

CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th October 2025 at Blakedown Sports Pavilion which commenced at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT: Chair: Cllr Hession; Cllrs, Mark Adams; Richard Benney; Sue Fowler; Bryony Hayward; Martin Hickman.

In attendance: 1 resident; District Councillor – Robin Drew; Parish Clerk – Louise Harris.

147/25 Chair's Opening Remarks: Welcome to Cllr Mark Adams; welcome onboard.

148/25 Apologies: Cllr Claire Wood.

149/25 Declarations of Interest: None.

150/25 Community Policing:

- a) **To receive report from the Beat Officer/CSO** – The monthly report had been received by the clerk and circulated to all councillors. The incident of suspicious activity seen on New Wood Lane was recalled where individuals wearing balaclavas had been seen in a car looking at the properties. The chair also mentioned that there had been an assault on the cricket pitch at the Pavilion and the clerk was requested to ask the police about this. Also reported were an attempted burglary on Belbroughton Road and attempted car key burglary in Swan Close. All other issues were outside of the parish.

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

151/25 Dispensations: None.

152/25 Minutes: A member proposed approval of the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th October 2025. Another member asked for a spelling error to be corrected – Bridal to Bridle. The proposal with the amendment was seconded and **APPROVED** subject to the correction being made.

153/25 District and County Council Matters: Cllr Drew was present to give the reports that had been received by the clerk. Unfortunately, the reports couldn't be viewed by the clerk or circulated to all members due to the clerk's laptop being in with the servicers for upgrade. Cllr Drew invited members to email him with any questions once they have received the reports.

Cllr Drew reported from the **district report saying that there had been a report of fly tipping on Crown Lane**. Enforcement officers had been quick to respond and clear the waste. No evidence had been found as to who tipped the waste. Sweeping had been done on Churchill Lane. A short recap of the report was given on wider matters in Kidderminster.

Cllr Drew reported that meetings are ongoing regarding the local government reorganization. Road closures in the parish – it has been agreed in WCC that all road closures will now have diversions via A roads and not Churchill Lane.

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A stage two letter had been sent to the landowner at the junction of A456/Churchill Lane regarding cutting back the hedge with no response. It is now likely that WCC will complete the works and seek to recharge the resident.

Cllr Hart has allocated the whole of his pavement resurfacing devolved budget for 25-26 to Stakenbridge Lane (railway bridge towards Churchill), costing circa £22,000.

County Hall has been deemed surplus to requirements and there are plans to have it demolished.

The Reform administration is also consulting on a 10% council tax rise for 26- 27.

A question was raised by a member who lives in Churchill reporting that an ambulance is struggling to get to a disabled person who lives on Churchill Lane due to parked cars and if a patch of tarmac can be allocated for this purpose. Cllr Drew responded with the use of cones to prevent parking in the vicinity and Cllr Hayward is going to speak to the Forge Mill Trust re parking of their cars.

The chairman raised the question about the naming of the roads on Springbrook Gardens and Cllr Drew responded that they won't be able to be changed now.

154/25 Traffic Issues: Update on Highways developments and on speed control measures:

A member asked regarding the multiple instances of temporary traffic lights on the A456 at the Heathfield development and if the parish council is notified by WCC of all such instances. It was mentioned that RAMS from the contractor should be circulated to all interested parties.

Action: The clerk to check with Cllr Marcus Hart if C&BPC are alerted to all traffic management changes.

[Post minute note: No response has been received from Cllr Hart/WCC at time of writing].

155/25 Items for consideration:

- a) To approve calendar of meeting dates for 2026 – APPROVED.

156/25 Items for Information:

A member reported that Openreach are planning on erecting 3 x telegraph poles in Brookside Way and queried whether this was on the planning site.

Action: The clerk to check with Telecommunications / Digital Infrastructure team at WCC and circulate response to all members.

157/25 Planning and Development Control:

a) Planning Application received:

- i. 25/0786/LBC - The Barn, Harborough Hall, Birmingham Road - Listed building consent for the conversion of agricultural barns to 3No. dwellings, alterations and

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- extensions to 2No. dwellings into adjacent barns, formation of new access drive, installation of sewage treatment plant and associated works (resubmitted scheme).
- ii. 25/0753/FUL - The Barn, Harborough Hall, Birmingham Road - Conversion of agricultural barns to 3No. dwellings, alterations and extensions to 2No. dwellings into adjacent barns, formation of new access drive, installation of sewage treatment plant and associated works (resubmitted scheme) – Members commented that this is the second time this application has been submitted and it was **agreed** to submit a comment this time that the issues regarding access and egress remain.

b) Additional Planning Applications or other Planning Matters:

- i) **Neighbourhood Plan Review update** – Cllr Fowler reported that a meeting will be planned with Cllr Mark Adams to include his involvement in the plan review.

c) Planning Notifications: None.

158/25 Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:

a) Bank Balances as of 5th November 2025: Noted.

Unity Trust Treasurers Account (PC Current Account)	£34,100.98
Lloyds Business Instant Access Account (PC Reserves)	£32,675.10
Lloyds Community Account	£34.00
TOTAL FUNDS AT BANK AT 5th November 2025	£66,810.08

b) To approve and sign the Receipts & Payment Schedule for November 2025 –

APPROVED.

c) To approve and sign the bank reconciliation with supporting bank statements to 5th November 2025 – **APPROVED.**

d) To agree for the clerk/RFO to transfer the £5000 received from Miller Homes towards 5-year costs of Parish Lighting & Energy, to Earmarked Reserves - **APPROVED.** It was requested that the Earmarked Reserves be clearly delineated in the annual report to residents for 2025-26.

159/25 Clerk's Report: The report had been shared prior to the meeting and the clerk read the report:

- **Trade Waste Bins** – I am advised that there will be one bin going forward and this will be re-located and locked to prevent improper use.
- **Unlit Lighting column No 12 – Station Drive** – National Grid have been contacted to reconnect this supply for the new additional columns in Station Drive to be connected.
- **External Auditor notice for the current year** - We would like to draw your attention to a change within the Practitioners' Guide 2025 which is mandatory for the 2025/26 period. Paragraphs 1.47 to 1.54 relate to an additional assertion to be included in the 2025- 26 AGAR, Assertion 10, regarding email management, websites, compliance with both the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016 and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and the requirement to have an IT policy. The requirements in relation to Assertion 10 are listed in Paragraphs 1.47 to 1.54 and the local authority should review these requirements and take appropriate steps to ensure compliance.

160/25 Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas:

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- a) Cllr R Benney reported that he had attended the Remembrance Service on the 9th November 2025 at Hagley War Memorial. A comment had been made by the Royal British Legion that Jonathan Plant is finishing this year. This means that 6 villages in Worcestershire will lose the ability to put on events unless a replacement is found. Historically, the parade event was run between Hagley and Churchill & Blakedown alternate years but due to Churchill not being able to get a road closure, the event in Churchill & Blakedown is at the war memorial on armistice day. WFDC cannot provide marshals. A member suggested contacting the Territorial Army for assistance. It was suggested that a post would be put up on Facebook to recruit more members. Cllr Hayward took photos of the event on the 11th November 2025. Comments were made about the names of the fallen that are not on the roll that the RBL read out at the event and that the missing names should be put out on Facebook.
- b) There is a CALC meeting on Thursday at Wyre Forest House. The local government reorganisation will be the main topic. It was discussed that Cllrs Adams, Fowler & Hickman would attend plus Cllr Benney if he was able to.
- c) Grant application from Friends of Blakedown Station for next agenda. This will be for start up costs. The FOB are looking to improve amenity of the station and intend to apply for funding to from the West Midlands Community Rail Partnership.
- d) Cllr Fowler raised a query about the land reserved for parking at Springbrook Gardens and if there are any known plans. It was recalled that the condition of planning for Miller Homes was to fence off the area.

161/25 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th December 2025 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Meeting closed at 20:00.

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

Dated – 9th December 2025.

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Brief notes of Public Participation – 11th November 2025

A resident reported the following:-

- 1 foot of bank has been removed along the pavement from the Sports Pavilion down to where the footpath ends. A tractor and temporary traffic lights had been there during the works.
- 3 x drains on Stoney Lane go to soakaways on the field. They flood when it rains. Soakaways need clearing.
- A456 near Harborough Hall entrance – huge puddle in the road after heavy rain; 3 drains to a soakaway – need to clear the soakaway.
- Lamp on Lynwood Drive obscured by vegetation. 5 operatives had been out from WCC to cut back the hedge to the kerb.
- Litter Bin – New Wood Lane – the bin is installed outside of the 30mph limit
- Springbrook Gardens – Pauline Hayward Drive – Pauline Hayward was not a Blakedown resident and the rule is names cannot be used until 20 years have lapsed since the date of death. The chair pointed out these are not our rules; the decision lay with WFDC not C&BPC.

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