

CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at Blakedown Sports Pavilion which commenced at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT: Chair: Cllr Hession; Cllrs, Mark Adams; Richard Benney; Sue Fowler; Bryony Hayward; Gillian Moncrieff; Claire Wood.

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

16/26 Chair's Opening Remarks: The chairman stated that a speedy meeting is required due to personal time constraints.

17/26 Apologies: Cllr Hickman (**accepted**).

18/26 Declarations of Interest: None.

Cllr Wood joined the meeting.

19/26 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, and it was displayed at the meeting. The chairman noted that the report didn't include the 'egg throwing' incidents at Churchill Lane or the car accident on the Birmingham Road which may have missed the timing of the report together with the burned out Audi on Waggon Lane or the cross removed from a grave at St James at Churchill and placed in a garden on Churchill Lane. Two incidents were reported on: stolen cables from an EV charger and a car had been seized on Sculthorpe Road that was without Tax, MOT and insurance.

Cllr Benney joined the meeting.

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

20/26 Dispensations: None.

21/26 Minutes: A member proposed approval of the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th January 2026 and the minutes were **APPROVED** as an accurate record.

22/26 District and County Council Matters: The reports had been received by the clerk and circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and were displayed at the meeting. Cllr Drew spoke briefly on the following:-

- Flooding is an issue across Worcestershire with the amount of rain we are having and there is a back log of drain issues that WCC are dealing with albeit slowly due to overtime and expense being cut by the current administration. The same applies to pot holes.

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- Reporting on the district report, Cllr Drew pointed out that a fly tip had been dealt with following reporting by Cllr Hart and evidence has been found of who the tipper would have been and this is being dealt with by WFDC.
- The WCC report states that the Wannerton Estate has been added into the FTTP build by Openreach – to be commenced around the 13th March 2026.
- Cllr Fowler commented that the narrative on the local government reorganisation consultation posted online does not explicitly state that the districts will disappear into the unitary authority. Cllr Drew suggested that the parish council notify residents about this via social media or website.

Cllr Drew concluded his report by inviting members to email him with any concerns.

No questions were asked and the parish council thanked Cllrs: Hart, Drew and Hardiman for attending.

23/26 Traffic Issues: Update on Highways developments and on speed control measures: The chairman raised the car accident where the vehicle crashed into a wall at the rear of a property on the Birmingham Road, which the police know about. Miller Homes are known to have repaired the secured rear of the property on Lynwood Drive with some fencing.

Cllr Hart is due to have a meeting with WCC regarding road engineering at the railway bridge at Stakenbridge Lane.

24/26 Items for consideration:

- a) To discuss and decide on the topics for presentation/engagement at the Annual Parish Assembly planned for the 19th May, 2026** – The chairman reported that the Sports Pavilion Committee may want to present on their planned changes to the facility using Section 106 funding from Springbrook Gardens and possibly further funding but subject to them having firm plans to share. The chairman will contact the committee and feedback to the council and clerk.
- b) To review and approve the Asset Register for 2025/26** – The asset register had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. After a short report from the clerk showing the new items for the year, the asset register was **APPROVED**.
- c) To review and approve the Risk register for Finance, IT and assets for 2025/26** – The risk register had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. After comments and questions, the risk register was **APPROVED**.
- d) To approve the Draft IT Policy** – The draft IT Policy had been circulated prior to the meeting and was **APPROVED**.

25/26 Items for Information:

- a) To receive the minutes of the Villages Trust meeting held on the 22nd January 2026 – Unfortunately, the clerk had not circulated these prior to the meeting so their noting will be deferred to the next meeting.
- b) Precept request sent to WFDC – Noted.

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- c) To note the Profit Certificate from Instavolt for the year ending 08/12/25 – the profit certificate was displayed showing that Instavolt had made a total loss in the year. A discussion was held about this not affecting the rent that Instavolt pay to the parish council and that only when the profit reaches above a threshold does the parish council share in that.

26/26 Planning and Development Control:

a) Planning Application received:

- i) 26/0005/HOU – 66 Belbroughton Road - Demolition of garage and single storey rear extension and replacement with two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and front entrance canopy – **No objection.**

b) Additional Planning Applications or other Planning Matters:

- i) **Neighbourhood Plan Review update** – Cllr Fowler reported that the amended design code had been received and had been circulated to all members this afternoon for comments to be made by members. A couple of queries have been raised with the consultants. The document will sit independently of the Neighbourhood Plan.

c) Planning Notifications:

- a. 25/0908/S73 – Grazings, Churchill Lane - Variation of Conditions 2 (External Materials) and 3 (Approved Plans) attached to planning approval ref: 23/0288/HOU – Granted in full – Noted.

27/26 Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:

a) To note the bank balances as at 4th February, 2026:

£15,883.05 - Unity Trust Treasurers Account (PC Current Account)
£37,728.61 - Lloyds Business Instant Access Account (PC Reserves)
£21.25 - Lloyds Community Account

£53,632.91 in TOTAL AT THE BANK – Noted.

- a) To approve and sign the Receipts & Payment Schedule for February 2026 – **APPROVED & SIGNED.**
- b) To approve and sign the bank reconciliation with supporting bank statements to 4th February 2026 – **APPROVED & SIGNED.**

28/26 Clerk's Report: The clerk had circulated the report to all prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. A discussion took place mainly around point two – New Defibrillator at Springbrook Gardens where the council echoed the decision taken to a similar request at the December 2025 meeting (minute 170/25d). The council felt that the development management company should take this on.

29/26 Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas: Cllr Hayward reported on a metal drum potentially containing chemicals that had been found on a public right of way and near a watercourse. The clerk arranged to pick this up and report it to the relevant authority for removal. Cllr Wood suggested we discuss a further back up plan for the annual assembly, but it was decided to defer this until the chairman has spoken to the Pavilion committee.

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30/26 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th March 2026 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Cllr Mark Adams welcomed Cllr Gillian Moncrieff to the council.

Meeting closed at 20:05.

Signed.....

(Chair to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council)

Dated – 10th March 2026.

Brief notes of Public Participation – 10th February 2026

A resident reported the following: -

- Grass verges on the Croft are damaged from vehicles driving on them.
- Miller Homes have re-laid the grass verge on Station Drive following damage caused.
- Birmingham Road to Hagley – footpath needs siding out.
- From bridge at Stakenbridge Lane to Stoney Lane – footpath needs siding out.
- Stoney Lane – flooded – drains blocked, no footpath.
- Footway lighting at Gladstone Place different to rest of parish.
- Station Drive – new footpath laid but does not extend beyond the Miller Homes development to the station car parking area. There used to be white lines there for pedestrian safety.
- Flooding at Churchill, Willows Cottage and Bridge Cottage, in the lane, over 2 inches deep.

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