Minutes of the Blofield Parish Council Meeting held at Blofield Courthouse on Monday 13th June 2016 at 7:30pm.

PRESENT
David Ward, Pat Wilson, Paul Culley-Barber, Stella Shackle, Paul Baverstock, Barry Cawkwell, Yvonne Burton and Steven Ford (Clerk).

1. In the absence of Mr R. Christie and Mr N. MacPherson Ms S. Shackle proposed Mr D. Ward as Chair for the meeting and was seconded by Mr P. Culley-Barber. On a show of hands Mr D. Ward was unanimously elected as Chair for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Rob Christie (Chair), Margaret Turner and Nigel MacPherson (Vice Chair).

3. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.
3.1. Mr D. Ward declared an interest in all planning matters as a member of Broadland District Council planning committee. Mrs P. Wilson declared an interest in agenda item 13 as a member of the BBGNS scheme.

4. OPEN FORUM – IT WAS RESOLVED TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS FOR PARISHIONERS TO RAISE QUESTIONS ON AND/OR MAKE STATEMENTS ABOUT MATTERS OF CONCERN AND TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR.
4.1. A resident raised their concerns regarding planning application 20160813 erection of four detached dwellings in Fox Lane and in particular the difficulty of access to the proposed dwellings due to the narrowness of the road.
4.2. Mr P. Goodenough asked if any further update had been received regarding the reinstatement of the white line that in Woodbastwick Road; nothing more had been heard from highways.

Resume standing orders

5.1. It was unanimously RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting and the Parish Council meeting held on 9th May 2016 previously circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

6. TO REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA:
6.1. No matters to report.

7. TO RECEIVE A PLANNING UPDATE.
A summary of the Planning Group Meeting held on 7th June and its recommendations were noted.
7.1. 20160739 Erection of detached garage, land rear of 93 Yarmouth Road, Blofield.
No objections.
7.2. 20160742 Erection of 1 No. detached dwelling and associated works, Land at Clarkes Loke, Blofield.
Objections, the site is outside the designated settlement area, parking does not comply with the emerging Blofield Neighbourhood Plan policy HOU4 which requires 4 parking spaces for a development of this size. Concerns expressed by neighbours regarding access to the site are supported. The road is very narrow and there are concerns regarding it becoming obstructed by construction vehicles if the development was permitted, they should be parked off road to prevent this.

7.3 20160749: link extension to rear, Sharman, The Street, Blofield
No objections.

7.4 20160768 Erection of 1 No. dwelling with detached garage and associated works, Land.
Location: Land to north of Bullacebush Lane, Blofield
Objections. with the influx of new 4 bedroom houses being built in Blofield, this proposal does not meet the emerging Neighbourhood Plan policy HOU1 – Local Housing Need.
The development is outside the settlement boundary defined for Blofield and Blofield Heath. There are concerns that the development could contribute to the drainage issues encountered at the junction of Bullacebush Lane and Plantation Road, and more details are required to ensure that NP ENV3 Drainage is complied with. Concerns that this incremental infill of development will erode the distinct villages policy detailed under Blofield NP ENV6. Concerns over access to the development – Bullacebush Lane is a narrow lane with insufficient width for 2 cars to pass safely. Concerns with tree and hedging loss thus removing natural habitats for wildlife on the rural lane.

7.5 20160813 Erection of 4 No. Detached dwellings, Fox Lane, Blofield
Objections, the proposed development of four dwellings adversely affects the setting of a listed building, parking does not comply with the emerging Neighbourhood Plan policy HOU4 which requires 4 parking spaces for a development of this size. Concerns expressed by neighbours regarding the loss of hedgerow that will have a major impact on the landscape value of the area are supported. There are concerns regarding the width of the road which is barely wider than one car’s width, concerns re surface water drainage exacerbating existing flooding problems in The Chase. There are concerns regarding privacy of the dwellings being erected in the neighbouring development site that may be overlooked by the proposed dwellings. It is considered the construction of four detached 4 bedroom dwellings is overdevelopment of the site. If permitted construction vehicles should be parked off road at all times. The arboricultural report requires trees opposite the site to be cut back however how would that be possible without their owner’s consent?

7.6 20160843 Sub-Division of plot and erection of 1 No. Dwelling with cart shed/carport and new access, Land adj. Perownes Farm, Bullacebush Road, Blofield.
Objections. With the influx of new 4 bedroom houses being built in Blofield, does this proposal really meet the emerging Neighbourhood Plan policy HOU1 – Local Housing Need?
Development is outside the settlement boundary defined for Blofield and Blofield Heath
And doesn’t comply with Neighbourhood Plan Policy HOU5 – Parking for New Developments where at least 4 car parking spaces ought to be made available for each dwelling to prevent on road parking
Concerns that the developments could contribute to the drainage issues encountered at the junction of Bullacebush Lane and Plantation Road, and would seek to secure assurances that NP ENV3 Drainage is complied with.
Concerns that this incremental infill of development will erode the distinct villages policy detailed under NP ENV6
Concerns over access to the developments – Bullacebush Lane is a narrow lane with insufficient width for 2 cars to pass safely.
Concerns with tree and hedging loss thus removing natural habitats for wildlife on the rural lane.

7.7 20160881 New balcony to rear (Retrospective), 9 Church Road, Blofield
Strong objections. The balcony overlooks and affects the privacy of neighbouring properties, if permitted it should be reduced in size to prevent its use as viewing balcony by people in the property which would cause noise pollution. There are concerns regarding the proliferation of retrospective applications for the property, construction should be compliant with the original approved plans.

7.8 20160902 Erection of summerhouse, Globe House, 17 Yarmouth Road, Blofield
No objections.

7.9 Blofield Neighbourhood Plan
Information from Broadland District Council that following an independent examination the Blofield Neighbourhood Development Plan would proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum on 21 July 2016 was noted.

7.10 Broadland District Council – Adoption of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)
Information that the District Council had resolved to adopt the DPD Document which from 3rd May 2016 would form part of the adopted Local Plan was noted.

8. TO APPROVE INVOICES FOR PAYMENT.
It was RESOLVED to approve all payments presented for payment in Appendix 1. Clerk to issue cheques.

8.1 Update on Annual Return
The Clerk reported that the document was with the Internal Auditor for finalisation and it was anticipated would be available for completion by 30th June.

9. NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR TO BE FILLED BY CO-OPTION.
9.1 Information that there had been no request to hold an election to fill the most recent casual vacancy was noted. The vacancy could now be filled by co-option but no applications to fill the vacancy had been received to date.
9.2 It was proposed by Ms S. Shackle and seconded by Mrs P. Wilson that the first casual vacancy that had arisen some months previously should be filled by Mr J. Scholes who had submitted a written application to fill the vacancy and unanimously RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Scholes as a member of Blofield parish council.

10. NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL PARISH PARTNERSHIP SCHEME
10.1 Information on the local highway improvements that would be eligible for 50/50 funding in the 2017/18 financial year was noted and would be kept on the agenda to enable suitable projects to be put forward.

11. PROPOSED NEW CHURCH HALL
11.1 The Plymouth Brethren Christian Church provided information on their requirements for a new Church and Gospel Hall and said that they would be very grateful to the parish council that members may be able to give in helping to secure a suitable site.

12. BLOFIELD ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION REQUEST FOR LIAISON MEETING
The allotment association wished to hold a liaison meeting and asked if members of the parish council who had no link with the allotments could attend. Mrs P. Wilson volunteered her services. Accounts, balances and the cost of vermin control would be brought to the liaison meeting.

13. GROW YOUR COMMUNITY & BRUNDALL and BLOFIELD GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME.
Mrs P. Wilson gave a verbal report on the last meetings of the groups. The next meeting of the Grow Your Community group would be held on 1 September at Brundall Church Room. Blofield library was running Get Digital Courses. Mrs Wilson reported that a recent meeting of the Norfolk and Suffolk Dementia Trust had been very successful and that Dementia Cafes were springing up and it would be good if one opened in Brundall. Assisted Technology was available on a means tested basis to make it available to many people who may not otherwise have had funds for it. The Good Neighbours scheme had met on 1st June and the number of Blofield members had increased. Preparations were being put in place to arrange a full launch of the scheme in early September. The next meeting of the group would take place on 28th June at St Lawrence Church hall in Brundall at 7.00pm.

14. BABCOG - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
Following on from a verbal presentation by a member of the group requesting funding to assist the group with their work in Blofield at the last meeting it was proposed by Ms S. Shackle seconded by Mr P. Culley-Barber to make a donation of £500 to cover costs of mowing Howes Meadow and unanimously RESOLVED.

15. NORFOLK CONSTBULARY – MONTHLY CRIME FIGURES
It was AGREED that the present method of making local crime figure available for download from the Norfolk Constabulary web site was a backward step that that presented the crime figures without any context being applied. It was AGREED to ask the new Police and Crime Commissioner if the statistics could change back to the system that had been scrapped earlier in the year whereby knowledge from the local Police team was applied to the figures to put them in their proper context.

16. UPDATE ON NEW SAM SIGN
The Clerk reported that the sign was on order and delivery was expected in July.

17. Other reports and items for the next agenda - none.

18. To note the date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 18th July 2016 at 7:30pm at the Courthouse and to agree the date and location of the Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at approximately 9.25pm.

Signed………………………………… Dated…………………………………………