

CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at Blakedown Sports Pavilion which commenced at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs, Brian Hession; Richard Benney; Sue Fowler; Martin Hickman; Gillian Moncrieff; Claire Wood.

In attendance: Two residents; District Councillor – Ian Hardiman; Parish Clerk – Louise Harris.

47/26 Chair's Opening Remarks: The chair thanked the council for managing his absence from the meeting last month.

48/26 Apologies: Cllr Adams; Cllr Hayward (accepted).

49/26 Declarations of Interest: None.

Cllr Benney joined the meeting.

50/26 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. There was nothing in the report for this parish. Cllr Fowler spoke about two cars having been stolen from Wannerton Road where one has come back, and one hasn't. A discussion took place regarding security measures, cameras and GDPR.

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

51/26 Dispensations: None.

52/26 Minutes: A member proposed approval of the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th March 2026 and the minutes were **APPROVED** as an accurate record.

53/26 District and County Council Matters: The reports had been received by the clerk and circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and the district council report was displayed first. Comments were made by members and questions answered by Cllr Hardiman, on points in the report. It was raised by a member asking if consideration to surrounding districts would be given in the call for sites to prevent the green buffer between parishes being encroached upon.

The county council report was displayed and a discussion was held about warranty and quality control on pothole repairs. Cllr Hardiman will follow this up with Cllr Hart. A discussion was held about roadworks in Kidderminster.

54/26 Traffic Issues: Update on Highways developments and on speed control measures: None.

55/26 Items for consideration:

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- a) **Ensuring an Influential Role for Parish/Town councils in Neighbourhood Governance** – A briefing on this item had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting together with a draft motion and draft letter to send to the MP. After a short discussion, members **RESOLVED** to carry out points 1, 2 and 3 and a letter will be sent to the MP.
- b) **To agree to have a Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council logo designed and for the clerk to obtain quotes for this** – After a short discussion, the council **AGREED** in principle to go ahead with this and to get ideas for a theme with the possibility of employing a local designer. A QR code for the council could be considered in the future.
- c) **To review and approve the council's Financial Regulations** – The document had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. The clerk talked through the changes made and the council **RESOLVED** approving the Financial Regulations as displayed subject to an error on a plural noun being corrected on section 7.6.
- d) **To review and approve the council's Standing Orders** - The document had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. The clerk informed the council that there were no changes on last year's version and the council **RESOLVED** approving the document.
- e) **To review and approve the councillor's Code of Conduct** - The document had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. The clerk informed the council that there were no changes to the version issued by the Local Government Association and the council **RESOLVED** approving the document.
- f) **To review and approve the council's Publication Scheme** - The document had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. The clerk briefed the council on the document which is required under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the scheme is approved by the Information Commissioners Office. The council **RESOLVED** approving the document.
- g) **To review and approve the Direct Debit (Variable Payments) Schedule** - The document had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. The council **RESOLVED** approving the document.
- h) **To approve that policies are reviewed every 3 years from the date of approval except for when there is a change in legislation – APPROVED.**

56/26 Items for Information:

- a) **To receive a report from Cllr Benney on Wyre Forest Area CALC meeting on 16/03/26** – Cllr Benney reported that the meeting lacked impetus largely due to the chairman losing a voice connection. The main items discussed were:
 - a. Councils having .gov.uk email domains
 - b. All councils commenting on the local government reorganization consultation
 - c. PC's should consider clustering.
 - d. Essex CALC charging a 5% fee to collect NALC subscriptions.
 - e. A report from WFDC given on planning regulation changes.

A discussion was held regarding the changes in the planning system, the likely increase in development around railway stations and changes to the regulations for planning committees and how concerns are intensified with the planning authority being further removed from the parish when the unitary council is appointed in May 2028.

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Thanks were given to Cllr Benney for attending the meeting and the report.

- b) **To receive and note the minutes of the Villages Trust meeting held on the 22nd January 2026** – the council NOTED these and the date for the next meeting of the villages trust was given, 23rd April 2026.

57/26 Planning and Development Control:

a) **Planning Application received:**

- i) **26/0203/TPO - 15 Brookside Way - Conifer Tree – Fell – Comment: No reports, Incomplete application.**
- ii) **26/0218/HOU - 1 Swan Close - Single storey front extension – No objection.**
- iii) **26/0253/HOU - 57 Birmingham Road - Single storey rear extension and rear dormer, including alterations to the dwelling – No objection.**

b) **Additional Planning Applications or other Planning Matters:**

- i) **Neighbourhood Plan Review update** – Cllr Fowler reported that the design code is now complete and has been received by the clerk. It is an important document because it aims to manage expectations of developers. The Neighbourhood Plan will sit next to the Wyre Forest Local Plan when assessing planning applications. The document will be sent to WFDC for their comments, and it will be placed on the website under Emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

c) **Planning Notifications:** None.

58/26 Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:

- a) To note the bank balances as at 8th April, 2026:
£13,505.19 - Unity Trust Treasurers Account (PC Current Account)
£38,549.96 - Lloyds Business Instant Access Account (PC Reserves)
£12.75 - Lloyds Community Account
£52,067.90 in TOTAL AT THE BANK – NOTED.
- b) To approve and sign the Receipts & Payments Schedule – March B, which concludes the receipts and payments in the 25/26 financial year, and the bank reconciliation to 31/03/26 with supporting bank statements – **APPROVED & SIGNED.**
- c) To approve and sign the Receipts & Payments Schedule for April 2026 – **APPROVED & SIGNED.**
- d) To approve and sign the bank reconciliation with supporting bank statements to 8th April 2026 – **APPROVED & SIGNED.**
- e) To receive and sign the Budget v Actual Report with variance explanations – **APPROVED & SIGNED.**
- f) To receive and sign the Reserves statement to 31/03/26 – **RECEIVED & SIGNED.**
- g) To receive the Executive Summary on financial year 1/4/25 to 31/3/26 and to approve recommendations, as follows:-
 - i. £675 moved out of Ear Marked reserves for the car park into General Reserves – **APPROVED.**
 - ii. £6500 moved out of Current Account into General Reserves – **APPROVED.**

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- h) To receive the report and conclusions from Internal Auditors, DKE Audit Services, on findings of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation during 2025-26 – **APPROVED**.

59/26 Clerk's Report: The clerk had circulated the report to all prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. A discussion was held about the bin on New Wood Lane in respect of its location and its size. Ideas were shared about a better location within a 30mph limit.
Action: The clerk will visit the area and assess the situation.

60/26 Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas: None.

61/26 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th May 2026 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Meeting closed at 2054hrs

Signed.....

(Chair to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council)

Dated – 12th May 2026.

Brief notes of Public Participation – 14th April 2026

A resident highlighted two cars parked on Belbroughton Road that are causing an obstruction on the pavement. The residents had needed to walk into the road during the dark hours to get passed the vehicle(s). Members advised the resident to take a photo and then report the obstruction on the 'Operation Snap' website. Cllr Hardiman also pointed out that residents can use 101 to report obstructions and the police are obliged to promptly attend the location.

Another resident reported the following: -

- Cars repeatedly parking on dropped kerb, and zig zags outside shop on A456.
- Bollard across the bridle path (15ft wide bridle path) and a public right of way at the back of Wild Acres.
- Fly tipping on Waggon Lane – Two timber fireplaces

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