

CHURCHILL & BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at Blakedown Sports Pavilion and commenced at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs, Mark Adams; Sue Fowler; Martin Hickman.

In attendance: Cllr Robin Drew – County Councillor; 1 resident.

- 104/26** **In the absence of the chairman and vice chair, a vote was taken to establish the chair for the meeting:** Cllr Fowler was nominated and voted unanimously to chair.
- 105/26** **Chairman's Opening Remarks:** Cllr Fowler stated that we hope Cllr Benney is ok and that the next PC meeting after this one is in September.
- 106/26** Apologies: Cllrs, Richard Benney; Brian Hession; Gillian Moncrieff; Claire Wood (accepted).
- 107/26** Declarations of Interest: None.
- 108/26** Dispensations: None.
- 109/26** **Minutes:** To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2026 – **APPROVED & SIGNED.**
- 110/26** **Community Policing:** To receive any report from the Beat Officer/CSO: The police report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting. It was stated by a member that there had been a warning on a forum that Land Rovers are being targeted. The police had reported that a VW Caddy van had been entered by an unknown person who had searched through the vehicle in an untidy manner and nothing had been stolen. The SNT had also seized two e-scooters which had been ridden dangerously and illegally. A discussion was held around this and similar incidents involving motorbikes. It was noted that there is a motorbike being ridden up Rocky Lane without plates and a push bike with a petrol mower being ridden.
- 111/26** **Roads/Footpaths/Traffic/Highways:** Cllr Hickman gave the report saying there is an overgrown hedge on Waggon Lane that is impeding visibility and forcing bikes over into the middle of the road. Also, overgrown brambles on the footpath between the layby next to Churchill church and the footbridge over to Willow Bank.
Action: The clerk will report these accordingly.
Cllr Hickman also reported that some potholes have become deeper but they are being addressed.
- 112/26** **Parish Lengthsman Report:** The clerk displayed a report showing that the Lengthsman has completed the following works:-
- Weeds have been removed from the part by 5a and 7a that comes out onto Sculthorpe Road and the other part between 9 and 10 Wheatmill Close that comes out by the new properties.
 - Siding out along the pavements on the 30mph zones of the A456.
 - Removing weeds from Belbroughton Road gutters.

- Clearing gully grates across the parish to keep the water flowing into drains during rain fall.

Cllr Hickman reported that he has cleaned the gates at Rocky Lane.

There was a discussion and ideas shared about methods of disposing of green waste for the Lengthsman. Particularly, weed disposal.

Action: the clerk is to enquire as to the ownership of the land next to Churchill Church.

113/26

County & District Council Matters:

- 1.1. To receive a report from a District Council representative – The report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting and delivered by Cllr Drew. The map showing the sites put forward in the call for sites had been released and nothing else will be added. The consultation on this will not be carried out until the Spring 2027. Cllr Drew advised the council to bring a working party together to submit responses to the settlement survey and spatial issues consultation sheet. Cllr Drew reported that the area offered to Kidderminster Harriers at Burlish Country Park amounted to about 20% of the park and had come under much controversy. The local government reorganisation decision will come forth on 16th/17th July 2026.
- 1.2. To receive a report from a County Council representative – The report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting and was displayed at the meeting and delivered by Cllr Drew. Members talked about two trees of concern: one at Churchill Lane/Wannerton Farm with a branch looking precarious and one also on an Oak tree at Rocky Lane.

Action: The clerk to report these to Cllr Marcus Hart.

No 1 on the report was asking for a consensus from the PC on supporting a proposal for double yellow lines in Belbroughton Road, just off the A456. The consensus was one of support to aid the flow of traffic from the A456 into the Belbroughton Road.

Cllr Drew left the meeting and offered the teams help with any forthcoming issues that may arise.

114/26

Items for consideration:

- 1.1. To adopt the new C&BPC logo created by AI – **APPROVED.**
- 1.2. To agree to adopt the new Home Working Policy – **APPROVED.**
- 1.3. To agree to adopt the new Compassionate Leave Policy – A brief discussion took place about this being for incidents related to immediate family and that communication is necessary in the event of such incidents. The council want to follow the standard local government practice of 'up to 5 days unpaid leave' so this remains unchanged – **APPROVED.**
- 1.4. To approve an amendment to clause 10.1 on the clerk's employment contract regarding mileage expenses specifying reimbursement will be made at HMRC rates, instead of NJC rates, and back date side letter to 1st April 2026 to cover three months previous reimbursements at the new HMRC rate of 55p per mile – The letter was **APPROVED and SIGNED** as written and it was **AGREED** that the employment contract state HMRC @ 55p per mile so that any future increases will be brought back to full council for approval.
- 1.5. To agree to adopt the new Expenses Policy – **APPROVED.**

- 1.6. To retrospectively approve appointment of Acorn Environmental Care Ltd to supply 6x highway planters with new compost, summer bedding and spring bulbs and water throughout the summer season with special planting for armistice day in the war memorial planter – **APPROVED following consensus by email.**
- 1.7. To commence Churchill & Blakedown Pathfinders Project and appoint a working party with at least 2 council members – the project outline was displayed on the screen, and the clerk talked it through. It was **DECIDED** that the council would commence with the project and a working party would be established over email. There is about 15 miles of walks in the parish and there is a map of them in the Parish Rooms.

115/26

Items for information:

- 1.1. Cllrs Benney & Hickman to give an update on the CALC meeting on the 18th June 2026 – Cllr Hickman gave the report saying that the main topic had previously been discussed at C&BPC. It was also discussed whether councillors email addresses and phone numbers should be publicised on the website.

Action: the clerk will query with WFDC about redaction of personal details on the Register of Interest form and write out to all councillors regarding removal of personal data from the C&BPC website.

116/26

Financial Report and Payment of Accounts

- 1.1. To note the bank balances as at 8th July, 2026: Noted.
 £22,927.66 - Unity Trust Treasurers Account (PC Current Account)
 £45,560.95 - Lloyds Bank - Instant Access Account (PC Reserves)
 £42.50 - Lloyds Bank - Community Account
£68,531.11 in TOTAL AT THE BANK
- 1.2. To approve and sign the Receipts and Payments schedule for payment, for July 2026 as circulated by email – **APPROVED & SIGNED.**
- 1.3. To approve and sign the bank reconciliation presented with the bank statements to 8th July 2026 – **APPROVED & SIGNED.**
- 1.4. To receive the Quarter 1 – Budget v Actual Report, April 26 to June 26 – This was held over to the next meeting in September.

117/26

Planning and Development Control:

- 1.1. Planning applications received:
 - 1.1.1. 26/0387/LBC - Harborough Hall, Birmingham Road - Listed Building Consent to Install EV charger to external wall – No objection.
 - 1.1.2. 26/0384/HOU - Harborough Hall, Birmingham Road - Install EV charger to external wall – No objection.
 - 1.1.3. 26/0472/TPO - 7 Brookside Way - Tree works: Mature Goat Willow (Rear Garden) – whole crown reduction to 6m above ground level, Mature Cherry (Front Garden) - whole crown reduction to 5m above ground level, reshape and thin out and crown lift – No objection, sensible tree maintenance.
 - 1.1.4. 26/0451/HOU - 19 Birmingham Road - Proposed single storey rear extension – No objection.
 - 1.1.5. 26/0498/FUL - Hodge Hill Nurseries, Birmingham Road - Part demolition of existing building, and proposed new portal frame building to replace existing covered area and provide 3No. new concessions. New extension to dog therapy centre to create hydrotherapy pool room. Extension of existing cafe to provide additional seating, internal alterations to existing farm shop, and new external fire escape staircase from first floor – No objection.
 - 1.1.6. 26/0461/HOU - 17A Mill Lane - Construction of a detached garage, porch extension, and

replacement of garage door with new window to facilitate internal alterations – concerns raised over garage being difficult to access from a narrow road and turning circle and then being repurposed in the future.

Action: Clerk to check raise concerns with planning officer and feedback to members via email.

- 1.1.7. 26/0006/HOU - 43 Belbroughton Road - Replacement of dormer window to existing loft conversion, single storey rear extension and associated works – No objection.

118/26

Additional Planning Applications or other Planning Matters:

- 1.1. Neighbourhood Plan Review update – Cllr Fowler led on this item with a discussion around the recent call for sites map that had been released and the prospect of Wannerton Farm being built upon compared with the prospect of building on Belbroughton Road. Cllr Fowler informed members that there will be consultation on the Call for Sites following the period of site assessment that WFDC will now go through. The aim of C&BPC will be to preserve the integrity of the village. Significant pressures are being put on the boundaries with development proposed on all sides and infrastructure is key particularly with the A456 being under strain. There was a discussion about rail transport and parking at the railway station together with other infrastructure issues with a lack of amenities and services, i.e. post office, with the housing targets set to double the number of dwellings.

Cllr Fowler took the council through a paper distributed before the meeting: Summary of modifications in the revised Neighbourhood Plan – July 2026 which gave the headlines of main changes which will be submitted to WFDC in due course. Comments were made about the lack of care facilities for the elderly in the parish and that the Housing Needs Analysis done by WFDC is now out of date.

119/26

Planning Notifications Received:

- 1.1. To receive notifications from Wyre Forest District Council:
- 1.1.1. Appeal reference: 6010714 against refusal of 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.
- 1.1.2. Appeal reference: APP/TPO/R1845/10610 - The appeal is allowed and consent is granted to fell the Scots pine tree protected by the County of Worcester (Mill Lane, Blakedown) Tree Preservation Order 1972 at 11A Mill Close, Blakedown, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 3NQ, in accordance with the application, Ref: 25/0196/TPO, dated 12 March 2025 subject to conditions.

120/26

Clerk's Report:

- 1.1. Clerks Report on new & ongoing items – The clerk went through the report that had been circulated prior to the meeting and was displayed. Members were reminded about the Villages Trust meeting on the 23rd July. Cllrs Fowler, Hickman and Adams will be in attendance. Members were reminded about the WFDC Planning Training on 13th October and Cllrs Fowler, Hickman and Adams will be attending. Cllr Fowler apologised, reporting on laptop trouble which meant time was short to circulate the scoping consultation response; the clerk confirmed this had been submitted to WFDC. A short discussion took place about the lighting column that is buried at the end of Sculthorpe Road. The clerk was instructed to get quotes for bulk purchasing bins and to ask WFDC to see if they could store the surplus, unused bins for the

parish council. The clerk reported that with no meeting in August, some time would be spent on CiLCA.

121/26 Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas: None.

122/26 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th September 2026 commencing at 7.00 p.m. at the Blakedown Sports Pavilion.

123/26 End of Meeting: The meeting closed at 2100hrs.

Signed.....

Chair to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council
8th September 2026

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