

CHURCHILL & BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th June 2026 at Blakedown Sports Pavilion and commenced at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: Cllr Marcus Hart – County Councillor.

85/26 Chairman's Opening Remarks: None.

86/26 Apologies: None.

87/26 Declarations of Interest: None.

88/26 Dispensations: None.

Cllr Benney joined the meeting.

The chairman changed the order of the agenda items in the interest of time for Cllr Hart.

89/26 County & District Council Matters: Both reports had been received by the clerk and circulated prior to the meeting and were displayed at the meeting.

- 1.1. To receive a report from a County Council representative – Cllr Hart presented the report saying that 12 new issues had been added from recent door to door work he had carried out and updated council further on item 1 which has been reported, and item 10 which is passable and is mainly due to residents hedges encroaching on the alleyway and they will be written to. He briefly reported on the full council meeting on the 14th May and the political turmoil that is brought about by a no overall majority leadership.

Questions were raised about Churchill Lane previously reported to Cllr Hart by the clerk – there is orange paint where the area needs correcting but there is not enough and so Cllr Hart will ask for it to be reinspected. Cllr Fowler informed Cllr Hart about the hedges on Churchill Lane that need cutting back just before Wannerton Road approaching in the direction of Churchill. Cllr Hayward asked about a 30mph sign that is obscured by overgrown vegetation on Waggon Lane.

- 1.2. To receive a report from a District Council representative – Cllr Hart referred to the report in the context of the change in planning laws and the new local plan that is being developed by WFDC. He reminded the council about the planning training that is taking place on the 24th June and encouraged all to attend. With the new NPPF, development will be trickier to oppose – the decisions will be taken out of the hands of local decision makers and into the hands of the planning officers. Worcestershire should hear from Central Government about the decision on the new Unitary council(s) by summer recess.

Cllr Hart clarified with Cllr Hickman that dirty/algae covered road signage can be cleaned by the Lengthsman if the area is in a 30mph zone.

[POST MEETING NOTE: The Lengthsman has been asked if this is possible although water supply may be an issue].

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90/26 Minutes: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 – **APPROVED & SIGNED.**

91/26 Community Policing:

- 1.1. To receive any report from the Beat Officer/CSO – The report had been received by the clerk and was circulated prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. The report showed nothing for Churchill and Blakedown. A question was answered about TruCam in that it identifies speed, absence of MoT and Insurance.
- 1.2. To set the policing priorities for Quarter Two – July to September 2026 – **APPROVED** that the council continues with the same priorities as this quarter: ASB; Speeding; Rural Crime.

92/26 Roads/Footpaths/Traffic/Highways:

- 1.1. To receive an update – Cllr Hickman reiterated about the vegetation & algae obscuring 30mph signs and reported on cones being left out on the A456 by the chipping depot and it was acknowledged that it is difficult for heavy vehicles to get into the depot and they need to swing wide – hence the cones. Three laybys have been reported as needing levelling from potholes. A white van has been seen parking at the layby in Iverley Lane. There were some black fly-tipped bags in Waggon Lane and the clerk asked for this to be confirmed so it could be reported.

93/26 Parish Lengthsman Report:

- 1.1. To receive the Lengthsman report – the clerk reported that everything is going well.

94/26 Items for consideration:

- 1.1. To pass a resolution to sign up to the Civility and Respect pledge – after a short discussion, this was **APPROVED – all in favour**. All councillors signed the pledge.
- 1.2. To agree to adopt the new LG Pension Scheme Discretions Policy – after a short discussion, the council **AGREED to adopt** this policy subject to the discretions being amended to show the following wording: “Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council will not have a general policy to exercise this discretion but will consider a case-by-case basis, taking into account business needs, financial implications, and fairness.”
- 1.3. To agree to adopt the new Dignity at Work policy - **AGREED**
- 1.4. To agree to adopt the new Flexible Working policy - **AGREED**
- 1.5. To agree to adopt the new Lone Working policy - **AGREED**
- 1.6. To agree to adopt the new Sickness Absence Policy - **AGREED**
- 1.7. To respond to the WFDC Local Plan Scoping Consultation – due by 5pm, Tuesday 7th July 26 – After a short discussion, it was **AGREED** that Cllr Fowler would look at the consultation, draft a response and circulate for agreement before submitting to WFDC.
[POST MEETING NOTE: This has been completed before the deadline].
- 1.8. To retrospectively approve Cllr Fowler as nominated member to sit on the WFDC Local Plan Review Panel – **APPROVED.**
- 1.9. To give authority to the clerk to get three quotes for highway planter maintenance and watering – **APPROVED.**
- 1.10. To decide on purpose of parish brochure(s) and outline next steps – a discussion was held around the requirements as ideas had been shared by email. It was **DECIDED** that the council will pursue ideas to produce a footpath leaflet promoting health & wellbeing for which the council may be able to find funding towards and to produce a ‘Welcome to the parish of Churchill & Blakedown’ booklet to provide newcomers to the parish with essential information. Cllr Wood agreed to pull together the information to go into the booklet and then feedback to members. The clerk will

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share the sample leaflet with members as a starting point. Cllr Wood will also develop a timetable for the booklet production. Cllr Fowler suggested using some photos from the archives from the ceased Historical Society as images for the Footpath leaflet. The clerk will speak to the Health & Wellbeing officer at CALC about funding.

95/26 Items for information:

- 1.1. The council's insurance policy has been renewed from 1st June 2026 until 30th May 2029 for all insurable risks, under Financial Regulations 5.12 – **NOTED**.
- 1.2. HMRC have increased mileage expenses from 45p to 55p per mile (cars & vans up to 10,000 miles) – **NOTED**.
- 1.3. To note the draft minutes of the Villages Trust meeting held on 23rd April 2026 – **NOTED**.

96/26 Financial Report and Payment of Accounts

- 1.1. To note the **bank balances as at 3rd June, 2026: NOTED**

£25,281.25	- Unity Trust Treasurers Account (PC Current Account)
£45,043.05	- Lloyds Bank - Instant Access Account (PC Reserves)
£46.75	- Lloyds Bank - Community Account
£70,371.05	in TOTAL AT THE BANK
- 1.2. To approve and sign the Receipts and Payments schedule for payment, for June 2026 as circulated by email – **APPROVED**.
- 1.3. To approve and sign the bank reconciliation presented with the bank statements to 3rd June 2026 – **APPROVED**.
- 1.4. To note that £42.50 was transferred from Lloyds PC Reserves account to Lloyds Community Account to cover Business banking charges of £4.25 per month until 31/03/27, as agreed at meeting on 12/05/26, minute 79/26f – **NOTED**.
- 1.5. To agree a virement of £1000 from Bin Emptying budget line to Planters, Tubs and Baskets – **AGREED**.
- 1.6. To review and approve bank mandates for Unity Trust and Lloyds Bank – It was **AGREED** that Cllr Hession would become a signatory to authorise on the Lloyds Bank account and the mandates were **APPROVED**.

97/26 Planning and Development Control:

- 1.1. Planning applications received:
 - 1.1.1. 26/0416/S73 - Hackman's Barn, New Wood Lane - Variation of Condition 14 (Approved Plans) attached to planning approval ref: 24/0450/FUL to account for changes to hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatments, entrance arrangement, reconfiguration of garden building and biodiversity enhancement (part-retrospective) – Comment: The kerbside outside of the property needs to be reinstated to its former state.

98/26 Additional Planning Applications or other Planning Matters :

- 1.1. Neighbourhood Plan Review update – update from Cllr Fowler on meeting with WFDC Planning Dept on Design Code and progress – Cllr Fowler and the clerk had attended a meeting with the planning manager and colleagues at WFDC and Cllr Fowler had subsequently made some amendments to the design code following the comments made by WFDC. WFDC had informed us that the neighbourhood plan would most likely not need to go through a referendum but be passed as a modification. A discussion took place amongst members regarding car parking at the railway station, past proposed provision and possible future provision.

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99/26 Planning Notifications Received:

- 1.1. To receive notifications from Wyre Forest District Council: None.

100/26 Clerk's Report:

- 1.1. Clerks Report on new & ongoing items – the report was displayed at the meeting, and the council were reminded of some upcoming events. A discussion took place about 5 bins in the parish that need replacing / moving. The clerk was asked to investigate economic order quantities. No gold lettering will be required on the new bins.

101/26 Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas: None.

102/26 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 14th July 2026 commencing at 7.00 p.m. at the Blakedown Sports Pavilion.

103/26 End of Meeting: meeting closed at 2035hrs

Signed.....

(Chair to Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council)

14th July, 2026.