

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, Richard Benney; Sue Fowler; Bryony Hayward; Martin Hickman; Claire Wood.

In attendance: 1 resident; District Councillor – Ian Hardiman; Parish Clerk – Louise Harris.

132/25 Chair's Opening Remarks: None.

133/25 Apologies: None.

134/25 Declarations of Interest: None.

135/25 Community Policing:

- a) **To receive report from the Beat Officer/CSO** – The monthly report had been received by the clerk, circulated to all councillors, and was displayed at the meeting. The council noted that the full report we receive is useful. The council noted a report made by a member of an arson attack that happened 2 weeks ago on Pear Tree Lane where bales of hay and crops were burned at night. A discussion was held about a recent event at Springbrook House which is a registered Air BnB property. Whilst holding events such as this is not illegal, it caused disturbance on Forge Lane and the police were involved.

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

136/25 Dispensations: None.

137/25 Minutes: A member proposed approval of the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th September 2025. The proposal was seconded and **APPROVED**, and the minutes were signed by the chair.

138/25 District and County Council Matters: Cllr Hardiman was present to give the reports that had been received by the clerk and circulated to all members and were displayed at the meeting. Cllr Hardiman asked for any questions and commented as follows:-

Kerb stone weeds are dealt with by WFDC operatives on a routine basis with weedkiller and when the season is appropriate.

A member reported an issue with Cadent that had been encountered. Cllr Hardiman asked the member to report it to County Councillor, Marcus Hart who can bring challenge to the utility company.

A member reported a problem with the local mobile networks due to work on masts. An elderly person with a pendant that relies on the mobile network had not been able to get a service. It is

Initials_____

CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

likely that more issues will arise with the load on other masts and when 3G is switched off. Cllr Hardiman asked the clerk to report this to Cllr Marcus Hart.

Cllr Hardiman reported from the district report that WFDC are dealing with ongoing planning enforcement issues at a property in Forge Lane and that the property is limited to a set number of events over a 12-month period and Cllr Hart is advising the property owners that the number is currently near the limit for the year. WFDC is also responding to nearby residents.

139/25 Traffic Issues: Update on Highways developments and on speed control measures:

- A member reported a diesel spillage on Churchill Lane under the viaduct and the road is slippery.
- A member commented that the speed enforcement motorbike had not been seen on Stakenbridge Lane for some months. The clerk was asked to contact Cllr Hart about this.
- There was a short discussion about some secondhand VAS signs that the council had been offered, and members didn't want to explore this further.

140/25 Items for consideration:

- a) To respond to the Bromsgrove District Local Plan Draft Development Strategy Consultation – closing date 20th October 2025 – APPROVED** to delegate to the clerk to use Cllr Fowler's contribution and draft something for circulation to all members for approval prior to submission to BDC.
- b) To resolve on the co-option of councillor and to agree that the co-opted councillor can sign the declaration of acceptance of office outside of the meetings to be witnessed by the clerk – It was APPROVED unanimously** to co-opt Mark Adams onto the council and for the clerk to witness Mark Adams signing the Acceptance of Office form outside of the meeting.
- c) To resolve to adopt 9 new lighting columns on Springbrook Gardens development in accordance with the lighting design already circulated and meet all ongoing costs related to maintenance and energy –** Following a discussion about the costs of adopting these columns, the motion was carried and the council **RESOLVED** to adopt the footway lighting on the new development. The council will be receiving a sum of £5k commute cost from Miller Homes towards costs of energy and maintenance for the next 5 years.

Action: the clerk was asked to confirm with the developer/WCC that the lighting will be on unmetered supply.

[POST MINUTE UPDATE – Miller Homes have confirmed that the lighting columns will be connected to unmetered supply].

141/25 Items for Information: None.

142/25 Planning and Development Control:

a) Planning Application received:

- i) 25/0703/TCA – The Great Barn, Churchill Lane - Walnut Tree, reduce crown to previous points – NO OBJECTION.
- ii) 25/0725/TCA – The Forge, Churchill Lane – Two variegated holly trees – fell – NO OBJECTION.

Initials_____

CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

b) Additional Planning Applications or other Planning Matters:

- i) **Neighbourhood Plan Review update** – Cllr Fowler updated members saying:
- A meeting had been held with a WFDC Planning officer regarding the review of the Churchill and Blakedown Neighbourhood Plan and Cllr Fowler had briefed him on some points that needed clarifying.
 - Furthermore, the draft design code had been received by Cllr Fowler and notwithstanding some adjustments that need to be made, it is a useful document. The density of properties recommended does not align to the Wyre Forest local plan or the NPPF but will be left in there given that more changes are likely with demands put on C&B for land and numbers of properties to be built.
 - The call for sites will conclude in December 25 and then site assessments will be carried out in the new year.

There was a discussion about the reasons for the Wyre Forest District Local Plan review and call for sites and Cllr Hardiman pointed out that the process is important to give the district council the control over building in the district.

c) Planning Notifications:

- i) 25/0551/HOU - Strathfield 9 New Wood Lane - Proposed rear extension – Granted.
- ii) 25/0609/HOU - 55 Belbroughton Road - Proposed dropped kerb – Granted.
- iii) 25/0587/HOU – 7 The Croft – Single storey rear and side extension with replacement car port – Granted

143/25 Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:

- a) **Bank Balances as of 9th October 2025:** Noted.

Unity Trust Treasurers Account (PC Current Account)	£33,021.86
Lloyds Business Instant Access Account (PC Reserves)	£31,903.13
Lloyds Community Account	£38.25
TOTAL FUNDS AT BANK AT 9th October 2025	£64,963.24

- b) To approve and sign the Receipts & Payment Schedule for October 2025 – **APPROVED.**
- c) To approve and sign the bank reconciliation with supporting bank statements to 9th October 2025 – **APPROVED.**
- d) To receive the Qtr 2 finance update as circulated – **RECEIVED.**
- e) To receive the Reserves Statement for the year to the 9th October 2025 – **RECEIVED.**

144/25 Clerk's Report: The report had been shared prior to the meeting and was displayed. The following items were queried by members:-

Existing matters no 3 - The clerk confirmed when asked, that the parish council cannot currently state that it meets the requirements of assertion 10 on the forthcoming AGAR for 2026/26 and stated that she will be attending training given by CALC on the matter and will give feedback to members when more is known. One requirement will be that all members will need to move to .gov.uk email addresses.

New matters no 3 – The clerk confirmed that even though WCC will be removing the column, Western Power will be required to visit column no 12 on Station Drive to repair the dead service.

Initials_____

CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

There will be no charge to the parish council for this. A member also expressed concern that WCC had not consulted with the parish regarding the removal of column 12 which formed part of the parish council lighting stock.

Related to this item, a member asked the question about the absence of lighting columns on two of the areas on the development with concerns for how dark the area will be.

Action: the clerk will query the developer/WCC on the rationale for omitting columns from this area and give feedback to the council.

145/25 Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas: None.

146/25 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 11th November 2025 commencing at 7.00 p.m - Cllr Wood gave her apologies for this meeting.

Meeting closed at 20:30.

Signed.....

(Chair to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council)

Dated – 11th November 2025.

Brief notes of Public Participation – 14th October 2025

A resident reported the following:-

- Grass not cut on Station Drive – probably due to the road closure.
- Lamppost 12 on Station Drive is not lit.
- Lamppost No's 7, 11 and 15 have overgrown shrubbery around them.
- Churchill Lane – by the viaduct – left hand side by No. 7 Birmingham Road – overgrown shrubbery.
- Bridal paths blocked with trees down:
 - Waggon Lane No 527 at the top by the gates
 - New Wood Lane No 543
 - Birmingham Road to New Wood Lane No 532
- High bank – hedge cut and debris dropped onto pathway.
- Drains & blocked gullies –
 - New Wood Lane, right hand side off Birmingham Road – grass growing out of it.
 - Churchill Lane, bottom of Mill Lane – right hand side.
 - Belbroughton Road, by no 78.
- Weeds are established in gutters
- Elm Close – Rose bushes planted and growing over footpath.
- Hedge growing over into village car park from no 23 Swan Close.

Initials_____