



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
BLIDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**
held at Blidworth Library, New Lane, Blidworth, Notts, NG21 0PW
on Thursday 16th April 2026 commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: C Dear (Chair), E Litchfield, K Marlow, T Smith, W Bates
T Duffy, A Sykes, S Niedojadlo,

Apologies: A Devine and P Johnson

Clerk: C Brettell

Members of the Public: 9 Inc. Michelle Welsh MP

Abbreviations: NCC – Nottinghamshire County Council

NSDC – Newark and Sherwood District Council

The Chair asked if anyone was recording. A resident read out a statement of legal reference and placed his recording device on the table. The resident had not adhered to the Parish Council's 'Recording of meetings Policy' and refused to adhere to the Parish Council's rules, and the situation became heated. The resident was asked to leave and the meeting was suspended. The resident refused to leave.

At 7.18pm the Parish Council resumed the meeting and allowed the resident to stay if he removed his recording equipment and caused no further affray.

The meeting continued at 7.18pm

Action by

26/146 To receive - Declaration of interests both pecuniary and non-pecuniary and applications for dispensation on items listed on the agenda

Cllr Litchfield – declared that as Director and trustee of Blidworth Welfare, he would refrain from the meeting for agenda item 26/155.8 and 26/156.5 (section 106)

Cllr Marlow declared an interest in 26/155.8 and 26/156.5 (section 106) and 26/159.3

Cllr Dear expressed an interest in 26/155.8 and 26/156.5 (section 106)

26/147 To receive - Apologies for absence given to the Clerk

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Johnson and Cllr Devine

26/148 To receive and approve – Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th March 2026 (Appendix 1) and minutes of the Vexatious and Habitual Complaints Committee on the 26th March (Appendix 2)

2 small amendments were made to the minutes held on the 19th March (Vice-Chair amended to Chair in the recording statement, and Nottingham City Transport amended to East Midlands combined Authority min ref. 26/137.3 it was then **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 19th March and the minutes of the Vexatious and Habitual Complaints Committee on the 26th March 2026, be accepted as a true and accurate record.

26/149 To note – updates on matters arising from the minutes if not already on the Agenda (no decisions can be made)

All updates had been emailed out to Councillors.

The Clerk asked for it to be noted that the Street names had been agreed for the Dale Lane Development of Marion Meadow, Druids Close and Barley Fields (emailed circulated to Councillors).

26/150 To determine which items of the agenda, if any, should be taken with the public excluded. If the Council decided to exclude the public the item will be moved to 26/159 and a resolution passed in order to discuss the item.
None

26/151 To receive Representations (no more than 5 minutes)
151.1 Public Participation

A resident thanked the Clerk for her response to his email request and to the Parish Council for holding a 106 section working party.

He enquired about the plans for a Parish Office. Cllr Bates updated the resident regarding the projects discussed at the section 106 meeting.

A project is yet to be decided upon.

Michelle Welsh MP had kindly attended the meeting and provided information regarding projects that would benefit Blidworth. Support with funding has come from the National Lottery and National Government. There had also been a Maintenance settlement for NCC and planning for road maintenance.

The SEND funding from Government has also been improved, and will be filtering through locally.

Michelle will also be holding a case work coffee morning in Blidworth, the dates of which to be confirmed. These sessions are aimed at being accessible and a range of issues can be discussed from hospital appointments to utility issues.

Michelle currently has a hub in Ollerton and an office in Hucknall in order to be accessible to all, and is contactable on line and by phone.

Cllr Bates asked about local transport links, and how they can be improved to help our communities. Michelle expressed that the villages nearby are also struggling with this. Claire Ward (Mayor of the East Midlands) would be able to have a meeting with those associated with this to see how they can work together. Cllr Duffy also expressed that the bus routes do not link Ollerton to other villages, especially now as they are subject to the regeneration scheme.

Cllr Ward updated that he was having a meeting with EMCCA and will bring up these suggestions.

151.2 Report from District Council Representatives on Matters of a direct relevance to Blidworth Parishioners

Although invited District Cllr Thompson was not in attendance.

Cllr Smith updated that the Planning in Principle for 5 houses on an area of land at Dale Lane was refused based on the number of houses and too small an area.

Planning Ref. 26/00191/PIP

151.3 Report from County Council Representative on Matters of a direct relevance to Blidworth Parishioners

Cllr Ward updated that he had been in contact with the Police and they are happy to work with the Parish and the County Councillor to have regular surgeries in Blidworth.

Cllr Dear asked about road work notices that then don't happen. Michelle Welsh MP to look into this.

Cllr Ward said that he too would raise this with VIA.

151.4 Police Report

The Police were not in attendance, as they were not on shift. They had not sent in a report but the Clerk stated that they were having a 'beat surgery' after the Annual Parish meeting on Saturday. This would be at 12.15 at Blidworth Welfare.

Cllr Bates, Sykes and Duffy all commented on the situation with off road bikes in the village. Cllr Ward reported that this is an area of priority and he is doing all he can and is working with the Police. Michelle Welsh MP also said she would discuss these issues with the PCC at her regular meeting.

151.5 Report from other Community Groups on matters relevant to the Blidworth Community
Cllr Duffy reported that the food and hygiene banks are going well, a representative will be at the Annual Parish Meeting on Saturday. Cllr Duffy had met with VIA or NSDC in regard to the land on the corner of New Lane. This would be improved by the replanting of trees, wildflowers and a 'chatty' bench.

26/152 To Discuss/Update on Highway Issues in the Village (if not already covered in District and County Council reports)

It was noted that the NCHA builders have removed the village sign and thrown it in the hedge. Also, the Bus stop has been removed. The Clerk to look into this. **Clerk**

26/153 Financial Matters

To receive and approve accounts and financial information:

153.1 Analysis of Payments – March 2026 (Appendix 3)

153.2 Analysis of Receipts – March 2026 (Appendix 4)

153.3 Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31st March 2026 (Appendix 5)

153.4 To authorise the schedule of payments for April 2026 (Appendix 6)

It was **resolved** to accept and approve the financial information as per items 153.1 – 153.3 that had been submitted to members and to authorise the schedule of payments. The Chair checked and signed the bank statements with the bank reconciliation statement.

26/154 Planning Applications

To receive, and where appropriate comment on the following applications, including any applications received since the agenda was published:

None

26/155 Business

155.1 To confirm details - First Aid course provided by Newark Community First Aid for residents, to be held at Blidworth Welfare on the 23rd June.

The Clerk had arranged this for the 23rd June. This to be advertised. **Clerk/Councillors**

155.2 To agree – new signage for Village signs

Michelle Welsh MP updated members that she would be able to support this project with funding. The Clerk to send the details onto her. **Clerk**

155.3 To confirm - GDPR training for Parish Councillors has been carried out
The list was circulated and signed accordingly. For those Councillors that had not yet completed this, they were asked to email the Clerk when it had been completed.

155.4 To discuss and agree – Ideas for commemorative project for 100 years of Blidworth Oaks School

It was agreed for Blidworth Art Club and Blidworth Oaks school to work together on this Project, with costs and ideas to be brought back to a future meeting. A commemorative banner/plaque had been suggested at the Pit Wheels outside the Leisure Centre.

155.5 To adopt – Financial Risk Assessment (Appendix 7)

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt the Financial Risk Assessment.

155.6 To update and agree actions – Blidworth War Memorial and damage by Western Power

It was **resolved** for the Clerk to pursue this with Western Power. The grass requires solid ground work with top soil and the turf reinstating. The path needs immediate attention and replacing. **Clerk**

155.7 Update from Parks and Open Spaces Working Party regarding the annual Park Inspections and to authorise any actions

Cllr bates updated regarding the Parks and opens spaces Working Party meeting held on the 30th March.

It was requested that the Clerk convene a meeting with the Anti-social behaviour team at NSDC. **Clerk**

Cllr Marlow, Dear and Litchfield left the meeting (8.25pm) whilst the following agenda item was discussed

155.8 To agree – Section 106 proposals, including quotations for the engagement of an architect to draw up plans for proposals to adapt the Parish Workshop

Cllr Bates updated members regarding the proposals of developing the Parish Workshop into a community room with facilities.

It was **resolved** to engage in the services of SJI Designs Ltd to produce plans for this project at a cost of £1554. (Costs to be taken from items overbudgeted for and underspend in the last financial year)

Proposals are still to be considered moving forward with the section 106 money, and Cllr Bates talked through the costs of an 'Education room' at the allotments. An idea of cost had been obtained from a similar project at Sconce and Devon Park in Newark, around £26000 excluding a compostable toilet.

Cllr Niedojadlo proposed a project pipeline moving forward to ensure that the Parish Council have projects ready should any funding opportunities arise.

Cllr Marlow, Dear and Litchfield returned to the meeting (8.48pm)

155.9 To agree – Summer Planting (Proposal from Parish Groundsman)

The Clerk updated Councillors in regard to the Summer Planting and the proposal from the groundsman.

It was **resolved** for the Clerk and Groundsman to organise this accordingly, up to the budgeted spend.

155.10 To agree – purchase of sign for workshop gates and new cover over vinyl for signs at each park with new email address.

The Clerk updated Councillors that she had obtained quotations for a new sign to be secured to the Workshop gates stating 'Please do not park in the hatched area' along with 3 new overlay prints to correct the email address on the park signs.

It was **resolved** to purchase these signs at a cost of £55 + VAT.

Clerk

155.11 To note date of Internal Audit -

This was noted - the Clerk had arranged this for Wednesday 6th May.

155.12 To note – Amendments to Forest Folk Allotment agreements (Appendix 8)

These were noted.

26/156 Updates from working party leads

156.1 Events – Summer Festival in progress. The Clerk was continuing to receive stall bookings

156.2 Village Planting – Plants already discussed. It was decided not to enter Blidworth in Bloom or 'Best Kept Village' this year.

156.3 Parks and Open Spaces - Litter pickers to be thanked for their work in the village, they have been invited to the Annual Parish Meeting on Saturday

156.4 Finance – Nothing to report

156.5 Section 106 money – projects – no further updates at present

26/157 To note – Correspondence received

All relevant correspondence sent out via email

26/158 To note – The date of the next Parish Council Meeting – 21st May 2026

The Annual Parish meeting – 10am on Saturday 18th April followed by a Police Surgery 12.15 – 1.15 at Blidworth Welfare

There was also an HR and Employment Committee meeting to be held on the 23rd April at 6.30pm followed by a Vexatious and Habitual Complaints Committee meeting at 7pm

26/159 Exclusion of Public (Confidential Items)

In accordance with Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 section 1(2) the Council exclude the public and press from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed as a true record: _____ Date: _____