

CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th February 2015, in the Pavilion, Blakedown Sports Centre, Birmingham Road, Blakedown.

PRESENT: Cllr P A Dearden (Chairman), Cllr Mrs. S Cartwright, Mrs. S Fowler, Mrs. P Hayward, Cllr B Humble, Cllr R Keys, Cllr J W Long and Cllr R J Shade

In attendance: Angela Preece, Clerk to the Parish Council and in excess of 50 members of the public

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks: The Chairman welcomed Council members and members of the public to the meeting. He advised that time would be allowed for residents to speak on agenda item 15 c) in Public Question Time

2. Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr B Pitt and Mark Jones.

3. Declarations of Interest: Cllr S Cartwright declared an Other Disclosable Interest in agenda item 15 c) for which a dispensation request had been made (to be dealt with under agenda item 5). Cllr J Long declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 15 c) and confirmed that he would leave the room when the agenda item was discussed and also when the issue was discussed during Public Question Time. No other interests were declared by Councillors other than those previously declared.

4. Community Policing: No Police Officers were in attendance. The Police report had been circulated with the agenda but gives information on the whole of the Kidderminster East and Rural Policing area and is not specific to Churchill and Blakedown.

The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time** notes of which are appended to these minutes

5. Dispensation Requests: A request to grant a dispensation for Cllr S Cartwright to take part in the discussion for agenda item 15 c) was agreed unanimously by Members

6. Reports from County and District Councillors: No reports received

7. Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 21st January 2015 were approved subject to three amendments. The amended minutes would be forwarded electronically to the Chairman for his signature.

8. Litter and Benches: Request for litter bin outside Churchill Church to be moved as mentioned at previous meeting. Some bins may need to be relocated, current usage being assessed by Mark Jones and John Lorton. Clerk to request possible charges from Wyre Forest District, though the Lengthsman would re-locate bins where he is able to. Cllr Long advised that the net cost for the purchase and installation of the bins was £2,300 and thanked John Lorton very much the work he had put into the project.

Cllr Hayward asked the Clerk to write to Wyre Forest District Council regarding the amount of litter on A456.

9. Grass Cutting/Lengthsman/Handyman Responsibilities: Clerk read out report from Mark Jones and was asked to place the order for 12 name plaques for the re-furbished benches.

10. Car Park: Ticket machines not working at present. Cllr Long has an email from Mike Parker at Wyre Forest District Council in which the District Council acknowledge that the car park is an asset of community value and that he believes discussions regarding a transfer are already in progress with Linda Collis.

11. Blakedown Signal Box: Clerk in discussions with Solicitor regarding creation of Charitable Incorporated Organisation. To be called Churchill and Blakedown Villages Trust and the Parish Council will be the corporate trustee, hopefully this will be in place for the next meeting of the Norman Dawson Trust which takes place on the 13th April 2015. It might be necessary to have a monthly trust meeting as part of this meeting. Cllr Long has received a letter from Community Housing requesting an update on the project.

12. Housing Needs Survey: Now been delivered.

13. Neighbourhood Plan: Update following meeting with Kirkwells Planning Consultants on 11th February 2015. Members felt meeting was productive. Kirkwells had looked at the suggestions put forward at the previous meeting and suggested policies for inclusion in the plan. Members were asked to identify specific areas they do not want to see developed. Members were also asked to identify green spaces that have a specific community function that need to be preserved and 'scenic views' that also need to be protected. The protection of community facilities and amenities can be built into the plan and used as emerging policy. Generic policies had been included in the draft and there is also an option to include other policies with specific detail for Churchill and Blakedown. At the end of the Plan there will be 'Parish Actions', which are actions to take the plan forward for the future. Next meeting due to take place 24th February 2015.

14. Reports for information: a) Parish web site; nothing to report. b) Handyman/Lengthsman; already covered. c) Blakedown Station; no further update on footbridge. The Chairman advised that dates have been offered for a visit to the operations centre at Saltley. d) 192a bus service; remove from agenda

15. Planning and Development Control:

a) Planning Applications Received

15/0038/FULL 13 New Wood Lane, Blakedown - Proposed access entrance, gates, dwarf wall and railings – No objection

b) Planning Applications Neighbouring Parish

15/0032/FULL Gateways, Belbroughton Road, Blakedown - Demolition of existing house and the erection of a new 5 bedroom house with garaging, granny flat and ancillary facilities – Parish Council comments that it is a shame to lose the existing property and strongly recommends restrictions are put in place so that no further development can take place on site.

c) Planning Applications Prior Notice of Application

The Swan Inn, Birmingham Road, Blakedown – no further discussion until application received

d) Planning Approvals

15/0017/TCA St James the Great Church, Churchill

Remove 4 branches from a Yew overhanging the S.W. corner of the Church

e) Late Planning Applications Received

15/0059/FULL Laguna Churchill Lane, Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension (Re-submission of 14/0669/FULL – This property is on the Local List 'where feasible and appropriate, proposals for development and other works will be regulated, requested or encouraged for their conservation; including their sympathetic repair, alteration, extension or conversion' (Local Plan). 'The renovations or alterations of buildings or structures identified on the Local Heritage List should be designed sensitively, and with careful regard to the heritage asset's historical and architectural interest and setting (draft Neighbourhood Plan – emerging policy). Note – The property is actually called 'Lacuna'

15/0074/FULL The Spinney, Wagon Lane – Two storey side extension – Curtilage of property on plan is inaccurate. No other comments.

16. Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:

- a) Members noted bank balances at 12th February 2015
- b) Members approved payments as per the list with the addition of £600 to Mark Jones for Lengthsman, Wyre Forest Contract and Handyman work.
- c) Members noted current budget report issued with agenda

17. Land adjacent to 77 Belbroughton Road, Blakedown: Chairman to try and progress legal transfer of land to Parish Council.

Clerk asked to contact Birmingham City Council to see if they are interested in transferring the strip of land alongside the sports field including the drive into the ownership of the Parish Council.

18. Highway and Street Lighting Matters: Some street lights are on all day. Cllr Keys providing Clerk with details of street light numbers so action can be taken to resolve the issue. Street light in Gladstone Place not working, has been reported to Barratt's (currently un-adopted highway)

19. Churchill War Memorial: Grant application – Cllr Keys still progressing application, pre-application stage complete but he has now been asked to complete additional application forms and provide more historical information and photographs

20. Sports Committee: Use and maintenance of the car park and drive were discussed (car park belongs to the Sports Committee) – Clerk asked to contact Worcestershire County Council Education Department to have skip removed, remedial action is likely to be needed to the tarmac.

21. Parish Council Elections Thursday 7th May 2015: Timetable for elections was noted.

22. Correspondence Report: Correspondence report issued with the agenda was noted.

23. Clerks Report: The Clerks report issued with agenda was noted

24. Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas: None

25. Date of Next Meeting: 18th March 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion, Blakedown Sports Centre, Birmingham Road, Blakedown

The meeting closed at 10.22 pm.

Dated this 18th March 2015

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Chairman to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council

Notes of Public Question Time

Cllr Long left the room at 19.37 p.m. at the commencement of Public Question Time whilst the proposed application relating to The Swan Public House was discussed.

The Swan – prior notice of planning application

The Chairman gave an overview of the current situation with the prior notification of a planning application relating to The Swan Public House and outlined the role of the Parish Council. The Chairman advised that the applicants had been asked to attend the Parish Council Meeting to discuss the application in open forum but declined the invitation. They did, however, say they would be willing to meet in private but as residents are entitled to attend Parish Council Meetings this would not be feasible. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council must listen to all residents' views and act accordingly and can only object on material planning considerations.

Points Raised by Local Residents

1. Query on how local parishioners opinion is gauged. 650 signatures have already been collected on a petition against the application. Chairman advised that a petition only counts as one objection and residents should be advised to write in individually and make their Councillors aware of their feelings. Both Councillors and members of the public are entitled to attend planning committee meetings at Wyre Forest District Council to make their views know.
2. Webmaster to be asked to set up a page for public comments to be added on the website and comments should also be put on the WFDC planning portal. Residents can also write direct to the Planning Officer at Wyre Forest District Council.
3. A letter from the tenants at The Swan Public House was read out by Cllr Humble.
4. The letter distributed by Polity states that the tenants at The Swan are compliant with the intended application but that is not the case. The letter was not circulated to the whole village.
5. A local resident had telephoned Lee Jameson at Polity and had been told that 'everyone wants a Co-Op' when she told him that she didn't and hadn't been consulted anyway, he put the telephone receiver down.
6. Noted that there are two trees on the site, one on the car park and one at rear of The Swan. Feels the Co-Op would disadvantage the village shop and wants both the village shop and pub to stay. Feels the proposed development would destroy the village.
7. Request for Parish Council not to take into account the outdated information in the Parish Plan regarding the provision of shops. New questionnaire has now been received.
8. New questionnaire asks if residents want shops, what weight will be given to the answers on the questionnaire in light of this proposed planning application.
9. There had previously been four shops in the village, if the village needs more shops they why did we not support the existing shops before looking to build a new one.
10. The community will be looking at ways of fighting the proposed application including looking at other sites where the same development has been proposed. Flyers will be circulated and information can be displayed on the Parish Council website.

11. Concern that if the proposed development does not go ahead, The Swan itself will be turned into a Co-Op as had happened with The Broadway at Norton.

12. Concern about the loss of The Swan, the shop and actual Post Office business which would be a huge loss to the village.

13. For information the Co-Op has closed in Hagley and the Red Lion at Cookley has been changed to a shop.

Chairman advised residents to begin preparing their objections in anticipation of the planning application being received. Cllr Hayward advised residents that although a petition is good, it doesn't have the same weight as a personal letter.

Mark Garnier MP has requested a mandate in the form of a petition from the residents of Churchill and Blakedown so that he can add his support

A standard letter template will be made available to collect from Crumbs for residents to use. Letters need to be sent in individually.

Cllr Marcus Hart, Leader of Wyre Forest District Council advised residents that a planning application had not yet been received by the planning department and that any action residents wished to take should wait until the application is actually received.

Cllr North requested that residents return the housing survey.

The discussion regarding the proposed planning application at The Swan Public House now concluded, Cllr Long re-joined the Meeting at 8.16 .p.m. for the remainder of Public Question Time.

Other issues raised as follows

1. Bench at graveyard has been removed to front of Church
2. Gateways planning application in Broome Parish – on agenda
3. The Swan planning application – on agenda
4. 13 New Wood Lane – also on agenda
5. Dropped kerb – Brookside Way
6. Streetlight 17 Mill Close – still not done
7. Plastic bollards on Birmingham Road opposite School in need of replacement
8. Toilet trailer on Millennium Green provided by Barratts