

Minutes of Blunsdon's Fourth Parish Council Meeting of 2025/26 held on Monday 2nd June 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) & Paul Weston (PW)

Ward Councillors Present: Nick Gardiner & Steve Weisinger

Members of Public - 1

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

25/43 APOLOGIES:

Apologies received from Cllr Mick Compton (MC), Peter Hughes (PH)

25/44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received from members.

Received written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests, granted to all for the planning application S/25/0570.

25/45 REPORTS

1. REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

Ward Cllr Gardiner provided an update on the Community Building (CB) charging point, the CB building could potentially be in breach of planning as agreed based on 2 charger units being onsite. Charge My Street would be chased on their legal obligation to supply as per the planning agreement.

Ward Cllr Gardiner expressed an interest to join Blunsdon council. Due to changes within SBC, they have reduced Cllrs to 10 members, allowing Cllr Gardiner to provide valued experience on planning applications. The Clerk confirmed that he should attend the meeting on the 7th July to be co-opted on to the council.

2. RESIGNATION

Council received Cllr Compton's resignation. Cllr Jankinson to respond and thank him for 40 years' service to the parish.

3. RECESS

One resident of 26 Turnpike, Blunsdon provided a background to the planning application number S/25/0570, the site/land has been owned by family over 100 yrs, the old farmhouse was replaced 23 years ago and now the need to downsize and create 2 and 3 bed properties on site to provide family accommodations for both son and parents. There will be no access issues. The TPO on the front boundary has consent from SBC to remove. There will be potentially 2-3 extra vehicles on site. It is on the edge of NC5 Kingsdown development.

25/46 MINUTES

1. MINUTES FROM 19TH MAY 2025 MEETING

Cllr Jankinson noted that Planning applications should state 'Agree to support' or Agree to Object'.

Proposed by Cllr Nash, seconded by Cllr Keates, 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

Footpaths, The Haul Road: Ward Cllr Gardiner to action a campaign for road closure. Ongoing, 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. Await update, c/forward to the next meeting. It was noted the official route is via passed the Stadium and residents will require notice of any closure upfront. Action would also alleviate traffic at the Cold Harbour junction.	Ward Cllr Gardiner
Broadband/Wi-Fi: No response from Will Stone/BT for a meeting date. Focus should now be on Virgin O2 active project.	Complete
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
Traffic meeting: Reply received; 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
PC office build/unit: Designs have been created with costings and options. Further discussions required for DDA access. Costs are within budget. Cllr Selwood to assist the Clerk with the government framework for best value.	Cllr Selwood
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
Pavilion Extractors: New quotes pending for alternative options, to be reviewed and presented at the next meeting.	Cllr Nash & Tayler
Parking on verges: Damaged grass areas of Churchill Avenue, Lonsdale Close and Linley Rd. Clerk to write to residents regarding respect for parking and access 2/6/25	Complete
Lockable Wheelie bin: A/Clerk arranged delivery for this week. Chain/lock required to secure bin.	Cllr Nash & Tayler

Bin collection billing system: Requested from Lee, to be provided to RFO.	A/Clerk
Community Building Car charger: Charge my street have confirmed they have no agreement to supply a 2 nd 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. See update 45.1	Ward Cllr Gardiner
Charges for safety fencing – No charges have been raised to SBC, this was foc.	Complete
Local Swindon Plan: Ward Cllr Gardiner provided status in notes 45.1. Ongoing, no updates.	Cllr Jankinson
Kingsdown Development: Ward Cllr Gardiner provided update that S106 matters have been resolved. Legal specialists have been secured to assist further. The development is progressing but still being reviewed. Cllr Jankinson informed all that the parish were informed of the same information previously and nothing has developed since.	Cllr Jankinson & Ward Cllr Gardiner
Millenium Garden paving slabs: due to growth of plants/weeds the raised slabs have had to be removed. Quotes to be reviewed to assess what work should be agreed. Meeting to be arranged with GM Contractor	Clerk Cllr Nash, Selwood & Tayler
VAT claim on MUGA facilities: RFO confirmed that advice had been received, we can claim VAT on MUGA expenditure.	Complete
Staff annual review meetings: Meetings completed with Clerk and A/Clerk	Complete
Staff review policies have been provided to Clerk; amendments required to suit BPC staff.	Clerk
Further advice to be sourced on electric speed sign suitability. Cllr Hughes to contact St Austell PC for details of speed cameras with built in registration number identification.	Cllr Hughes
Ermin Street Notice Board: an additional floor, single noticeboard to be obtained based on the size required not being standard. Alternative supplier providing options.	Cllr Jankinson
Burytown Lane: Cut back the overgrowth around the kissing gate on Burytown Lane, past the cemetery. Job completed by Cllr Nash & Tayler.	Complete
Verges along High Street: Cut to the grass verges which are showing some signs of overgrowth from the point opposite the old Methodist chapel and along the road up until the junction with Top Road. Job completed by Cllr Nash & Tayler.	Complete
Broadbush pavement: Trim back the growth alongside the pavement on Broadbush that is currently spilling over and restricting pedestrian access. This is SBC land. To be discussed further at GM Contractor meeting.	Clerk Cllr Nash, Selwood & Tayler

Bunker, recreation ground; Cllr Nash & Tayler to review alternative options to the previous quote: To construct a metal shed with a concrete base there would be a charge of £250 to put together and £300 for a concrete base. The purchase of the shed itself would be £706	Cllr Nash & Tayler
The clerk wrote to Football & Cricket club for request of contribution towards costs of shed. The shed is used by the Football Club to store parking barriers only; the football clubs are reluctant to contribute towards the costings.	Complete
WP Landscapes: Work from quote on paving at Pavilion not yet started, Cllr Tayler is following up to see if they can still carry out the agreed work. If not, a new revised quote and availability date should be obtained from Heard & Son.	Cllr Nash & Tayler
BVH door lock: Lock repaired. Lock adheres to standards set by insurance company, confirmed by Cllr Tayler.	Complete
Rec ground clearance: quote to clear bushes, stumps and to cut away ivy growing/spreading into neighbouring property £1100 from GM Contractor. Purchase order to be raised and GM Contractor instructed to go ahead. Updated GM budget required for next meeting.	Clerk
Road safety from the Community Gardens to the narrow bend on High Street and how it could be improved. No police presence a ward surgery to obtain advice. No clear alternatives are available at this time.	Complete
Trees on Skylark, adjacent to High Street. The trees are near an electric cable. Are the trees causing an issue with the electric cables, do we need to report to SSE?	Cllr Nash & Tayler
Grass verges along the High Street to Ermin Street: GM Contractor quoted an additional £50 per visit to be carried out on a fortnightly basis. Cllr Selwood to advise if we should go ahead once the GM meeting has taken place.	Cllr Selwood
Clerk to contact Football Clubs to confirm availability for MUGA bookings and their commitment for next season.	Complete
To purchase new storage containers 8ft x 20ft for use at the pavilion and MUGA, as agreed at £2025 plus £450 delivery – order to be placed once MUGA project is near completion by Cllr Nash.	Ongoing
The first certificate was received from Slatters and all approved it for payment from allocated reserves. Cllr Nash advised the RFO of the final price after considering the retention fees.	Complete
Resident complaint in Stratton: A/Clerk to respond to resident providing details of where to report missing road signs, anti-social behavior & speeding.	Complete
Stratton bins: options to be discussed at GM Contractor meeting.	Cllr Nash & Tayler

25/47 PLANNING

1. PLANNING DECISIONS ADVISED BY SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Application Ref: S/HOU/25/0376/WOODCL

30 Thames View Blunsdon Swindon SN26 8AQ

Erection of a single storey side and part rear extension

Comments: Granted Permission/Delegated Decision

Application Ref: S/HOU/25/0397/BURGES

4 Manor Close Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BD Erection of two storey side, single storey front & rear extensions.

Comments: Granted Permission/Delegated Decision

Application Ref: S/HOU/25/0398/BURGES

4 Manor Close, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BD

Conversion of garage into living accommodation.

Comments: Granted Permission/Delegated Decision

Application Ref: S/LDP/25/0457/ADHI

22 Farrier Street, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7DD

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Comments: Certificate of Lawfulness Development

Application Ref: S/TPO/25/0525/BURGES

Works to TPO 2019-03

10 Beech Lea, Blunsdon, Swindon, SN26 7DE

Comments: Grants works to Tree Preservation Order

2. APPLICATIONS DEPOSITED FOR COMMENT

Application Ref: S/HOU/25/0561

Description: Erection of a two-storey side extension.

Site Address: 12 Ceres Road, Swindon, Swindon SN26 8AF

Comments: According to parking standards for a four-bedroom house, three parking spaces should be provided. However, the plans indicate a loss of parking, offering only two spaces, which is insufficient—especially given that they are arranged as tandem parking. Additionally, vehicles are already encroaching on the general turning area, and there are concerns that the scale and mass of the development are overbearing to neighbouring properties. **Agreed to OBJECT**

Application Ref: S/25/0570

Description: Erection of 2 no detached self-build dwellings (Class C3) and associated works.

Site Address: Land At 26 Turnpike Road, Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 7EA

Comments: Only concern is loss of fruit trees to site, report shows biodiversity gain so not a reported concern. **Agreed to SUPPORT**

Application Ref: S/COND/25/0593

Description: Discharge of Conditions (3) list of materials from previous application

S/HOU/25/0283- Erection of a single storey side wraparound extension along the length of the current property with a hipped roof.

Site Address: 1 Ermin Street, Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 8EF

Previous application S/HOU/25/0283 was approved.

Comments: No Objection.

Application Ref: S/AMEND/25/0608/TB

Land At Hill Cottage Blunsdon Swindon SN26 8BZ - Non-Material Amendment from previous application (S/RES/19/1773) relating to removal of proposed footpath in southern part of site.

Comments:

Due to the importance of the mental health of our residents it would be a wonderful place to walk amongst the wildflowers with the added far-reaching views across to the Cotswolds. The parish council see this new estate has very little open space and do not wish to lose any peace and tranquillity that is available.

'This application seeks approval for the removal of the proposed footpath in the Southern portion of the site.

The reason for this is that the footpath would be surplus to requirements and unused due to its location within the site and the network of other footpaths across the site. We submit a new plan, Softworks Pan 190605 L 04 04 Rev J, which replaces and supersedes Softworks Plan 190605 L 04 04 Rev H as originally approved under the reserved matters. If you require further information, then please do not hesitate to contact us'

How can they predict this outcome? We have significant evidence that onsite green space is exceedingly well used as per Hayfield 'Country Park' area which has a huge usage by residents.

Agreed to OBJECT.

3. PLANNING – OTHER MATTERS

Application Ref: S/25/0086

Site Address: Land adjacent to Happy Acre, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon SN25 5DL

Comments: Cllr Jankinson will attempt to attend the SBC planning committee next week, but in his absence, Ward Cllr Gardiner can attend representing BPC.

25/48 PROJECTS

1 MUGA

Pitch has been stoned and kerbed. Stone and kerb to car park taking place, fencing delivered & back area levelled. All works are going as planned.

2 Ermin Street project

No update

3 Broadband

No update, see notes in Matters arising from previous minutes.

4 Speed watch signage and traffic calming

No update

25/49 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED TO 2ND JUNE 2025

1, Invited to an exclusive Crimestoppers Briefing for Elected Officials & Public Sector Leaders. Emailed to Cllrs.

2, NALC Events x 2. Emailed to Cllrs.

3, Wiltshire and Swindon community messaging x 3. Loaded on Web/FB and emailed to Cllrs.

4, Road management services, notification of road works. Loaded on Web/FB and emailed to Cllrs.

5, Local news, events and updates x 3. Loaded on Web/FB and emailed to Cllrs.

- 6, SBC Media Release x 4. Loaded on Web/FB and emailed to Cllrs.
- 7, Steam Museum newsletter. Loaded on Web/FB and emailed to Cllrs.
- 8, NALC Chief executive's bulletin x 2. Emailed to Cllrs.
- 9, Resident report - Broken posts on paths. Emailed to Cllrs, A/Clerk to report to SBC, Cllr Tayler to obtain quote on repairs. Note these posts are due for replacement within the Ermin Street Project.
- 10, Resident report - Seepage in middle of road on bend at Front Lane & Back Lane. Emailed to Cllrs, Cllr Selwood agreed to monitor.

25/50 COMMITTEES (Working Groups)

1 Recreational Ground & Pavilion

Cllr Nash & Tayler obtaining revised quotes required for slabs, bin security and extractor fans.

2 Community Building

The council **approved** purchase of air conditioning filters, priced at £14 each plus £15 delivery (4 units – 2)

3 Blunsdon Village Hall – The council **approved** the BT Cloud 2-line phones and upgraded broadband renewal for 2 years agreed by RFO.

4 Allotment – Cllr Tayler requested details of any potential outstanding enquiries for plots from the A/Clerk. It was confirmed that Plot 15 clearance is in progress.

5 Cemetery - A/Clerk requested reviewing the cemetery system for a bolt on to existing RIALTAS system. Clerk & A/Clerk to review.

6 Grounds Maintenance – Date for new meeting to be set up by Clerk.

25/51 POLICIES

- 1 Review of Financial Regulations – NALC 2024 version c/forward to next FC meeting.
- 2 Review the Council's Standing Orders – NALC version c/forward to next FC meeting.
- 3 Review the Council's Risk Assessments – Updated by MN and **Approved**.
- 4 To adopt a Staff Review Policy – Draft policies sent to Clerk & A/Clerk for reviewing, c/forward to next FC meeting.

25/52 EXCLUSION FROM MEETING

Public exclusion from the next Motion 53, under subsection 2 of Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 was **Resolved**.

25/53 STAFF & RESOURCES

- 1 Receive and note receipt of the Operations Manager's resignation as of 20/5/25. His last working day is 27/5/25. Note 8 hours holiday pay due. Discussions took place for cover of the Ops Manager's duties.

Cllrs Nash and Tayler proposed covering a large proportion of the Operations Manager's responsibilities at no additional cost. However, duties such as managing MUGA, handling bookings, and attending out-of-hours callouts would not be covered under this arrangement. The 10 hours of required work would be divided equally between the two councillors, with each providing holiday cover for the other.

Additionally, the current salary allocated to the Operations Manager would be redirected into a fund designated for direct enhancements to the village. This proposal is expected to lead to repairs and maintenance being carried out at lower costs—since labour charges would be eliminated—and potentially delivered more quickly.

It was agreed that this arrangement should be trialled for three months. During the trial period, all actions will be recorded, and any aspects of the original job description that cannot be accommodated should be reported to the Clerk and Chair.

2 Receive and note receipt of resignation of the Caretaker with last working day 13th June.

Discussions took place regarding the replacement and the suggestion of two separate replacements, one being cleaner/caretaker role to cover duties such as key holder, cleaning, basic maintenance and the other being maintenance/caretaker role, to include MUGA maintenance, legionnaire testing, fire alarm testing etc. It was agreed that new job descriptions should be written to approve at the next meeting and advertise for the role/s. Clerk & Cllr Jankinson & Poulton to Action. Clerk to action and present at next meeting.

3 It was confirmed that staff reviews have been carried out for Clerk and A/Clerk.

4 Review and approve manual worker wages. This will be discussed and approved later following action in No. 2 above.

5 Staff group meeting to be arranged to discuss caretaker role and duties including duties allocated to MUGA. Cllr Poulton & Jankinson to include staff required for MUGA. New Directions received from the Staffing Group Meeting which was held after the staff reviews. **Approved** additional 2 hours per week for Clerk and A/Clerk to be added to contract to assist in covering workload.

25/54 PARISH MATTERS

Apologies from Cllr Poulton for the 16th June meeting.

Cllr Jankinson had enquiry for book swap point in the village; resident advised of monthly church book swaps.

Cllr Jankinson will present a plaque, tea and cakes to the Brownies for 50 years on Thursday.

Cllr Jankinson will welcome the new Mayor of Swindon to Blunsdon at the village at the Community Shop on 11th June at 10 a.m.

25/55 KEY MESSAGES FOR MAGAZINE/FACEBOOK/WEB

Update staff changes & resignation of Cllr Compton.

25/56 CLOSE & SUMMONS TO ATTEND NEXT MEETING

Next Finance meeting to be held on 16th June 2025 at 7.30 pm

Next month's Full Council meeting to be held Monday 7th July 2025 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.50pm

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Chairman 16th June 2025

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Footpaths, The Haul Road: Ward Cllr Gardiner to action a campaign for road closure. Ongoing, 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. Await update, c/forward to the next meeting.	Ward Cllr Gardiner
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Resident report - Seepage in middle of road on bend at Front Lane & Back Lane. Emailed to Cllrs, Cllr Selwood agreed to monitor. A/Clerk to respond to resident.	A/Clerk
Rec Ground - Obtain revised quotes for slabs, bin security and extractor fans.	Cllr Nash & Tayler
Cemetery - A/Clerk requested reviewing the cemetery system for a bolt on to existing RIALTAS system. Clerk & A/Clerk to review.	Clerk & A/Clerk
Grounds Maintenance – Date for new meeting to be set up by Clerk	Clerk
Caretaker/Cleaner & Caretaker job descriptions should be written to approve at the next meeting and advertise for the role/s. Add to agenda for action, and present at next meeting	Clerk, Cllr Jankinson & Poulton

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