

# **Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council**

Invites the electorate to the

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

to be held on **Tuesday, 19th May 2026**

**7:30 – 9:00PM**

**at Blakedown Parish Rooms**

18 Belbroughton Road, Blakedown, DY10 3JG

### **Featuring:**

**Blakedown Primary School**

**'Fit for the Future' by Churchill & Blakedown Sports Hub**

**'Growing pride in our Station' by Friends of Blakedown Station**

**Also:**

**Neighbourhood Plan Review – how things are shaping up**

**District & County Councillor reports and  
a report from the local policing team**

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND HEAR ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN YOUR PARISH**

**Cllr Brian Hession  
CHAIRMAN  
2025/2026**

## **SUMMARY OF OUR WORK DURING 2025/26**

Over the past year, the Parish Council has focused on strong governance, responsible financial management, and active support for our community. We have maintained safety, improved local amenities, supported community projects, and ensured a clear voice for residents in planning and environmental matters. Together, we continue to make Churchill & Blakedown a safe, and well-cared-for parish.

### **Governance & Council Work**

- Welcomed two new councillors, Mark Adams & Gillian Moncrieff, strengthening community representation.
- Updated key governance documents, including the Asset Register, Risk Register, Scheme of Delegation, and IT Policy.
- Supported clerk's professional development with approval for CiLCA qualification.

### **Finance & Budgeting**

- Agreed 2026/27 budget and precept with no increase on 2025/26, keeping Band D council tax 16p lower.
- Set General Reserves cap at 9 months of net revenue to ensure financial stability.
- Approved monthly accounts and bank reconciliations, and appointed TPC Audit Services for 2026/27.
- Upgraded to Scribe Accounting Software for improved financial management.

### **Community Safety & Policing**

- Collaborated with local police to set quarterly priorities including anti-social behaviour, speeding, and rural crime.
- Monitored local incidents including thefts, car accidents, and vandalism, supporting police actions.

### **Planning & Environment**

- Progressed Neighbourhood Plan review and amended design code for sustainable housing and amenity protection.
- Reviewed multiple planning applications, providing comments and supporting biodiversity where possible.
- Maintained village green spaces through new contracts for grass cutting and bin emptying.

### **Community Projects & Support**

- Awarded £650 grant to Friends of Blakedown Station for local railway station improvements.
- Supported the Sports Pavilion and Section 106-funded projects, including future development plans.
- Supported the Blakedown Bolt annual event for community participation.
- Recognised volunteer contributions to parish improvements, including work at the Signal Box.

### **Traffic & Highways**

- Worked with Worcestershire County Council to address traffic safety, potholes, flooding, and hedge maintenance.

- Monitored key areas including Churchill crossroads, Station Drive ponding, and Stakenbridge Lane railway bridge.

### Technology & Operations

- Transitioned to modern accounting software.
- Reviewed IT and operational policies to ensure effective administration and service delivery.

### THE FIGURES AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2026

Please note that these figures below represent the financial status of Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and are subject to external audit. In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, reg 13, members of the public are permitted to view the Parish Council accounts within a 30-working day timeframe; this period will include the first 10 days of July and the dates will be published on the website.

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
Precept	52,750
Supplementary Income	3,000
Other receipts	15,915
VAT Reclaim	4,768
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76,433</b>

#### Detail on 'other receipts': -

Verge cutting grant from WCC	1,239
Litter grant from WFDC	800
Bank Interest & Loyalty payments	214
Lengthsman cost reimbursement from WCC	2,688
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	
Miller Homes commute cost for lighting columns and energy	5,000
Return of unused grant from Churchill & Blakedown Villages Trust	750
Reimbursement from WFDC for charge incorrectly made for Trade Waste over 2.5 years	2,226
Grant from Natural Networks for Phase 2 of work to Signal Box Wildlife Garden	1,981
NET charges during 25/26 recovered from Churchill & Blakedown Villages Trust	966
Compensation for complaint raised with Lloyds Bank	50

## Payments

The table below sets out the payments during the year by category:

	£
Staff costs	20,328
Office running costs	1,974
Insurance	1,397
Audit fees	614
Memberships	1,303
Newsletter	833
Banking Fees	147
Donations and Grants	935
Chairman's allowance	95
Training	625
Hall hire	613
Poppy appeal/wreath	140
Environment contracts – Grass Cutting & Bin Emptying; Weed killing & leaf clearing; Hedge maintenance; Trade Waste; Handyman; Benches & Planters	15,216
Lengthsman	2,580
Defibrillator	560
Energy – footway lighting – unmetered supply & repairs	1,742
Car Park – repairs and maintenance	180
Miscellaneous (incl. £2,052 project costs at Signal Box – covered by grant)	2,227
Project costs – Lighting columns test and inspect	600
Costs incurred on behalf of Churchill & Blakedown Villages Trust in 25/26	930
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS IN THE YEAR</b>	<b>53,039</b>
VAT	4,234
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,273</b>

## RESERVES

It is essential that authorities have sufficient reserves (general and earmarked) to finance both their day-to-day operations and future plans. Small authorities have no specific rights to accumulate funds via the precept. All reserves are reviewed and justified annually. In accordance with the Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel, it is good practice to publish both the level and rationale of all reserves. This parish council has both a Reserves Policy and produces quarterly Reserves Statements.

<b>RESERVES STATEMENT SUMMARY AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2026</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>EAR MARKED RESERVES</b>	
Car park maintenance & future resurfacing	8,719
Lighting, energy & repairs	5,000
Neighbourhood Plan project funds (unspent in 2025)	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,719</b>
<b>GENERAL RESERVES</b>	<b>22,844</b>
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>38,563</b>

<b>BANK RECONCILIATION AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2026</b>	<b>£</b>
Unity Trust – Current Account	13,505.19
Lloyds Bank – Instant Access Business Account (holds Reserves)	38,549.96
Lloyds Bank – Community Account	12.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52,067.90</b>
Opening Balance as per 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	32,908.33
<b>Add receipts for the period – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026</b>	<b>76,432.65</b>
<b>Less payments for the period – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026</b>	<b>-57,273.08</b>
<b>CLOSING BALANCE FOR THE YEAR 25/26</b>	<b>52,067.90</b>

**Brian Hession**

**Chair (2025/26)**

## **Accessibility Statement**

**Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council is committed to making our communications accessible to everyone. We want this newsletter to be easy to read and enjoyable for all our readers.**

**This newsletter is available in large print and text-only email formats. To request a copy in an alternative format, please contact the clerk at 07828 335949 or email [clerk@churchillandblakedown-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@churchillandblakedown-pc.gov.uk)**

**We will consider your request and respond within 15 days.**

**If you have suggestions to improve the accessibility of our newsletter, please reach out to us.**

***April 2026***

Keep up to date by coming to the meetings, following the website

<https://churchillandblakedown-pc.gov.uk>, or the Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583825737120>

or contacting

[clerk@churchillandblakedown-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@churchillandblakedown-pc.gov.uk)

