

## CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015, in the Pavilion, Blakedown Sports Centre, Birmingham Road, Blakedown.

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

In attendance: Angela Preece - Clerk to the Parish Council, District Councillor Marcus Hart, two members of the public and PCSO Niall Ryland.

**1. Chairman's Opening Remarks:** The Chairman confirmed the resignation of Cllr Ann Lindop and whilst this meant there were now two vacancies, the Parish Council would only be allowed to co-opt one vacancy this evening. The Chairman had also been advised that there had been an appeal against the refusal of the planning application relating to the Land at Station Yard. Following recent training, the Chairman had asked for a copy of the Worcestershire Code of Conduct to be issued to Members along with revised Standing Orders based on the NALC model template.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr B Hession, Cllr S Williams, Cllr I Hardiman and Mark Jones.

**3. Declarations of Interest:** No further declarations of interest were made, previously made declarations (for which a dispensation has been granted) still in place.

**4. Community Policing:** PCSO Niall Ryland presented the Police Report. Since the report was prepared there had been 9 violent crimes in two separate incidents, one theft from the School and one theft from a motor vehicle. The School theft was dealt with internally and the motor vehicle theft related to tools from the back of the vehicle. Six assaults were recorded taking place at two public houses, these incidents had been recorded as common assault. Some complaints were received on bonfire night about a joint fireworks party, to which Police attended. There had also been one incident of obstructing a PC by falsifying identification in order to avoid arrest. The Police surgery outside the Primary School, that day, had been well attended and another surgery is planned for December. PCSO Ryland was advised by Members that a waste bin had been stolen from the Millennium Green, there was unusual car activity in New Woods Lane and that advertising banners had been removed from railings in the village.

PCSO Ryland advised that he was unaware of any further reports of vehicles being driven in an anti-social manner on the Parish Rooms car park as reported at the previous meeting.

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

**5. Dispensations:** Previously granted dispensations still in place.

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

#### a) Planning Applications Received

15/0590/FULL & 15/0591/LIST - COURT COTTAGE CHURCHILL

Replace existing kitchen roof with pitched and enclose path between kitchen and garage - no objection

15/0593/FULL - THE SPINNEY WAGGON LANE ISMERE KIDDERMINSTER

Extensions and alterations - no objection but Wyre Forest District Council need to ensure that this is not inappropriate development in the green belt.

12/0411/LIST - PARKHALL BIRMINGHAM ROAD BLAKEDOWN KIDDERMINSTER  
Extensions and alterations to Keepers Cottage including 'reinstatement' of first floor level, chimneys, loading doors and windows and addition of single storey extension to west elevation – no objection

b) Planning Decisions received

15/0512/TREE - 38 MILL LANE BLAKEDOWN KIDDERMINSTER  
Remove hedge, which consists of 7 Laurel and 5 Hazel – approved.

15/0371/FULL - 33 BELBROUGHTON ROAD BLAKEDOWN  
Single storey extension to rear – approved.

c) Planning Appeals

14/0661/OUTL - LAND AT STATION YARD, OFF LYNWOOD DRIVE, BLAKEDOWN  
Appeal starting date 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**7. Highways, Traffic, Street Lighting, Car Park and Parking Matters:** a) There were more people parking on the verge in Station Drive. County Councillor Clee has offered to call a meeting to discuss traffic issues. More traffic censuses are being planned by County Highways, Cllr Fowler had provided five locations where the surveys should be taking place. Cllr Hart had advised the Parish Council of his concerns regarding speeding traffic in Stakenbridge Lane. The Chairman believes the Parish Council should look into purchasing solar powered or mains operated vehicle activated signs and agreed to take on that task himself.

b) The Avenue car park – the Chairman, Cllr Long, Cllr Mellor and the Clerk met with Officers of Wyre Forest District Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and discussed arrangements for managing the car park that the District Council could assist with, if the car park were transferred to the Parish Council, by way of a service level agreement. Cllr Long would like to look at different ways of operating the car park to increase revenue, which is currently approximately £1,200 per year to offset against costs which, the Parish Council is advised, currently stand at £4,000 per year.

Cllr Mellor believes that if parking charges were made on the car park it would deter people from using it and that a better option would be to offer free parking to encourage people to use the car park. Double yellow lines in Station Road would prevent people from parking there and hopefully channel parking onto the car park. The option of double yellow lines had initially been rejected by County Highways they may be open to further discussions and a meeting with County Councillor Stephen Clee has been offered. Cllr Mrs Fowler agrees that it is unlikely the car park would be well used if charges were made.

The Chairman suggested the Parish Council should continue discussing these issues and feels that the introduction of parking charges led to the car park becoming an under-used asset. He feels it is vitally important to get some restrictions on parking elsewhere in the village and we should continue discussions on this issue but must be wary of not acquiring something that would be a liability to maintain.

Cllr Long believes the car park would be an asset for the village if ownership is transferred to the Parish Council and confirmed it is currently registered as an asset of community value. Cllr Long believes the Parish Council should acquire the car park and operate it for a period of 12 months whilst consulting with local residents as to how it should be managed going forward. It is possible there may be funds in the Localism Fund to cover operational costs for the first twelve months, whilst decisions are made as to the longer term use of the car park. Cllr Long thanked Cllr Hart for providing funds to cover professional fees which allowing the Parish Council to explore the issue further.

c) Street lighting – Cllr Lorton reported street light number 17 in Mill Close has been repaired and is now working.

**8. District and County Council Matters:** Cllr Marcus Hart provided the report. The new Kidderminster Town Council will be formed as of the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015. Wyre Forest District Council is in negotiations to transfer assets such as the Town Hall and Market Street toilets. Devolution – Wyre Forest will not be joining the West Midlands combined authority. Syrian refugees – Wyre Forest District Council has agreed to take up to 200 refugees as part of the vulnerable person relocation scheme. 12 months funding will be provided from Central Government and the Local Government Authority is negotiating a 5 year deal for funding to cover ongoing costs. Economic regeneration remains a priority and public realm works in Kidderminster Town Centre are now taking shape. The master plan for the Eastern gateway of Kidderminster has just begun, the vision moving forward would be for residential properties for urban living mixed with café's and retail. Work is planned for the Worcester Street area to make it more accessible, including on-street parking. Hendersons have planning permission to extend Weaver's Wharf, negotiations continue regarding the demolition of Crown House. Building of the new Leisure Centre at Silverwoods is on target and on budget, it is due to open next Summer. Work continues on the Hoobrook link road.

Localism – there are still funds available to support localism.

Stakenbridge Lane – speeding traffic issues have been reported to the Police who will be monitoring the area. The matter has also been raised with the Safer Roads Partnership who are in discussion with Worcestershire County Council to look at possible solutions. Speeding traffic on the A456 has also been raised with the Safer Roads Partnership who are going to review their enforcement procedures in January 2016.

Station Yard planning appeal – Wyre Forest District Council will strongly defend their decision to refuse the application.

**9. Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 were approved.

**10. Lengthsman and Environmental Maintenance:** Lengthsman is still grass cutting at the moment. He is concerned that the waste containers on the sports centre car park are being used by others and that there will not be enough capacity for the waste generated by emptying the litter bins. The containers were provided by Wyre Forest District Council for use with the litter collection contract only and are not for general use. Cllr Long recorded his thanks to Mark Jones for coming to sweep the leaves from the pavement in Birmingham Road on Remembrance Sunday morning.

**11. Casual Vacancy:** Members resolved to co-opt Neil Rowlinson to fill the vacancy in Churchill Ward. The Chairman thanked both candidates for their applications.

Cllr Hart left the meeting at 9.25 p.m.

**12. Charitable Incorporate Organisation:** No further updates.

**13. Signal Box:** The Heritage Lottery Fund is seeking publicity for the signal box project, Mark Garnier MP will be on site on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to meet with representative and have publicity photographs taken.

**14. Housing Needs Survey:** No further updates.

**15. Neighbourhood Plan:** Currently out to consultation, there had been a printing error on the flyer with the website address. 350 correction letters have been issued and notices have been placed on notice boards at various locations throughout the Parish plus the Parish website.

**16. Reports for information:** a) Parish website – still looking at alternative provider to manage website. b) Neighbourhood Watch - no further updates.

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

- a) Members noted bank balances at the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015
- b) Members approved payments as per the list with the addition of the following payments; Mark Jones for Lengthsman and contract work £649, Worcestershire CALC £60 for training and Robert Acton Products £48 for litter picking hoops. Cllr Fowler and Cllr Mellor agreed to authorise the online payments.
- c) Members approved an increase in the Clerk's salary, one increment to £9.90 per hour following the successful completion of the Certificate in Local Council Administration.
- d) Budget: Members received the first draft of the budget proposals for the 2016/2017 financial year and resolved to create a Finance Committee, comprising of the Chairman, Cllr Mrs Fowler and Cllr Long to continue work on the budget. A Finance Committee Meeting would be arranged shortly.

Cllr Mellor left the meeting at 10.00 p.m.

- e) Grant Application: Members approved a grant application from Churchill and Blakedown Millennium Green Trust in the sum of £270.

**18. Code of Conduct and Standing Orders:** Members agreed to adopt the Worcestershire Model Code of Conduct and deferred consideration of the draft Standing Orders to the next meeting.

**19. Clerk's Report:** Clerks report on ongoing items noted. Cllr Long asked for some outstanding issues to be followed up, including the possible transfer of the ownership of the driveway to the Sports Centre.

**20. Emergency Services Hub Consultation:** Members considered their joint response to the consultation.

**21. Correspondence for Information:** Members noted the correspondence report circulated with the agenda.

**22. Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas:** Cllr Mrs Fowler advised that the issue of an extended garden at Gladstone Place which included taking down the hedge had been raised with Development Control. When planning permission was granted, the report to the Planning Committee had stated the hedge should be maintained and any damage to it needed to be remedied over the next five-year period. The matter has been left with the Planning Enforcement team to resolve.

**23. Date of Next Meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion, Blakedown Sports Centre, Birmingham Road, Blakedown.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015

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Chairman to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council

Notes of Public Question Time

Two members of the public were in attendance; the following issue was raised.

It was noted that only one person had attended the Sports Centre meeting.