maintenance work is required. There remain several untaxed vehicles located on Turnpike Road which have been reported to the relevant authorities. At the time of writing, no warning notices or enforcement action are visible on the vehicles. Finally, most of the fly-tipped material previously reported on Turnpike Road has now been removed. A small quantity of tyres remains on site, and this will be followed up with the relevant team to ensure the clearance is completed. Four large Trees, Sams Lane – SBC has written to the owners, NG to chase the process; SBC may choose to do the work and recharge the owners. **2.** Recess – None	
26/145	**MINUTES** **1.** The draft minutes for the Full Council Parish meeting held on **7th September 2026 were ratified** as a true copy with the **Stand in** Chairman duly signing. Proposed by SK & PH seconding. **2. Action points** from the above minutes were reviewed and further actions required and approved as follows:	
	Policies	
145.2.1	Investigate body-camera regulations for Speed Watch volunteers 5/10 Clerk has sent email to IJ + Brian at Speed watch with information.	**Completed**
	Projects	
145.2.2	Electric vehicle charging points at MUGA	IJ / SK NG

INITIALLED:

	5/10 Clerk asked NG whether joint working could be explored on the EV charger project, with Parish Councils included as an extension to Swindon Borough Council's procurement process.	
145.2.3	Confirm if additional Ermin Street watering still required 5/10 Clerk to check at meeting on 14th Oct with Oliver	Clerk
145.2.4	Arrange meeting regarding Ermin Street maintenance programme - 14th October - 5/10 Meeting booked	**Completed**
145.2.5	**Under Review** - Kingsdown Development and S106 agreement monitoring 5/10 No updates	IJ
145.2.6	Pavilion refurbishment quotes and tender preparation – ongoing 5/10 Will be added as agenda item when available.	Clerk & IJ
	Roads/Paths	
145.2.7	Re-log Front Lane / Back Lane water seepage issue Share water seepage report with NG to pursue SBC 5/10 D/Clerk to provide photos & case numbers to NG, D/Clerk to also re-log with SBC	D/Clerk / PH
145.2.8	Chase High Street pavement repair opposite No. 76 5/10 NG to provide list of patching scheme from SBC using contractor Connels	PH / NG
145.2.9	**Under Review:** Traffic and footpath improvement scheme (LCWIP / S106 links) 5/10 No update	IJ
145.2.10	Chase dropped kerb update from SBC 5/10 NG confirmed SBC are writing to Ermin St residents (as per minute number 26.148.b)	NG
145.2.11	SIDs programme and approved locations 5/10 NG confirmed report from Julie Furnaval received and shared (as per minute number 26.147	IJ / PH
145.2.12	Establish ownership of Beach Lee to Sams Lane overgrown path 5/10 D/Clerk is currently awaiting feedback from Highways; Martin Fry and Rosie Halpin from SBC on responsibility for maintenance of this hedgerow. To note that PH, DB & NG are copied into this correspondence. (as per minute number 26.148.e)	D/Clerk
26/146	**PLANNING** **1. To receive and note planning decisions granted or not granted by Swindon BC** a) GRANTED – **Application Number: S/HOU/26/0917/JP** Ward: Blunsdon Proposal: Erection of a detached timber garden workshop and storage building. Site Address: Maple Tree Cottage, 17A Turnpike Road Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7EA b) REFUSED – None	

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

a) **Application Ref: S/26/1143**
Description: Erection of 9 residential dwellings and associated infrastructure, landscaping, and servicing.
Site Address: Land Adjacent to Ermin Street, Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 8AA
BPC Comments: Whilst we acknowledge that the proposed development is not entirely in keeping with the street scene, we note that there are some nearby properties of a broadly similar style. However, we have several concerns that should be addressed before any approval is granted. We have concerns regarding drainage and the presence of existing Thames Water infrastructure on or adjacent to the site. Given the apparent regular use of this area by Thames Water, it should be confirmed that there is sufficient easement and access for the maintenance and operation of the infrastructure. Any approval should be subject to Thames Water confirming that the development will not adversely affect its assets or network capacity. We also note that the archaeological report has not yet been completed and consider that the findings should be available before a final decision is made. We support the concerns raised by the resident of Farrier Street and request that these are fully considered and addressed by the applicant. In relation to design, whilst there are some similar properties nearby, it is not clear whether the proposal is fully consistent with the character areas and design principles set out in the Blunsdon Neighbourhood Plan. We are also concerned that the proposed access arrangements may not be compatible with the proposed Cold Harbour/Kingsdown junction improvements and request clarification on this point.

Finally, we have concerns regarding traffic generation. Nine dwellings could potentially result in up to three vehicles per household, creating a significant increase in vehicle movements onto an already busy road. Traffic regularly queues on Broadbush near the proposed access point, particularly at peak times, and the additional movements are likely to worsen congestion and make it more difficult for residents to enter and leave the site safely. We therefore request that these matters are satisfactorily addressed before the application is considered for approval.

b) **Application Ref: S/HOU/26/1191**
Description: Garage Conversion to habitable accommodation and

associated works.
Site Address: 15 Sutton Park, Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 7BB
BPC Comments: No planning reason to object

c) **Application Ref: S/26/1194**
Description: Erection of a dwelling (Removal of condition 1 - agricultural occupancy condition from permission T.532.69)
Site Address: Happy Acre, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL
BPC Comments: No planning reason to object

3. **To receive and discuss Planning Correspondence received (if any)**

a) It was noted the Regulation 19 consultation period for the **Swindon Local Plan** is 24 September to 11:59pm to 5 November 2026.

b) It was noted that Planning Applications **20/0096** Land East of Broad Blunsdon and **23/0434** Kingsdown Lane, will fall within the new terms and are currently 'delegated by SBC officers for decision'.
PC Comments - *These two planning applications that were considered by the Parish Council and although objected to previously, SBC planning has confirmed the following applications will now be considered and continue through the new planning process under the new arrangements. The PC notes that we have not received* ***recent*** *consultation for these applications and questions the two letters.*

4. **SBC Planning Committee Meetings** – To discuss any upcoming applications going to committee (if any) - See comments under correspondence above 3.b)

26/147 **PROJECTS** - To receive updates, review status and approve further actions required to move projects forward:

SIDS

The report received from Julie Fernaval was previously shared with all members.

Members agreed to investigate the process of applying for a speed limit reduction on Blunsdon Hill from 60 mph to 50 mph. The Clerk will obtain details of the costs and application process, and the Clerk will add this as an agenda with SIDS item and to obtain further information.

Three locations near to Sams Lane, corner of High Street and Berton Close and corner of High Street and Hatchers Crescent, have been identified and approved for Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) capable of monitoring traffic in both directions. Blunsdon Parish Council will now review the available SID options to determine the most suitable model. It was agreed that one SID would be purchased initially and rotated between

INITIALLED:

	the approved locations. PH noted that the report also recommended contacting the Community Speed Watch team to seek their support in progressing the SID proposal. **ERMIN STREET** a) To note that a meeting will take place on 14th October at 10 a.m. with Bath Land Management – consultant for Ermin Street, and the GM contractor and group members – IJ, IS & KP if able to attend. Notes from this meeting will be circulated to all. b) **All Approved** the amended interpretation board – version 3 from Bath Land Management. **PAVILION REFURBISHMENT** a) To note quotes received and amounts required for funding to move the project forward – Members deferred to the next meeting. b) To discuss avenues of further funding – Also deferred to the next meeting. c) Pendle Property to provide further M&E quotes for the project – Also deferred to the next meeting. **CEMETERY DIGITILISATION** • Digitising of data held manually update – meeting to be held on Wednesday 8th October. **LAND REGISTRY** • To record the intention of legally registering land known as The Copse. To note we have been approached by a company Land and Property Registration. All agreed to obtain quotes for this service.
26/148	**HIGHWAYS & NON- PC LAND** – To receive issues raised. To discuss and approve further action required - None a) Dropped kerbs around the village - Chris Butler, Head of Highways, has been sent a proposal by NG. Letters have been issued by Swindon Borough Council to properties on Ermin Street regarding unauthorised dropped kerbs. NG will monitor progress on this matter and report back to the Council in due course. PH also requested that NG follow up on the historic kerb damage issue relating to a property in Pontings Close, plus dropped kerbs in properties for Holdcroft Close & Sutton Park and provide an update at a future meeting.

INITIALLED:

	b) Extra/new signage required in the village, for example available car parks to assist football parking, school, MUGA & Parish Office - Members discussed the matter and concluded that additional signage was not required, as it could create unnecessary visual clutter within the area. However, it was agreed that signage relating to car park rules and regulations should be considered where appropriate. c) The Copse – trip hazards/safety – Social media post to be put out about caution of uneven surfaces on this non approved/maintained path. No further changes can take place until BPC obtains ownership. d) Vegetation cutbacks alongside paths along Broad Bush – D/Clerk is currently awaiting feedback from Highways; Martin Fry and Rosie Halpin from SBC on responsibility for maintenance of this hedgerow. To note that PH, DB & NG are copied into this correspondence. e) Vegetation from Emin Street to Skylark – Clerk confirmed that ABL have been instructed to cut back. f) Turnpike Road/Kingsdown lane – fly tipping, reducing speed and illegal vehicles – Update received from NG on minute item 26/119 and confirmed work in progress.	
26/149	**GOVERNANCE & POLICIES –** To discuss & approve the following: • It was noted that the Finance Meeting held on the 3rd Monday of the month is now the Finance and Facilities meeting.	
26/150	**CORRESPONDENCE -** To note correspondence received & to receive any post-agenda correspondence. To agree on items raised to be added to the next agenda. ***(To note, decisions cannot be made on matters raised in this section)*** a) The following was noted, Swindon Local Council Forum minutes for 18th June 26 (IJ attends). b) A request has been received asking for an opening to the cemetery in the new wall from the new estates to make easier access from that side of the village – BPC will consider this on the planning application for the extension of the cemetery. c) Introduction from company Land and Property Registration – this was covered in minute no. 26/147 - Members agreed to obtain quotes. d) Holdcroft resident. Concerns over parking hazard, MUGA footballs, parking in MUGA carpark - Concerns were raised regarding parking, access and the safety of children within Holdcroft. It was agreed that Blunsdon Parish Council would request a Traffic Management Assessment to review/reconfigure the road layout,	

INITIALLED:

	parking arrangements and any potential traffic management options. PH commented there was also scope for this in Churchill. It was agreed that options for improved ball containment at the MUGA, including additional netting or extended fencing, should be reviewed as part of any future improvement works. The parking arrangements and usage rules for the MUGA car park will also be reviewed.	
26/151	**PARISH MATTERS:** To receive and note all other Parish issues raised as items to be added to the next agenda. ***(To note, decisions cannot be made on matters raised in this section)*** Wasp/Bee activity reported at Hillside allotment – Clerk to arrange pest control. PH – It was noted the SIDs will collect the information the speed watch team collate and in addition to SID's, there are several junctions that could benefit raised tables to slow traffic, suggestions of Chapel Hill, High St – Hunts Hill to Ponting's Close stretch & by Village Hall for children crossing. NG – Still awaiting a response from Mark Booth of Hayfield Management regarding trees and a residents meeting. NG still chasing.	
26/152	**KEY MESSAGES & MAGAZINE CONTENT:** To receive and note all suggestions received as key messages. LE asked for the magazine content to read in a more positive reflection. HW suggested we include correspondence items received and the results, to inform and reach more residents of what the PC does within the parish. Holdcroft parking. Cemetery entrance. Wasps/Bees at allotments. EV options at MUGA	
26/153	**CLOSE OF BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING** The meeting was closed at 9.50 pm, and the next FINANCE & FACILITIES meeting will be on Monday 19th October 2026	

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Signed by Chairman, Monday 2nd November 2026