

CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th March, 2024 at Blakedown Sports Pavilion which commenced at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT: Chair - Cllr Sue Fowler; Cllrs, Lucy Chawner; Martin Hickman; Brian Hession; Jim Long; Joanna Raggett;

In attendance: District Councillor – Ian Hardiman; 1 resident; Bill Waldron – Lengthsman; Parish Clerk – Louise Sahota.

32/24 Chair's Opening Remarks: Welcome to Martin Hickman who has been co-opted onto the council to sit for Churchill bringing his local knowledge. We have a full council now.

33/24 Apologies: Cllrs Benney; Hayward; Wood (accepted).

34/24 Declarations of Interest: The Chair reminded Cllr Hickman to complete the Register of Interests form.

35/24 Community Policing:

- a) **To receive report from the Beat Officer/CSO** – A police report had been received by the Clerk and was displayed at the meeting. The Chair reiterated the council's concern with the recent incidents, during February, of rural crime: theft of two lambs and of a pregnant ewe & killing of a white Stag. The clerk was asked to pass the concerns onto the local policing team and for them to keep us informed. It was noted that the SNT had reported on Rogue traders being in the area.

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

36/24 Dispensations: None.

37/24 Minutes: A member proposed approval of the minutes of the meeting on 13th February 2024 and they were seconded, **approved and signed (1 abstention)**.

38/24 District and County Council Matters: The report from the county councillor was displayed and a query was made regarding the big signage being replaced or moved outside Hodge Hill garden centre. Cllr Hardiman reported that he would ask Cllr Hart about this.

The location of the VAS sign for Churchill has been confirmed and a notice has been put up on the pole.

The reasons for the £26m hole in the budget was briefly explained and a discussion was held regarding the services of WCC to the young and vulnerable.

The district council report was displayed. A member commented on the electric vehicle charger installation contract that WFDC have negotiated and a discussion was held about this. Cllr

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Hardiman commented that the council tax notifications are going out this month and the increase is c£100 per annum.

Thanks were given by the council to Cllrs Hart & Hardiman.

39/24 Traffic Issues: Update on Highways developments and on speed control measures:

- The VAS sign for Churchill has been ordered by WCC.
- Speeding on the Birmingham Road will be kept under observation.
- A question was raised about a bollard possibly being moved from outside the New House Farm as it cause difficulties for the Field Equine Vets getting in and out the farm; the clerk was asked to mention this to Highways to see if the bollard could be moved.
- Another question was raised as to the design of the layout of the bollards in Belbroughton Road and the give way priority. Cllr Hardiman said that the layout was intentional so that the priority is unknown. He felt that this aspect is unchangeable.
- The highway outside the golf club on Churchill Lane is very narrow and it has been noted that wheels of vehicles are leaving the tarmac due to limited space and branches hitting vehicles. Cllr Hardiman said that he would mention this to Cllr Hart.

40/24 Items for consideration:

- a) **Grant application from Friends of Churchill Church, for £184.80 from 2024/25 financial year, to cover cost of toilet provision at Dog Show/Fete to be held on 29/06/24** – details of this had been circulated as part of the agenda briefing prior to the meeting, there were no comments, and the awarding of the grant was unanimously approved.
- b) **To approve the draft response to the WFDC Statement of Community Involvement redraft 2024** – after some comments and discussion, this was approved subject to some amendments being made by the clerk who will then clear the document with Cllr Raggett before sending off to WFDC.
- c) **To agree the review of the current Neighbourhood Plan for 2027 to 2037 and the following:**
 - i) Confirmation of working party members and to consider and agree invitees – Cllr Chawner will join the working party. Cllr Hickman has not yet seen the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - ii) To appoint a lead of the working party to liaise with consultants and grant makers – it was **resolved** that Cllr Fowler will be the temporary lead for the group and that Cllr Fowler will contact Locality.

41/24 Items for Information: None.

42/24 Planning and Development Control:

- a) **Planning Application received:**
 - i) 24/0090/HOU – Woodcroft Barn, Waggon Lane – Construction of an attached single garage – No objection on basis of assurances that the building will be used as a garage. The location is in green belt. If change is made, it must have special consideration because of change to original footprint, as stipulated in original plans.

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- ii) 24/0100/HOU – Common Farm House, Crown Lane – Construction of a garage with storage over – Objection – A discussion was held about this site and the proposed development. It was **agreed** that Cllr Fowler would draft the objection and circulate to all members for comment before the clerk will make the submission to WFDC in timely manner.
- iii) 24/0043/HOU – 8 Wannerton Road – Construction of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension and associated works – a discussion was held and the council **agreed a No Objection**.
- iv) 23/0921/TCA – The Great Barn, Churchill Lane – Walnut Tree – reduce crown to previous points and reshape – **No objection**.

b) Additional Planning Applications or other Planning Matters:

- i) Land off Station Drive – No further updates were brought to the meeting.

c) Planning Notifications:

- a. 23/0561/HOU – The Forge, Churchill Lane – Construction of two storey front and rear extensions, reconfiguration of floor layout and alterations to vehicular access – Granted.
- b. 24/0038/TPO – Fell & replace Sycamore Tree – Land at OS 388019 278570 The Avenue – Granted.
- c. 23/0649/HOU – 9 Mill Lane – Single storey rear extension, first floor front extension, increase height of single storey part of garage and other alterations – Granted.

43/24 Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:

a) Members noted Bank Balances as of 7th March, 2024:

- a. **Lloyds Treasurers Account £2,002.28**
- b. **Unity Trust Treasurers Account £6,073.86**
- c. **Lloyds Business Instant Access Account £23,297.64**

b) To approve the accounts for March 2024, (as per schedule) – The Chair proposed approval of the March accounts and they were **unanimously approved and signed.**

c) To receive and approve the bank reconciliation to 4th February 2024 – The clerk stated that copies of the bank statements are with the bank reconciliation. The bank reconciliation was **unanimously approved and signed.**

44/24 Clerk's Report: This had been circulated to all councilors prior to the meeting and was displayed. The clerk went through the report with special mention of the following:-

- The clerk reported that £80 has been given in compensation from Lloyds Bank to the Villages Trust for the trouble there has been with opening the account.
- The council thanked Bill Waldron for his work as Lengthsman and wished him well.
- Cllr Hickman asked for details of the conference being held on the 12/06/24 by Cllr Hart.

45/24 Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas: Topic for the Annual Parish Meeting.

46/24 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th April, 2024 commencing at 7.00pm

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Signed.....

(Chair to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council)

Dated 9th April 2024

Public Participation - 12th March 2024 – Notes of discussion

A resident reported concerns regarding the following:

- The Pound in Churchill and what is happening with it.
- The bench by the bus stop being damaged and missing. The Chair explained that this is with the insurance company and a new bench will require new footings.
- Bridal path 533 has been widened. The Chair thanked the resident for pointing this out.
- A grant that was given for a Christmas Dinner, do we know if the event happened and what the money was used for. A discussion was held about this, and the resident declined the offer of being given a full response in writing.
- The name plate for the bench had not been installed. It was explained that this is currently with Cllr Hayward.
- The cut down tree vegetation was on the green for 21 days.
- A survey camera was on the Birmingham Road for 3 days and is now gone. It was explained that the parish council do not know about this, and it was probably Worcestershire County Council's business.
- Is the gateway on the Stourbridge Road going to be replaced. It was explained that the parish council is not planning on replacing the gateway.
- The Reddings on Churchill Lane – a tree has fallen over into the garden.
- The litter bin outside the Old House at Home, on Monday, had not been emptied (11/3/24).
- The village car park is crowded out completely, people parking on yellow stripes and parking all day. It is dangerous. The Chair responded that complaints are often made about misuse of the car park and sometimes it is full and sometimes it isn't. A member commented that on Thursdays and Fridays the hair and nail salons are very busy.

It was explained to the resident that these items are not to reappear next month.