

Blunham Matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF **BLUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL**



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Keep in touch with local matters

The Parish Council website has an option for you to register to receive email updates hot off the press. You will not be inundated – we only update it with Parish Council information that we believe is important to you. **Please go to blunham-pc.gov.uk, & subscribe to the free update service** on the home page. We also use the Blunham Parish Council Facebook page to keep you updated, so please join that as well. Plus of course we have our Parish Council noticeboards.

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Blunham Parish Council currently have a Councillor vacancy. If you care about where you live and are passionate about your community, we need you. If you would be interested in joining Blunham Parish Council or would like to find out more about being a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk.

Blunham Parish Council or Central Bedfordshire Council?

Blunham Parish Council is responsible for the following facilities, please email the Clerk to report any issues:

- Cemetery*
- Streetlights (some belong to CBC)*
- Grass Cutting*
- Christmas Lights*
- Noticeboards*
- The Pound*
- The Trap*
- Benches*
- Play Area (in conjunction with BPFA)*
- War Memorial*
- Flagpole (on the Church)*

Contact Central Bedfordshire Council – contact via **www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk** to report issues with the following:

Planning applications, decisions and enforcement.
Roads, Footpaths and Streetlights (CBC labels)
Highways – report via FixMyStreet portal on the website.

- Public Rights of Way*
- Waste and Recycling*
- Environmental – noise pollution etc*
- Trading Standards*

Blunham Ward Councillors – an update from Caroline Maudlin and Tracey Stock

We are pleased to continue to work closely with the Parish Council on issues around the village and attend their meetings in the village hall. We can be found out and about as **Speed Watch** members, helping individual residents with issues or walking dogs around the footpaths litter picking – so do say hello!

Ward Cllr Grants

We each have £2,000 to allocate to community projects within the Sandy Ward. Last year Blunham groups who benefited from grants were:

- £780 to the Parish Council for a Picnic table and bench at the trap
- £750 to Blunham Parish Church towards CCTV and streaming services

We have our new allocation for 22/23. £1,000 requiring match funding and £1,000 without match funding, so we can be more flexibility in how we can support local groups and projects. If you are looking for funding please contact us on our details below.

Development on the Hill (land between 19 and 73)

This application for 26 homes including 9 affordable is now in the final stages of the reserved matters. It will retain the hedge along the front with an attenuation pond just behind near the entrance. We have been assured by planners drainage water will be retained on the site and flow from the site into the village drains as if it was still an undeveloped field.

Flooding

A huge concern, which we have been, and are continuing to work with our CBC Flood Risk Manager, CBC highways, Internal Drainage Board and

the Environment Agency. The expected outcome will be some funding released from the Agency to identify a range of possible interventions and ‘test’ these to see which have the best cost/benefits. This is likely to include considering whether water can be diverted out of the highways system higher up the hill as well as diversions for water leaving The Pound.

The Ward Councillors for Blunham are:

If you have any issues or concerns or need advice please contact us below:

- Cllr Caroline Maudlin**
Caroline.Maudlin@CentralBedfordshire.gov.uk
0300 300 8544
- Cllr Tracey Stock**
Tracey.Stock@CentralBedfordshire.gov.uk
0300 300 8509
- Cllr Simon Ford**
Simon.Ford@Centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
0300 300 8503

Blunham Community Fund

A reminder that we have funding available for projects that benefit the residents of Blunham. We are keen to encourage suitable applications and look forward to seeing the fund continue to be spent on a variety of projects in the village – large or small. Applying is simple, application forms can be downloaded from the Parish Council website.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Localism Act 2011 gave English parish councils the power to create neighbourhood development plans. A neighbourhood plan is about the use and development of land and may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development. A neighbourhood plan replaces the local plan as the key development plan for an area although it must be aligned with it. It carries real weight because it has been created in partnership with the planning authority and approved by an independent examiner. It is also given the thumbs up by the community in a referendum.

Blunham Parish Council are considering developing

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a Blunham Neighbourhood Plan and in the first instance would like to know if you would be interested in joining a working group or committee to be part of this opportunity to make a difference going forward. A Neighbourhood Plan Committee should include people from across the community (not just Councillors).

Further details about Neighbourhood Plans can be found here: https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/45/planning_policy/473/neighbourhood_planning

If you are interested in being involved please contact The Clerk and also look out for further details on the Parish Council website and Facebook page, including a survey.

SpeedWatch

In order to run regular SpeedWatch sessions the Parish Council would like to recruit some new volunteers. The SpeedWatch team try to operate two sessions per month, each lasting around an hour. If you would like to volunteer please contact The Clerk, even if you can only attend one session a month we would be grateful. Training will be given.

The Trap

During the warmer weather there has been an increase in visitors to The Trap. While most visitors respect the area there have been a number of occasions when large amounts of litter have been left behind.

Blunham Parish Council would like to thank the community minded person(s) who have regularly been clearing litter from the area. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

WHAT'S ON AT THE VILLAGE HALL SEPTEMBER 2022

Blunham Village Hall Autumn Luncheon

Date: 9th September 2022

Time: 12.30pm for 1pm

The popular Blunham Village Hall Luncheon returns with this autumn special, including a two-course lunch with tea and coffee. The cost is £7 per person, and there will also be a quiz and raffle. To book your space, contact Stella Harding on 01767 640515 by the 2nd September.

Blunham Village Hall Family Fun Day

Date: 17th September 2022

Time: 2pm-5pm

There will be lots to do for all the family, including a bouncy castle, Diddi cars, children's entertainer, face painting, games, refreshments and dance and exercise demonstrations. Come on down and bring the family!



Wild Blunham

Here are a few photos of the wildlife which can be found around Blunham. If you have any photos of the flora and fauna around Blunham please send them to the Clerk with a description of what it is and where it was taken and it could appear in future issues of Blunham Matters.



Elephant Hawk moth
- Rev Graham Buckle



Green Woodpecker
feeding chick -
Rev Graham Buckle



Painted Lady
Butterfly -
Peter Holden



Common Damselfly -
Rev Graham Buckle

Spotted Flycatcher -
Rev Graham Buckle



Scarlet Tiger moth -
Alan Garner



A MESSAGE FROM



Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

FIELD FIRES – the Fire service are appealing to you. We are in a period of drought in Bedfordshire and need to urge everyone **NOT** to put others at risk when the fields, grass and ground are as dry and flammable as they are currently.

Having attended several large fires over the last weeks, we want to make everyone aware of how dangerous they are and how quickly they can spread.

PLEASE DO NOT:

- Use disposable BBQ's on the ground or grassed areas.
- Have bonfires
- Throw cigarettes out of car windows or onto the ground
- Be careful of discarding plastic and glass waste, such as bottles

**If you see a fire in the open -
CALL 999**

Use what3words to get the Fire Service to the precise location.
<https://what3words.com/>

THIS PUBLICATION

Would you like to write for this publication?

If you have something interesting to say about village life in Blunham, please submit it to us. We can publish one article per edition (500 words are about right, but no more than 1,000 maximum, please. We may need to edit it to fit).

Please send articles for inclusion in the next edition to:

clerk@blunham-pc.gov.uk

t. **07563 527415** by **4th November**