

Clerk Louise Sahota  
Clerk to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council

11<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Louise,

**Re: Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

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

**Churchill and Blakedown Issues**

1. WCC are taking action regarding cones, rocks and wooden posts reappearing in which I have reported and WCC have reported this to the police. Hayley has now spoken to the SNT and they have investigated. They will require evidence to prosecute. The SNT have now stated that they do not currently consider this an obstruction of the highway. The SNT have stated WCC can continue to send letters and will accompany Hayley to deliver one, but this is the action we have already taken including physical removal of the objects. Hayley is looking at this issue still as WCC and I feel there is an obstruction of the highway. Hayley is still pursuing this and it is ongoing.
2. I am advised installation of the new VAS pole is complete.
3. Double yellow lines at the junction of Gladstone Place and the Belbroughton have been consulted on and I have confirmed my support. There were no objections, just several comments that they should be opposite the junction on the Belbroughton Road too. It is proposed to make the order as is and the yellow lines should be down over the next few months.
4. The Hodgehill garden centre sign which was on the left as you leave Kidderminster in the Blakedown direction has now been repaired, albeit not straight at first, straightened at the second time of asking!, The directional sign in the central reservation has now been installed too.
5. WCC have still not been able to recruit a crossing patrol (lollipop lady/man) for the Primary School despite advertising gain and making it clear this could be a job share.
6. Regarding the ponding on Station Drive this has been looked at and there Will be highways repair and kerbing realignment (as per my FB post) taking

place w/c 5<sup>th</sup> August for 5 days.

7. The narrowness at 10 Churchill Lane has been inspected and obviously there is no scope to widen the carriageway but WCC will be installing a matching narrowing sign on the other side, near to Mill Lane junction. Date is still TBC.
  8. There will be a complete edge of carriageway scheme the whole length of Deansford Lane later this year which will cover all the 3 parishes that the lane is in. This will be done between 15<sup>th</sup> July and 27<sup>th</sup> August. I was in the lane last Wednesday looking at some of the hedges over hanging the road and these have been reported for formal inspection. I was also looking at the issue of flooding as a result of blocked drains, brought to my attention by a resident and again, these have been reported for inspection.
  9. I have received a request via your clerk regarding bollards outside the Equestrian Centre on the B4188 Belbroughton Road. I reported on this in my April and May reports. I propose to leave things as is for now.
  11. I have been chasing the removal of the bollards and cones in the refuge on the A456 outside the Primary School and the repair of the illumination of the bollards and this should be done in July.
  12. I continue to report speeding issues throughout the Parish to the police and was pleased the camera van has been on the A456 recently.
  13. The public right of way between the A456 and Wannerton and then onto to Churchill Lane was reported to me as being overgrown and I requested that the PROW team inspect this and this has been cut back. I walked it the Sunday before last to inspect it myself.
  14. The other public rights of way in the Parish should be strimmed over the next couple of weeks as I did have a report of them being overgrown, in particular the New Wood Lane one.
  15. I walked along Churchill Lane from the railway line up to Stoney Lane the other week as a result of concerns from a local resident on the state of the pavement. It is a bit uneven and bumpy in places and have asked for it to be inspected.
  16. Regarding the cones on the A456 by the highway contractors yard I have been relentlessly pursuing this, having had the cones removed once they reappeared and were a complete mess. This has resulted, believe it or not in a meeting with senior officers and highways engineers as I have said I am simply not tolerating them being permanently there. They were removed early last week as a result of this. They are required to be there a couple of times a year for a couple of weeks at a time but I am just finding the exact dates out for this and have been assured this will be monitored to ensure they are removed afterwards. I have discussed and again this will be kept under review more permanent signage.
  17. I have asked for permanent barriers on the A456 as opposed to the temporary red and white plastic ones.
  18. I am just awaiting a date in 24-25 for the pavement on the A456 (Swan PH) side out of the village towards Kidderminster to be resurfaced and also a
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date for the pavement outside the Waggon and Horses and on the other side of the road near Ismere House to be resurfaced in 24-25.

19. I have reported the length of the Belbroughton Road for all blocked drains to be inspected and jetted and asked WFDC to send the road sweeper up too.
20. I have received a report of overhanging hedges obstructing the pavement between Blakedown and Hagley and have asked for these to be inspected.
21. I have met with Cllr. Hickman and Hayley last week to discuss the lining scheme for the car park spaces at the station. Hayley is going to ask if one or two more can be fitted in and if any can be marked as parallel to the road. There does need to be a 1.2m pavement space and Hayley is going to ask for the white line to be reinstated on the car park side of the road.
22. Cllr. Hickman did raise the issue of overhanging trees on Churchill Lane forcing high sided vehicles into the middle of the road and these will be inspected.
23. I am pleased that two additional 'SLOW' signs have now been painted on the A456 a either end of the village.
24. I have asked for Roxall Close and Lynwood Drive pavements to be inspected following a resident asking me whilst in Station Drive last week.

### **Wyre Forest Issues**

Bewdley Bridge continues to operate one way over the bridge into the town for approximately 18 months whilst the Environment Agency (EA) undertake the work for the construction of the flood defences. This is now circa a £9.3m scheme, of which £500k is from WCC and the rest from the EA. The Government increased the capital funding by an additional £1.5m from the original funding grant for additional work.

WCC highways are currently undertaking verge cutting. I have stressed the need to take care by wild flowers areas etc... There is always a balance as cuts are often required on visibility/safety grounds and verge cutting certainly divides opinion!

WCC are also undertaking surface dressing at present.

WCC are currently strimming the public rights of way.

### **Strategic Issues County Wide**

Annual Council met on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May to elect the chairman and vice-chairman for 2024-2025. This is the final year of the 4 year term as there are all out elections for all 57 seats on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025. I am pleased to report that Cllr. Tracey Onslow from the Wyre Forest has been elected as Chairman for the year.

The Boundary commission for England is due to report with its final proposals on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

We are still considering our options in respect of our county hall HQ due to the RAAC issues. No decisions have been taken and we are undertaking all of the necessary work in order to make an informed decision. Full Council currently meets at other District Council locations across the county. Other meetings are still being held at county hall.

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There is a Parish Council conference to be held at Wyre Forest House (WFDC HQ) on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm. Your Parish clerk and Chairman should have been invited. There will be a market stall time before the conference starts with representatives from the Police, Highways, Health etc...

Should you have any issues please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Cllr. Marcus J. Hart**  
**County Councillor – Chaddesley Division**

Copy to: District Cllr. Robin M. Drew, Wyre Forest District Council  
District Cllr. Ian D. Hardiman, Wyre Forest District Council  
District Cllr. Marcus J. Hart, Wyre Forest District Council

**Marcus Hart**  
**Deputy Leader**  
**and Cabinet**  
**Member with**  
**Responsibility for**  
**Corporate and**  
**Communications**

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