

# CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 at Blakedown Sports Pavilion which commenced at 7.00p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chairman - Cllr Brian Hession; Cllrs, Richard Benney; Lucy Chawner; Sue Fowler; Bryony Hayward; Martin Hickman; Jim Long; Jo Raggett; Claire Wood;

**In attendance:** 1 resident; 2 members of the C&B Wildlife Watch Group; PCSOs Kate Easthope & Alice Jones; District Councillor – Robin Drew; Parish Clerk – Louise Harris.

**115/24 Chair's Opening Remarks:** Cllr Hession opened the meeting hoping everyone had had a good summer. There had been no real issues and tonight we have a full house.

**116/24 Apologies:** None.

**117/24 Declarations of Interest:** None.

**118/24 Community Policing:**

- a) **To receive report from the Beat Officer/CSO** – The chairman deferred this item until the police team had joined the meeting. However, the briefing sent by the police was displayed and some discussion took place regarding the theft of a trailer and horse boxes, and sheep. Members suggested that the council should choose Rural Crime as its local policing priority for the next quarter and to ask the local Rural Crime police officer to attend the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned for **Public Participation**, notes of which are attached at the end of these Minutes.

**119/24 Dispensations:** None.

**120/24 Minutes:** A member proposed approval of the minutes of the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The proposal was seconded and **approved (all in favour)**.

**121/24 District and County Council Matters:** The chairman deferred this item until Cllr Drew was present.

**122/24 Traffic Issues: Update on Highways developments and on speed control measures:** Members acknowledged that there had been a greater presence of speed cameras recently in the parish and a question raised about the location of the parking in the bus stop.

There was also a query about the display of the VAS in Rocky Lane since its repair. Members asked if the display and the timing of the display could be adjusted. The clerk will enquire.

**123/24 District and County Council Matters:** A report from the district councillors had been received and circulated before the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. A discussion took place around the car park sign that had been requested. Members were not keen on having any more signage on the A456; an action in the Neighbourhood Plan is to try to remove some of the

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signage in the village. A question was raised by a member asking if the parish council wanted the village to have a commercial centre. The chairman deferred this discussion to a future agenda commenting that this question is a conversation of a much wider issue.

WFDC have capital funding in the bank for the Brinton Park project.

The county councillors report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting and was displayed and members commented on some points and raised the following points in particular:-

5, saying this is getting narrower and could be sided out allowing more room to pass. There was a discussion about ownership. Cllr Drew said he would take this back to Cllr Hart to look at.

7, the location of the pole was queried. Cllr Drew will ask and feedback to the clerk.

9, there was some confusion about the location stated on this item but members commented that there is flooding occurring on Stoney Lane and at the Churchill crossroads.

11, this is around Wannerton Road

18, a discussion took place amongst members thinking it would not be possible to install a pelican crossing there as it will be too close to the existing one.

Members thanked Cllr Drew, and the team for being visible in the parish.

## **124/24 Items for consideration:**

- a) **Response to the WCC consultation on the EV infrastructure strategy – closing date 24<sup>th</sup> September 24** – After a short discussion about the local provision for EV cars, the council concluded that they have no strategic comments to make but support WCC’s initiative. **APPROVED (ALL IN FAVOUR).**
- b) **To re-charge the Trust £139.31 for VAT reclaimed from HMRC incorrectly on the energy bills for the Signal Box (re the advice received from PS-Tax)** – The agenda briefing circulated prior to the meeting was displayed and members **APPROVED (ALL IN FAVOUR).**
- c) **To decide on whether the PC should be charged for the hire of the Signal Box for the Trust meetings** – After a short discussion, it was decided that the PC shouldn’t be charged for the hire of the Signal Box for Trust meetings. **APPROVED (ALL IN FAVOUR).**
- d) **To respond to the consultation on the community governance review of Wolverley & Cookley** – The invite to comment was displayed on the screen and a discussion began. Cllr Drew was allowed to speak to give a context. Wolverley and Cookley is the biggest parish in the Wyre Forest district. The Lea Castle development consists of 1600 houses with it’s own school; it will be a village in its own right. It will have different needs to the wider parish. A proposal is to have the parish split into three parishes: Wolverley, Cookley, Lea Castle.

The council concluded that it would support its neighbour in this proposal for three separate parishes.

**APPROVED (ALL IN FAVOUR).**

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- e) **To comment on the amended proposal for a sand and gravel quarry with progressive restoration using site derived and imported inert material to agricultural parkland, public access and nature enhancement, at Lea Castle Farm** – The invite to comment was displayed on the screen and a discussion was held about the amendment proposal and how the changes will not significantly reduce the effect on the neighboring parishes and the green belt.  
**APPROVED (ALL IN FAVOUR).**

**125/24 To receive report from the Beat Officer/CSO:** The chairman invited the police to give the report, as follows: - There has been an increase in vehicle and rural crime. Anti-social behaviour has not been a big issue during the Summer. The police circulated the concern about the meat from the sheep theft that it is not fit for human consumption. There has been a burglary in Deansford Lane where a padlock was broken off and goods taken. The proprietor has taken their own security measures. There has been a carjacking in Belbroughton.

Thanks were given to the police.

## **126/24 Items for Information:**

- a) **Report from Cllr Benney on the CALC meeting attended on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024** – Cllr Benney reported that attendance at the meeting was discouraging. Cllr Benney was elected to the executive committee. A long discussion was held about the way CALC is run and what the purpose of the organization is. It is felt that parishes are expected to take on a lot more than they have funding for.
- b) **Report from Cllr Benney on the WFDC meeting** – Cllr Benney reported that there were 6 people present and the meeting was held by Zoom.
- c) **Report from Cllrs Fowler & Long on the Localism meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024** – Cllrs Fowler & Long reported that the meeting was good, congenial and relaxed. A very encouraging meeting discussing how they are willing to help parishes and talking about ideas such as emergency planning, neighbourhood planning renewals, and community engagement, 3 year budget plans. They want to understand more about the parishes and are open to ideas. There was nothing committed to.
- d) **To receive and note the approved minutes of the Trust meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and the draft minutes of the Churchill and Blakedown Villages Trust meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and matters arising and to note the next meeting date on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7pm at the Signal Box** – received and noted. Cllr Wood gave her apologies ahead of time for the October meeting. Cllr Long reported that the new heating is now on and is working well.

## **127/24 Planning and Development Control:**

### **a) Planning Application received:**

- i) To ratify predetermination reached by a majority by email concluded on 30/07/24, on this application - 24/0450/FUL – Barn at OS 387751 277871, New Wood Lane – Erection of 1no. four-bedroom dwelling to replace existing agricultural building – Objection – **RATIFIED.**
- ii) To ratify the predetermination reached by a majority by email concluded on 29/07/24, on this application – 24/0421/S73 - Variation to Condition 2 (approved plans) of Planning Permission: 21/0598/FUL - Land To The Rear 5 Mill Lane – No objection – **RATIFIED.**

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- iii) 24/0426/OUT – 2 Mill Lane – Erection of a two storey, four bedroom detached dwelling following part demolition of existing house – Cllr Hession declared an ordinary interest because he knows the owners of the property and did not speak on the matter. After some discussion, the council, with concerns about the building line being exceeded, the height and pitch of the roof, a professional ecology report not being in place, and the development being out of keeping with the area, decided to ask the planning officer to examine the application against the Neighbourhood Plan criteria.
- iv) 24/0545/HOU – Woodcroft, Waggon Lane – Part single storey and part two storey side extension – The council query the total size of the volume increase and if this is appropriate in green belt.
- v) 24/0494/HOU – Common Farmhouse, Crown Lane – New three bay garage with storage over. Amendment to approval 24/0100/HOU to include slight adjustment to proposed location - The council query the details of the number of bays on the garage and the materials to be used, also specifying the support for the restriction and the removal of permitted development rights.

### b) Additional Planning Applications or other Planning Matters:

- i) 24/0556/RES - Land At Os 388200 278800, Station Drive - Submission of details in pursuance of Conditions 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18, 25, 27, 29, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39 and 40 attached to Outline Planning Permission 22/0464/OUT for the erection of 49 dwellings and associated amenity space, drainage and infrastructure – the council agreed that the plans were sensible, the housing mix was good with the parking plot preserved and **RESOLVED** to comment – No comment.  
The council queried the maintenance and management of the area reserved for parking and the clerk was asked to follow this up with the planning officer. It was commented that the Villages Trust has powers to own and manage open spaces.

### c) Planning Notifications:

- a. 24/0458/NMA – 33 Lynwood Drive - Non-Material Amendment to Planning Approval 24/0045/HOU to render external walls of proposed extension & Existing Dwelling (Colour to be Off White / Cream) as well as omit proposed Window to Side Elevation, provide new rooflights to front & rear elevations and revise internal layout of approved plans – FOR INFORMATION ONLY – **NOTED**.
- b. 23/0940/HOU – Ismere Hall, Stourbridge Road – Construction of two sets of entrance gates and piers (part retrospective) – Granted - **NOTED**.
- c. 23/0941/LBC – Ismere Hall, Stourbridge Road – Listed building consent for the construction of two sets of entrance gates and piers (part retrospective) – Granted – **NOTED**.

### 128/24 Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:

#### a) Members noted the Bank Balances as at 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024:

Unity Trust Treasurers Account (PC Current Account)	£8,821.78
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Lloyds Business Instant Access Account (PC Reserves)	£25,729.38
Lloyds Treasurers Account (PC account used for Villages Trust)	0
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT BANK AT 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024</b>	<b>£34,551.16</b>

- b) To approve the accounts for September 2024 (as per schedule) – There were no questions, and the accounts were **APPROVED and SIGNED**.
- c) To receive and approve the bank reconciliation with the bank statements to 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – There were no questions, and the bank reconciliation was **APPROVED and SIGNED**.

**129/24 Clerk’s Report:** This had been circulated to all councilors prior to the meeting and was displayed. Members read the report and commented/questioned accordingly to these particular items:-

**New Items:**

**Item 1 -WFDC Planning Training – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024** – Cllrs, Benney, Fowler and Raggett will be attending.

**Item 2 – Heritage List for C&B** – Can we arrange for someone to attend with the WFDC officer.

**Item 3 – Worcestershire CALC meeting and AGM – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024** – Cllr Benney & Long will be attending. Cllr Fowler may also be attending.

**Item 4 – District & Parish Liaison Meeting** – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – Cllrs Fowler, and Long (in place of Chairman) will be attending.

**Ongoing Items:**

**Item 3 - Blakedown Railway Station Adoption** – This project is progressing, and the next stage is to look at ideas of what can be done. Cllr Hession asked for ideas. There were some suggestions and development of a waiting room was an idea.

**130/24 Councillor’s Reports and items for future agendas:** A discussion was held about the seeming movement of the railway embankment at the rear of Swan Close properties. A survey may need undertaking.

**131/24 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 commencing at 7.00pm**

**132/24 To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest, due to commercial sensitivity, for consideration of the following item:-**

- a) **Quotes for improvements to the Signal Box land** – All members of the public and those noted as in attendance had already left the meeting and so the chairman progressed to discuss this item. The quotes were displayed on the screen and a discussion took place regarding the funding. Natural Networks will provide funding for 70% of the groundwork costs and it was suggested that the Trust covers the remaining 30%. JL Groundworks were voted for to take on the groundworks at a total cost of £6849.00 – **APPROVED** and the planting is likely to cost approx. £750 proposed to be covered by the parish council as a grant to the Trust.

**The meeting closed at 9.45pm.**

Signed.....  
(Chair to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council)

Dated 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

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## Public Participation - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Notes of discussion

A resident reported concerns regarding the following:

1. A light is out on Mill Lane / Sculthorpe Lane. The clerk responded that the council is aware of this.
2. The tree at Springbrook House has a TPO on it. Members acknowledged this.

The resident was thanked for his contribution.

A member of the Churchill and Blakedown Wildlife Watch group spoke about the prevalence of Himalayan Balsam in the area, particularly Churchill, and that it is coming downstream from Hagley. A member of Hagley Parish Council wants to help to gather volunteers to help bash the balsam next year and talked about enlisting the help of certain voluntary groups to be involved.

The residents were thanked for their contribution.

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