

Mrs Alison Cartwright
Clerk to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council
churchillandblakedownclerk@gmail.com

15th March, 2022

Dear Alison,

Re: Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council Meeting – 15th March, 2022

Please find my report for reading at the meeting and circulation to Parish Councillors.

Churchill and Blakedown Issues

I met with Paul Green on Teams this morning to chase a number of outstanding issues and mark my dissatisfaction at how slow it is to get these minor jobs done namely:-

- 1 The trees on Churchill Lane at the A456 and the Churchill end for inspection.
- 2 The constant water on the highway along Churchill Lane before Wannerton Road. This is to be reinspected.
- 3 The railings by the stream in Churchill for a full and proper repair. I am now told this is 5 days worth of work and is scheduled for May.
- 4 The concrete post and fence under the viaduct at Churchill Lane is scheduled for 1 days work and I am told it is scheduled for today.
- 5 The hedge overhanging the pavement with the A456 for a full cut back. The landowners have been written to at the start of February. There has also been a second letter regarding the blocking of a street light. As yet there have been no responses so these are being chased.
- 6 The flooding issue at a property at the top end of the Belbroughton Road with rainwater coming off the highway and flooding the driveway. I am still awaiting a date.
- 7 The flooding issue at a property along Mill Lane as a result of the road level being affected due to the road resurfacing work I am told this work is scheduled for June but there is some negotiation on exactly what work will be done.

I have now inspected the resurfaced pavements on Wannerton Road. I have been back to inspect as I did see on Facebook that damage was done to the verge at the junction of Elm Drive. There is mud where there grass has been churned up where the equipment was stored but objectively it is not that bad and understandable and will, I am confident grow back and soon blend in.

Regarding The Avenue, as I have said previously I would be happy to make some of my devolved funding available to assist with issues such as bollards and maintenance by chippings and shrub clearance and tree maintenance if the Parish Council and the local community were to work collectively as a joint project.

I have allocated the Parish Council £1360 to purchase some further gateways in Ismere as I have been contacted by other local residents and I have liaised with Alison for her to claim this funding and will now arrange a meeting to consider locations in due course.

I have been made aware of some blocked drains by a member of the public along Belbroughton Road and these have all been reported and I am told these have all been unblocked.

I have raised the issue of the tree stump sticking out on Churchill Lane opposite number 10 and for WCC to take the necessary action to resolve this.

Regarding the Station Yard car park proposal further to me reporting last month that there was nothing to report other than an application to be submitted, those of you on Facebook will have seen that I put a post up last week to provide an update. On 10th March I was advised that the planning application is now scheduled for a bit later in the spring, possibly as early as April but could be May. WCC are undertaking further traffic assessments. Indeed WFDC's Local Plan also needs to be finalised.

I did again provide a brief summary as to what my views are. These always trigger comments and questions but I don't provide a running commentary over Facebook. I have been very clear, open and transparent and consistent right from the very start in respect of the proposals.

I will keep everyone updated when I know more.

Wyre Forest Issues

The planning application for the proposed Quarry at Lea Castle, Wolverley, has still not been determined yet and the timeline has slipped again as there is some further consultation on a matter to take place go to either the May or July planning committee at WCC.

Strategic Issues County Wide

The County Council has been heavily involved in the response to the Coronavirus pandemic working with our other statutory partners.

Worcestershire has a fantastic website Here2Help which is a community action response to Coronavirus. There is also a dedicated phone number 01905 768053 for those without access to the internet. There is now a Here2Helpbusiness scheme as well. (simply google Here 2 Help Worcestershire and it comes straight up.)

WCC received £1.6 million from central government to support free school meals and fund holiday activities over the

Full Council approved and formally set the final budget and Council tax at its meeting on 17th February, that I set out in my January and February reports.

I can confirm the lengthsman increase is 15%, which is very good news.

WCC has launched a £100,000 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund. Details will be on the website soon so keep an eye out.

With my best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Cllr. Marcus J. Hart
County Councillor – Chaddesley Division

Copy to: District Cllr Ian Hardiman, Wyre Forest District Council
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