

# CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

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

**In attendance:** 1 resident; 2 members of the C&B Wildlife Watch Group; PCSOs Becky Ruston & Nichola Thomas; District Councillor – Robin Drew; Parish Clerk – Louise Harris.

**148/24 Chair's Opening Remarks:** The chairman opened the meeting by stating that the clerk had received a resignation from Joanna Raggett due to personal reasons. The chairman expressed his thanks on behalf of the council to Jo for all her help over the last couple of years as she was especially involved in planning matters where she did a very thorough job. The council would like to see these vacancies now filled.

**149/24 Apologies:** None

**150/24 Declarations of Interest:** None.

**151/24 Community Policing:**

- a) **To receive report from the Beat Officer/CSO** – the report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was displayed. In the absence of the PCSO a member highlighted that there had been some shooting happening over a foot path where cartridges had been found. The chair highlighted that the report stated an attempted burglary at Lynwood Dr and suspicious behaviour at the Old House at Home public house.

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

**152/24 Community Policing:**

- a) **To receive report from the Beat Officer/CSO** – the report was re displayed now that the officers were present. The PCSO's noted the location and adjacent landowner where the shotgun cartridges had been found. It was reported that the meeting with the rural crime officers went well, and thanks were given by the PC members.

**153/24 Dispensations:** None.

**154/24 Minutes:** A member proposed approval of the minutes of the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The proposal was seconded and **APPROVED** (all in favour).

**155/24 District and County Council Matters:** District Councillor, Drew, asked if there were any questions pertaining to the county councillor report as this was displayed. Councillor Drew highlighted some new issues on the report: The Churchill sign with the rotting posts has been

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reported for replacement and a new bend warning sign is being considered for installation at the bend on New Wood Lane.

Members of the council commented briefly on ongoing issues points 2 and 20 and the Clerk pointed out that no 15 has been completed.

Councillor Drew proceeded to speak on the District Council report highlighting that the usual routine casework is being completed and then went on to talk about the wider Wyre Forest issues: the developments in the town centre are progressing well with the changes to the piano building which is a grade 2 listed building, being particularly impressive. The EV supply has been delayed due to finance but confident that the work will continue soon. There is going to be free parking between the 2nd and the 24th of December between 3:00 and 6:00 PM Monday to Friday in all WFDC owned car parks. Remember that Weavers Wharf is not a WFDC car park.

A member asked about overgrowth, hedges and basal growth on the footpath on both sides of the road between Blakedown and Hodge hill. The cycle path is good, but the path is overgrown. Councillor Drew said that he would visit the area, take photographs and report it.

Another member asked about the area where the old Forest Glades leisure centre once stood. It was confirmed by councillor Drew that's in this location there will be additional housing, and this will all benefit the town centre.

Councillor Drew then gave a report on the matter concerning the Lea Castle Farm Quarry in the Wolverley and Cookley parish saying that things are getting complicated. The inspector has been walking around and is due to do 2 more visits before deciding which could take up to five months.

Councillor Drew said that if anyone has any queries to please contact him and the members thanked him for his attendance.

**156/24 Traffic Issues: Update on Highways developments and on speed control measures:** A member commented that it is good news that the police have agreed a spot for speed enforcement on Stakenbridge Lane. A comment was also made that the volume of traffic is high through Churchill as this is often used as a cut through.

### **157/24 Items for consideration:**

- a) **To respond to the statutory consultation on the Wythall parish council draft neighbourhood plan** – the link to the documents had already been circulated to members prior to the meeting and after a short discussion, it was **decided** to respond saying that C&BPC supports their efforts.
- b) **A grant application for £750 from the Churchill and Blakedown Villages Trust to fund the purchase of native plants and wildflower turf to be planted at the Signal Box as per Natural Networks biodiversity project** - this had previously been discussed at a meeting of the council and the grant application completes the formality. The grant application request for funds was **approved** all in favour.

### **158/24 Items for Information:**

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- a) To note the new increase in pay on staff rates from 1st of April 2024 to 31st of March 2025, agreed by the national joint council for local government services (NJC) – Noted.
- b) Update on district and parish liaison meeting at WFDC on 31/10/24 – Cllr Long stated that he was due to attend but unfortunately due to personal reasons, couldn't. There were no attendees. There was just short discussion about the number of meetings and events and if there is any duplication taking place.

### 159/24 Planning and Development Control:

#### a) Planning Application received:

- i) 24/0682/TPO – 23 Brookside Way – T1 Alder Tree – Fell – No objection – defer to the expertise of the tree officer.
- ii) 24/0459/HOU - Springbrook House , Forge Lane - Retrospective application for part demolition, extensions and alterations to Coach House to create incidental accommodation - The parish council is regretful that this application has been completed retrospectively and would recommend that Historic England is drawn to the potential impact on Listed Building no 1100649 - Mill House. The parish council supports the views of the conservation officer.
- iii) 24/0698/TPO – 17 Brookside Way - T13 Beech Tree - pruned and shaped, T7 Alder - reduced by 30%, T9, T10 & T11 Alder and T12 Silver Birch to be fell due to internal rotting, disease. Replanting of 2 x trees of a suitable species at a minimum of 1.5m in height – No objection – defer to the expertise of the tree officer.
- iv) 24/0697/TPO – 12 Mill Close – Mature Sycamore Tree, Crown Lift by 3.5m - No objection – defer to the expertise of the tree officer.

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

- i) Land at Station Drive - an e-mail had been received from the planning officer in respect of the land reserved for future car parking at the site being safeguarded and maintained by the developer by means of a condition to the consent. It was confirmed that the area will be used as the developer's compound during the construction phase but will be reinstated and fenced prior to the completion of the final dwelling and maintained going forward - the parish council commented that it fully supports this approach.
- ii) 24/0611/CLP – 8 Wannerton Road – Single storey rear extension – FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

#### c) Planning Notifications:

- a. 24/0611/CLP – 8 Wannerton Road – Single storey rear extension – Granted.
- b. **Update from Cllr Long and Cllr Raggett on the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group collaborative working meeting with Hagley Parish Council Neighbourhood Working Group** – Councillor Long gave the update saying that they had met with members of the Hagley neighbourhood plan group who had various portfolios: travel and movement and environment and had discussed at length the travel and movement issue in both parishes, how the road capacity is a problem along the A456, especially with increasing traffic due to new housing. A discussion took place around the prospect of shuttle buses used to carry people to train stations. This

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would be the responsibility of transport planners. Hagley had complemented Churchill and Blakedown for protecting various views via its neighbourhood plan.

- c. Update on progress of review of Neighbourhood Plan - councillor Fowler updated members that she had submitted an expression of interest to locality for grant money £10,000 to pay for consultants to work with the parish council to review the neighbourhood plan. There are now 15 days to complete and send the application. Councillor Fowler will then look to commence the neighbourhood plan working party meetings.

### 160/24 Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:

- a) **Bank Balances as at 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2024:** noted.

Unity Trust Treasurers Account (PC Current Account)	£25,737.93
Lloyds Business Instant Access Account (PC Reserves)	£23,528.99
Lloyds Treasurers Account (PC account used for Villages Trust)	£0.00
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT BANK AT 7th NOVEMBER 2024</b>	<b>£49,266.92</b>

- b) To approve the accounts for November 2024 (as per schedule) - the chairman motioned to hold this item in a confidential session of the council at the end of the meeting for the reason of commercial sensitivity, due to a matter of concern as an item on the accounts – **APPROVED.**
- c) To receive and approve the bank reconciliation with the bank statements to 7<sup>th</sup> November 24 - Councillor Benney proposed approval of the bank reconciliation to the bank statements as presented. **APPROVED.**

**161/24 Clerk's Report:** This had been circulated to all councilors prior to the meeting and was displayed. The clerk gave the report and members commented/questioned accordingly on these particular items:-

**Ongoing Items: No. 1** - The bin in Lynwood Dr will be moved next week by the contractor to new Wood Lane where there isn't currently a bin.

**Action:** The clerk chase the contractor for a quote for getting the bins jet washed and the removal of the redundant metal poles and concrete bases.

**Ongoing Items: No. 3** - the clerk had been informed that weeds on the pavements and roads were the joint responsibility of WCC and the District Council. The clerk has asked the lengthsman to clear the weeds around the Wannerton Estate and the Belbroughton Rd following requests from residents through Councillor Hart. Cllr Hayward pointed out areas of weeds in Churchill, that need to be removed.

The clerk announced that members councillor Fowler and Benney laid wreaths at Churchill War Memorial and Hagley War Memorial respectively during Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day.

**162/24 Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas:** None.

**163/24 Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 commencing at 7.00pm

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**164/24 To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest, due to commercial sensitivity, for consideration of the following item:-**

- a) November accounts - after some discussion around the item of concern on the accounts, it was **RESOLVED** that the clerk would write an e-mail with a list of requested items.

**The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.**

Signed.....

(Chair to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council)

Dated – 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

## Public Participation - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Notes of discussion

A resident reported a few matters:

- The new bench that has been restored on the Birmingham Road seems to have had a bolt come loose. The resident gave the bolt to the Clerk. It was answered by the Clerk that it cost the council £87.50 to have the bench installed.
- Lamps 31 and 32 in Mill Lane are both out. The clerk advised that this is on her list of jobs to sort.
- A tree had fallen on Half Shire / New Wood Lane, the Lengthsman subsequently removed it.
- There is work happening at the garden of the Signal Box. The Clerk advised that the project had been discussed at the last two meetings and the minutes were with the resident as of today.
- The Pound at Churchill, the ownership of which, has been discussed in recent years. A tree has gone from the centre and there is a plaque on the wall. the brickwork is slowly deteriorating. Who does the pound belong to?
- The old phone kiosk has 12 windowpanes missing. The Clerk advised that this is going to be repaired next week by the contractor.
- The drains in Station Drive where the new flooding alleviation drain has been put in, gully to gully, the original drain has not been cleaned and still floods. Councillor Robin drew took this away to inform Councillor Hart.

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