

CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th July 2015, in the Pavilion, Blakedown Sports Centre, Birmingham Road, Blakedown.

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

In attendance: Angela Preece - Clerk to the Parish Council, District Cllr Stephen Williams and PCSO Niall Ryland.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks: The Chairman stated he wished the meeting to be conducted in the same manner as the previous meeting and aimed to finish business in approximately two hours. He was aware there were two urgent items of business to attend to, one being out of date Standing Orders and the other to implement a grants policy. The Chairman had attended a training session since the last meeting on managing the Council which he had found useful.

2. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs P Hayward and Cllr Marcus Hart.

3. Declarations of Interest: No other interests were declared by Councillors other than those previously declared.

4. Community Policing: PCSO Niall Ryland gave the Police Report, paper copy circulated prior to the meeting. Most offences in June had centered on burglary non-dwellings, higher levels than usual in Spennells and Chaddesley but Blakedown was also affected. 3 burglary non-dwelling offences had taken place in Blakedown, mostly in Birmingham Road or around it. Since June there had been an increase in dwelling burglaries in the space of a week and an incident of rogue traders in Harvington. Elevated spike of rural crime that is common at this time of year. Cllr Mrs. Fowler enquired if improvements could be made to the speed with which the information is circulated via Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Keys asked for this to be added as an agenda item for the next meeting for further discussions. PCSO Ryland said he would investigate further and provide the details of how to register on the dotMailer system for the Clerk to circulate. Cllr Keys stated that looking at the figures it appeared that violent crime accounted for 30% of the incidents on the report. PCSO Ryland explained that figures recorded in the 'violence against the person' category did not always mean actual physical violence but could include malicious communications, harassment and domestic issues.

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

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

6. District and County Council Matters: District Councillor Stephen Williams provided his report. With regard to the Parishing of Kidderminster - the Local Advisory Poll taken at the last elections showed that 80% of those polled were in favour of creating a new Kidderminster Town Council. This is not legally binding and will be subject to a decision by the District Council on the 29th July 2015, most likely endorsed at its meeting in September 2015. This Kidderminster Town Centre works are progressing well. The Amtek factory being built on the former Lawrence's site is progressing well and Specsavers will be building their new premises on the old Romwire Site on Stourport Road. Cllr Williams is happy to say that unemployment figures are continuing to fall locally. The new leisure centre construction has started and should be completed within a year. The new medical centre construction has begun in Dog Lane, Bewdley. Wyre Forest District Council now charges the developers for the wheelie bins provided to them.

7. Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th June 2015 were approved.

8. Lengthsman Report: Lengthsman timesheets and report provided via the Clerk. Cllr Long reported that there had been some damage to a bench and litter bin, the Clerk confirmed she was in the process of trying to make claims for compensation. Cllr Long is concerned that the arrangements for the emptying of the container sited on the sports centre car park is not adequate. The container is being emptied on a fortnightly basis though weekly emptying had been agreed to take place during the course of the day, thus avoiding School start and finish times. Clerk asked to write to Wyre Forest District Council to state that the Parish Council feels that emptying the bins fortnightly is not satisfactory and that weekly servicing of the container is required. Grass cutting; issues with the Lengthsman being unable to complete some areas of grass cutting due to vehicles being parked on verges.

9. Car Park: Cllr Long and Cllr Mellor to arrange for a survey of the site to be carried out following which a meeting with Linda Collis will be arranged to progress the transfer of the car park to the Parish Council. Cllr Hart is providing funds for the cost of the survey.

10. Signal Box: Application for funding with the Heritage Lottery Fund, decision should be given by end of month. A sum of £25,000 has been granted from the Norman Dawson Trust. The Council's solicitor is still dealing with the application for the creation of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission.

11. Housing Needs Survey: No further update since last meeting. Clerk asked to contact Sally Horne at Wyre Forest District Council for progress report

12. Neighbourhood Plan: Draft Neighbourhood Plan sent to Maria Dunn at Wyre Forest District Council for comment.

13. Reports for information: Parish Website. Costs for creating a dedicated Neighbourhood Plan website have been included in the funding application. Separate quotes have been received to create and update that site. Cllr Hession felt the existing website should be promoted more widely.

14. Delegation of Powers: Chairman explained the reasoning behind his wish to introduce delegated powers to Members so that they may deal with items of business and report back to the Parish Council when necessary. Any decisions regarding expenditure would need to be made by full Council. Cllr Fowler is already leading on the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Mellor agreed to lead on planning matters. Cllr Long agreed to work with Cllr Lorton on localism issues.

Cllr Williams left the meeting at 8.50 p.m.

15. Local Council Award Scheme: Members decided to look at the scheme in more detail and carry over to the next meeting

16. Planning and Development Control:

a) Planning Applications Received

15/0360/TREE - 7 BROOKSIDE WAY BLAKEDOWN KIDDERMINSTER
Fell two Alder; Thin a Goat Willow by 20% and reduce by 1.5 metres - no objection

15/0335/FULL - 1 WATERWORKS COTTAGES STOURBRIDGE ROAD ISMERE
Single storey side extension and provision of pitched roof over existing garage – no objection

15/0371/FULL - 33 BELBROUGHTON ROAD BLAKEDOWN KIDDERMINSTER
Single storey extension to rear - no objection

15/0374/FULL - PATCHWAY 13 NEW WOOD LANE BLAKEDOWN KIDDERMINSTER
Amendments to rear footprint and front bars as approved under ref 13/0204/FULL - no objection

b) Planning Applications Approved

15/0243/FULL - 4 HALFSHIRE LANE BLAKEDOWN KIDDERMINSTER
Conservatory to the side elevation and new garden wall with gate

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

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

17 (i) Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:

- a) Members noted bank balances at 5th June 2015
- b) Members approved payments as per the list with the addition of the following payment
Mark Jones £770

17 (ii) Highway and Street Lighting Matters: Dropped kerb at top of Brookside Way discussed. Surface of A456 outside School has been patched, the bollard in the middle of the road has been damaged again and a query was raised regarding the re-painting of yellow lines. Cllr Fowler will provide a report to the next meeting on traffic data provided by David Hunter or Worcestershire County Highways Department.

18. Churchill War Memorial: Cllr Keys advised that the work cleaning the Memorial had been completed and he was very pleased with the result. Members asked Cllr Keys to go ahead and arrange for the additional name to be added at a cost of £45.

19. Land adjacent to 77 Belbroughton Road: Cllr Hession gave an update and established the signing arrangements for the Parish Council.

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

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

22. Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas: Cllr Fowler will report back to the next meeting on traffic data as an agenda item. Cllr Lindop asked for the footpath from Churchill Lane to Mill Lane to be referred to Cllr Clee for repairs from his budget. Cllr Lorton advised that he had met with officers from Wyre Forest District Council to mark the site at the entrance to the car park where the larger litter bin is to be sited.

23. Date of Next Meeting: – 19th August 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion, Blakedown Sports Centre, Birmingham Road, Blakedown

The meeting closed at 9.44 pm.

Dated this 19th August 2015

Chairman to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council

Notes of Public Question Time

A list of overgrown footpaths, potholes, street lighting issues and others will be provided to the Clerk for action. Overgrown bridlepath to A456 from Stakenbridge Lane had been reported direct to County by Cllr Keys and was cleared the following day.