

Blunham Matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF BLUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Dates for your diary

At the November meeting the Parish Council voted to change the day of their meetings. Full Council meetings now take place on the last Thursday of the month on alternate months. The meeting dates for 2023 are as follows:

30th March (after Annual Parish Meeting)

18th May (earlier than usual due to Parish Council elections)

27th July

28th September

30th November

All meetings start at 7pm in Blunham Village Hall. The Agendas for meetings are displayed on the Blunham Parish Council noticeboard on The Hill and published on the Blunham Parish Council website and Facebook page.

Local Elections – 4th May 2023

To register to vote in the local council elections which take place on 4th May 2023.



We would like to remind residents that following a change in government legislation, voter ID will be mandatory at polling stations. Acceptable forms of ID include a driving licence, passport, travel passes and proof of age ID cards. For anyone that doesn't have any of these forms of ID, they can apply for a postal vote or the new Voter Authority Certificate.

Residents should look out for a household notification letter which will be delivered soon. This will advise them who is currently registered to vote at the address and will also contain a leaflet on voter ID. You can also find information on the CBC website here: https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/32/electoral_registration_and_elections/1267/voter_id



Blunham Parish Council is made up of 10 democratically elected Councillors from the local community. These Councillors decide on what services and projects the council will deliver within its scope of control.

Also, as representatives of the first tier of local government and the closest to their communities, local Councillors represent the Parish when liaising with other authorities and organisations.

For anyone interested in standing as a councillor for either Central Bedfordshire Council or Blunham Parish Council, nomination papers must be delivered by hand to Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands SG17 5TQ.

Nomination papers cannot be accepted before 14th March 2023. The deadline for handing in completed nomination forms is 4pm on Tuesday 4th April.

Neighbourhood Plan

If you would prefer not to be a Councillor but would still like to be involved in a community project, Blunham Parish Council is beginning the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is looking for residents to join the group to develop the Neighbourhood Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a long-term project (around 2 years) and would involve monthly meetings as well as production of reports. A planning consultant will be advising the Steering Group so professional planning experience is not required, just an interest in the future of Blunham. Further details about Neighbourhood Plans can be found on the CBC website.

If you would be interested in joining the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group please contact the Clerk via clerk@blunham-pc.gov.uk

The Hill

The Parish Council are aware of issues created by the building works taking place on The Hill and continue to raise these with CBC and the developers (Lodge Park).

On 2nd February a number of residents and Parish Councillors met with Ward Councillors and a representative from CBC Highways to discuss the ongoing issues. The following outcomes were put in place:

- The footpath was reopened and the surface repaired.
- Construction traffic – Lodge Park to build a

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compound to the rear of the site so that their vehicles will not be parked on the road.

- The developer wants to widen the entrance but it has to wait until sewage/waste pipes have been connected – work expected to take place during Easter holidays.
- The developer agreed to no deliveries between 8.30am to 9.00am and 3.30pm to 4.00pm.
- To collect litter that has blown onto The Hill from the site.
- Lodge Park to place a notice on the front of the site with contact details so that residents can raise issues directly with them.

As at the time there were three building sites on The Hill residents were asked to be aware that not all the issues related to the Lodge Park development.

Residents can also contact the Clerk regarding concerns.

Cemetery Fees

The Parish Council is currently undertaking a review of Cemetery fees for plot purchases, burials and interment of ashes, to bring them into line with other cemeteries in the local area. This includes considering whether to continue to allow the pre-purchase of plots and the fees payable by people who do not live in Blunham. This is to ensure the availability of space for current and future Blunham residents.

A Polite Request – dog fouling and parking on H bars

The Council have received reports of increased dog fouling on pavements and would remind dog owners to pick up after their dogs and place the bags in the bins placed around the village

CBC have supplied the Parish Council with details a 'dog poo' marking scheme, with the aim of reducing dog fouling on pavements. If you would like to volunteer to do this in Blunham please contact the Clerk for further details.

The Council would like to remind residents that H bar markings are white lines that are marked on the road in-front of access areas. The lines highlight to

other road users that they shouldn't block access to off-road parking areas such as driveways and garages. Thank you for parking considerately.

Coronation Weekend Arrangements



Buckingham Palace have released details of arrangements for the Coronation in May.

The Coronation will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May.

On Sunday 7th May is the date for The Coronation Big Lunch, at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together, will take place across the country on the same date. The BSSC is making plans for the Big Lunch in Blunham – keep an eye on Facebook for further details.

On Monday, 8th May 2023, members of the public will be invited to take part in The Big Help Out, which will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.

Central Bedfordshire Council is encouraging residents to apply now for street parties to celebrate the King's coronation. Anyone wanting to close a road for a street party will need to apply via streetworks@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk with a TRRO application form by 20th March 2023.

Blunham Matters

Blunham Parish Council would like your feedback on Blunham Matters – whether you find it useful, does the format work for you, what else you would like to see etc. Please email the Clerk with any suggestions.



We are working with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and Blunham Parish Council to set up a Good Neighbour group in the village. There are currently over 40 villages across Bedfordshire with Good Neighbour groups supported by Beds Rural Communities Charity (BRCC).

A Good Neighbour Scheme is a voluntary group run by local residents who recognise the value in having good neighbours, particularly where public transport and other local services can be limited and where people's family may not live close by. We intend to give the sort of support a good neighbour might offer. The group will provide practical help, transport to local hospitals and clinics, information and friendship. Help is given by volunteers and is complementary to and not instead of that given by Social Services or other trades or professionals. Volunteers are insured and DBS checked. The scheme is available to everyone within our village community and is not aimed at any specific group. Many villagers are already getting support from family, friends and other community groups but for those situations where this is not possible our volunteers may be able to help. Anyone who needs a bit of extra help can ring the group's phone number, the calls are answered by a volunteer phone-handler, who matches the request for assistance with an available volunteer.

We have secured support from Blunham Parish Council and anticipate the scheme will be up and running by late Spring this year.

You can find more information about Good Neighbour Schemes on the BRCC website <https://bedsrcc.org.uk/what-we-do/health-wellbeing/good-neighbour/> or by emailing debra.aitken@bedsrcc.org.uk

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 by **24th April 2022** t. **07563 527415**

