

## CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015, in the Pavilion, Blakedown Sports Centre, Birmingham Road, Blakedown.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr R Shade, Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs P Hayward, Cllrs Mrs. S Fowler, B Hession, R Keys, J W Long, J Lorton, and P Mellor

In attendance: Angela Preece - Clerk to the Parish Council, Cllr I Hardiman, Cllr S Clee, Lengthsman Mark Jones and 3 members of the public.

**1. Chairman's Opening Remarks:** Chairman advised that, as previously discussed, he would be attempting to complete the business of this meeting prior to 10.00 p.m. and Members should be aware that he may ask them to be brisk or to move on if a matter has already been discussed. The Chairman wishes to deal with agenda items as expediently as possible whilst still allowing Members time to speak but will not be adding time slot restrictions to each agenda item as he feels this would be unfair

**2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Marcus Hart

**3. Declarations of Interest:** The Chairman declared an interest in agenda item 15 a) planning application 15/0296/Tree The Avenue (Land at the rear of 4 Roxall Close). No other interests were declared by Councillors other than those previously declared.

**4. Community Policing:** Police Report circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Keys felt an explanation should be given by the Police regarding the high figures in the 'offences against the person' category. The Chairman agreed that a breakdown should be given showing the offences relating to the Parish, though this is sometimes covered by the email accompanying the Police Report.

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

**Co-option to Casual Vacancy for Churchill Ward:** Members voted unanimously to co-opt Ann-Marie Lindop to the Parish Council, the declaration of acceptance of office was completed and Cllr Lindop joined the Parish Council to take part in the remainder of the meeting.

**5. Dispensations:** No new requests for dispensations received, previously granted dispensations still in place.

**6. District and County Council Matters:** Cllr Clee advised that there was a small sum of money at his disposal for footway repairs, please advise him of any possible locations via the Clerk. £35,000 had been allocated over a two year period for road improvements, tarmacing and resurfacing works on small lanes. Again, please pass any requests for work to be carried out to Cllr Clee via the Clerk. Cllr Hardiman advised that the elections had now been completed following the Arley Kings by-election and the district now comprises of 33 Councillors.

**7. Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were approved.

**8. Lengthsman Report:** Dog bags; the provision of dog bags is going well but may need to look a different design as in some locations bags are being removed in bulk. Litter and benches; working well, bins being used but the one on the Village Green needs replacing with a larger one. Fly-tipped building rubble in Iverley Lane has been removed. Speed cameras need some attention, Clerk to contact Westcotec. Overgrown hedges encroaching onto the footpath Birmingham Road/Churchill Lane junction. Grass cutting; problems in Sculthorpe Road with parked vehicles obstructing grass cutting. Chairman stated the same problem existed in

Station Road with commuters vehicle's being parked on the grass. Members agreed that the Parish Council should produce a polite notice to ask vehicle owners not to park on the grass. Mark Jones reported the damaged drains at Churchill crossroads which appeared to have been done around the time Severn Trent were carrying out their works.

**9. Car Park:** Cllr Long advised that he had received an email from Linda Collis at Wyre Forest District Council stating that, (following her confirmation that the District Council would be seeking £80,000 for the transfer of the asset), she had agreed to clarify the situation with the new administration of the District Council as to why an element of the Parish Support Fund application, seeking to support the transfer of the car park had been turned down last year. She has now spoken to the Leader of the Council and he is keen to progress negotiations to transfer the asset to the Parish Council. He has agreed to fund £3,000 from the 2014/2015 Parish Support Fund towards professional fees to progress negotiations. She will set up a meeting shortly for discussions relating to this issue.

**10. Signal Box:** Cllr Fowler has re-submitted the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Outcome should be heard by end of July. The request is for 75% of funds needed to re-build the signal box shell, in the name of the Parish Council. Ownership would then be transferred to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation who would have access to more funding, the building would then be run as a local history centre for the Historical Society, they have agreed to be the custodian of the signal box. The meeting with the Norman Dawson Trust seemed positive but an outcome is still awaited.

**11. Housing Needs Survey:** Members were totally dissatisfied with the survey and felt it was just raw data and no analysis of the information gathered had been done. The Chairman has already written to Wyre Forest District Council to say that the survey, in its present format, is unacceptable and that an explanation is required as to how the conclusions have been reached. Cllr Long requested reassurance from Cllr Clee and Cllr Hardiman that this information would not be in the public domain until the Parish Council was happy with it. Cllr Hardiman agreed to make some enquiries and reply back to the Clerk.

**12. Neighbourhood Plan:** Further discussion had taken place since last meeting on the draft report circulated in May, incorporating additional comments received. Some queries in the draft report were sent to Claire Parker at Kirkwells. Cllr Long is applying for the next tranche of funds so that we can go to formal consultation.

**13. Reports for information:** a) Parish Website – more information has been added to the site and will be updated regularly. b) Blakedown Station - remove from agenda. c) Meeting dates for the 2015-2016 municipal year noted.

**14. Committee System:** Deferred to next meeting.

Cllr Hardiman and Cllr Clee left the meeting at 8.55 p.m.

#### **15. Planning and Development Control:**

a) Planning Applications Received

15/0284/FULL - ISMERE GRANGE FARM STOURBRIDGE ROAD ISMERE – no objection

15/0297/TCA - GLEBE VIEW COTTAGE CHURCHILL LANE CHURCHILL - fell ash, cut back overhanging branches of three silver birch to property line or new growth and reduce hedge by 1 metre – no objection providing the Arboricultural Office is involved.

15/0296/TREE - THE AVENUE (LAND AT THE REAR OF 4 ROXALL CLOSE) BLAKEDOWN Horse Chestnut - Crown Lift to 5 metres and reduce lower crown over hanging garden by 2.5 metres - no objection

15/0287/FULL - 10 MILL CLOSE BLAKEDOWN KIDDERMINSTER

Proposed first floor side extension and porch roof. Single storey rear extension - no objection

b) Planning Applications Approved

15/0182/FULL - ALBRIGHTON WOODLAND HUNT KENNELS AND 1 AND 2 HURCOTT LANE HURCOTT VILLAGE - Temporary of a residential caravan (12 months) during refurbishment of existing dwellings

15/0059/FULL - LACUNA CHURCHILL KIDDERMINSTER - Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension (Resubmission of 14/0669/FULL). Construction of detached double garage.

15/0121/FULL - LAND OFF STAKENBRIDGE LANE STAKENBRIDGE CHURCHILL - Replacement stable block

c) Planning Applications Refused

15/0161/FULL - THE SPINNEY WAGGON LANE KIDDERMINSTER  
Two storey side extension

**16. Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:**

a) Members noted bank balances at 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015

b) Members approved payments as per the list with the addition of the following payment  
Mark Jones £610

c) The following payments were ratified

28.5.15 M Jones Lengthsman (May Lengthsman) 001362 £200.00

28.5.15 AON Insurance 001363 £942.85

d) Parish Council Bank Accounts. Members resolved to transfer Parish Council bank accounts to Unity Trust Bank.

e) Confidential Matters: The Clerk left the meeting whilst issues relating to the Clerk's contract of employment and the Lengthsman contract were discussed.

**17. Highway and Street Lighting Matters:** Contractors have been in the area servicing some street lights. Clerk still looking into contract with Prysmian. Chairman received complaint regarding lockable gate from Gladstone Place, it had been agreed by planners there would be a lockable gate. Pot holes at the top of A456/Station Drive in need of repair.

**18. Churchill War Memorial:** Cllr Keys advised that the work cleaning the Memorial should be taking place later in the week.

**19. Correspondence for Information:** Correspondence report issued with the Agenda was noted.

**20. Clerks Report on ongoing items:** The Clerk's report issued with the Agenda was noted.

**21. Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas:** Hillcrest Stables – check compliance with planning application. Signs purchased for play area.

**22. Date of Next Meeting:** – 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion, Blakedown Sports Centre, Birmingham Road, Blakedown

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015

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Chairman to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council

Notes of Public Question Time

1. Query regarding access at Gladstone Place
2. Removal of hedge in Conservation Area in Churchill.