

CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th April 2022 at Blakedown Sports Pavilion which commenced at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT:

Chairman B Hession, Cllr J Lorton, Cllr R Shade, Cllr Mrs. C Wood, Cllr N Rowlinson and Cllr Ms S Fowler.

In attendance: Alison Cartwright – Clerk to the Parish Council, District Cllr Mrs L Jones, District/County Councillor M Hart, West Mercia PCSO Becky Ruston and eleven members of the Public.

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to Vice Chairman Paul Mellor for his outstanding service on the Parish Council.

Election of Vice Chairman: deferred until May 2022 meeting for the forthcoming municipal year.

Co-option: Members were asked to make a decision on co-option to fill the casual vacancy for Blakedown Ward (application details provided by email).

Members resolved to co-opt Richard Benney to fill the casual vacancy for Blakedown Ward. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and witnessed by Clerk.

Register of interests form was issued with instructions to return to Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

Richard Benney was duly co-opted.

- 2. Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from, Cllr Mrs B Hayward and District Councillor I Hardiman.
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 4. Community Policing:** Report circulated prior to the meeting. PCSO Becky Ruston confirmed County Councillor Hart is investigating the possibility of aligning a Community Speed Watch program with Police enforcement for the parish.

The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time:** There were no questions raised.

5. Dispensations: No new requests for a dispensation received. Previously granted dispensations still in place.

6. Casual Vacancy: Clerk advised Wyre Forest District Council have been notified of Cllr Mellor's resignation.

7. Minutes: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th March 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

8. District and County Council Matters: District and County Reports from Cllr Mrs L Jones and Cllr M Hart respectively were circulated to Members prior to the meeting (copies of both reports are on the Parish Council website or available from the Clerk).

9. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Report: Cllr Ms Fowler to organise advertisements for the recruitment of volunteers for the planned picnic on Sunday 5th at the Millennium Green.

10. Blakedown Shoppers Car Park: Cllr Shade cautioned members' review of PC Financial Regulations 2019 14.1 compliance in relation to the submission of a proper business case for the acquisition of land and property.

Chairman proposed to buy the car park for £1 with the intention to introduce a revenue generation and enforcement scheme to self-fund the car park, compliant to the 74% majority wishes of the residents' survey.

Members voted 6 to 1 in favour of the Chairman's proposal.

The Chairman instructed the Clerk to inform Wyre Forest District Council of the Parish Council's decision.

11. Lengthsman Scheme contract 2022/23: Members approved the contract renewal proposal from Worcestershire County Council.

12. Local Policing Community Charter Survey: Members approved the proposed Parish Council draft response presented by Cllr Mrs S Fowler.

13. Parish Council Policies/Website: Members agreed Cllr Benney to decide suitable photographs for Parish Council website.

14. Annual Parish Meeting: Members noted Wyre Forest District Council's report circulated with the agenda.

The Chairman instructed the Clerk to ask John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner for his services at the annual parish meeting.

15. Planning and Development Control:

a) Planning Applications Received

22/0232/HOU 104 Belbroughton Road, Blakedown. No objection.

22/0226/EIA Adjoining parish: Comberton Road, Kidderminster, 1,450 dwellings.

Objection: PC expressed concerns about the impact on the infrastructure of this area to the East of Kidderminster. This development will be a significant reduction of the separation between Kidderminster and Blakedown, and encourages urban sprawl at a time when expansion westward from Hagley is also squeezing the Green Belt. In addition, the development will have a substantial impact on the A456 and potentially on the use of Blakedown Station which will significantly change the nature of the village.

b) Planning Applications received since Agenda issued

None.

c) Planning Decisions Received

22/0096/HOU 4 Birmingham Road, Blakedown. Approved.

22/0144/TPO 1 Brookside Way, Blakedown. Approved.

22/0094/HOU Ismere Grange, Beechtree Lane, Ismere. Approved.

16. Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:

a) Members noted Bank Balances as of 7th April 2022.

b) Members approved payments as per the schedule.

c) Members ratified the payments as per the schedule.

d) Rain-or-Shine: Grass cutting contract payment Agreement

Grass Cutting contract 2022/23: Members acknowledged the appointment of Rain-or-Shine confirmed by the working group.

Members approved the proposed 12 monthly payment plan of £630.00 per month for Rain-or-Shine, the new grass cutting contractor for 2022/23.

e) Utility contracts

Clerk updated members of Npower rates as at 12th April 2022, circulated by Email.

17. Clerk's Report: Members noted the Clerk's report circulated with the agenda.

18. Correspondence for Information: Members noted the correspondence reports circulated with the agenda.

19. Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas:

Station Yard Car Park: Members to debate key improvements to reduce the resident's impact of the pending Worcestershire County Council planning application.

Parish Council policies review: Members approved the staffing working group to review Parish Council policies.

Appointment of Internal Auditor: Members will be asked to consider the reappoint Miss Claire Bradford as Internal Auditor for the 2022-2023 financial year.

Blakedown car park: Members to present possible operational solutions to enable revenue sources for the car park, including electric charger services.

Defibrillators and phone box: Members to ascertain phone box repairs and volunteers to ensure adequate security systems for the parish council's defibrillators.

20. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th May 2022 commencing at 7.00 p.m. for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.43 pm

Signed.....

(Chairman to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council)

Dated.....10th May 2022.....
