

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> October 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, Mrs. A Lindop B Hession, J W Long and P Mellor.

In attendance: Angela Preece - Clerk to the Parish Council, District Councillor S Williams and four members of the public, PCSO Rebecca Ruston.

**1. Chairman's Opening Remarks:** The Chairman, having attended the Chairman's Meeting at Wyre Forest District Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015, advised that the District Council is overburdened with enforcement cases at the present time, with approximately 250 received this year. The Chairman had raised issues regarding Gladstone Place at the meeting with John Baggott. The Chairman stated he would like to see more Councillors involved in the work of the Council as it was not good practice to have just a few Councillors dealing with the majority of the workload.

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

**3. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Long made a declaration of interest in agenda item 9 for which a dispensation request has been received and will be dealt with under agenda item 5. Other interests previously declared by Councillors remain in place.

**4. Community Policing:** During the months of September there were 12 crimes reported. 2 were burglary/dwellings which took place during the day time, one on Birmingham Road, the other on Wannerton Road. 1 theft from motor vehicle and 2 people were arrested in connection with drugs in the Waggon Lane area. The Police are attending the Parish two or three times per week and are looking to hold a mobile Police surgery once a month.

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

**5. Dispensations:** Previously granted dispensations still in place. Cllr Long was granted a dispensation to participate in the discussion on any agenda items relating to the Avenue and also the Avenue car park (item 9 on this agenda).

**6. District and County Council Matters:** District Councillor Stephen Williams provided the report. The District Council will not be pursuing an interest in joining a West Midlands combined authority but Worcestershire District Leaders and the Leader of Worcestershire County Council have been involved in discussions regarding a devolution deal for Worcestershire. On the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 the Charter Trustees of Kidderminster will cease to exist and a new Parish Council for Kidderminster will be formed. It is expected that its first decision will be to change the name to 'Town Council'. Elections for the new Council will take place in May next year

**7. Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were approved.

**8. Lengthsman and Environmental Maintenance Reports:** Mark Jones said there had been many changes during this year and hoped that Members could see the improvement to the area as he was also now doing the grass cutting on behalf of the Parish Council. There is still a large amount of litter to be collected and he welcomed the services of the voluntary litter pickers. The supply of dog bags is being well used though some residents are still failing to clear up after their dogs. He will now be able to concentrate on refurbishing the benches as the grass cutting season is coming to an end. There has been an increase in fly-tipping in Rocky

Lane. He is working with the Clerk to get the Vehicle Activated Signs back in service. The Chairman advised that he wished the Parish Council to look at possibly purchasing some new solar powered signs which might prove more cost effective over time as an alternative to repairing the existing ones.

**9. Highways, Traffic, Street Lighting, Car Park and Parking Matters:** Photographs showing parking problems in Station Drive have been forwarded to the Highways Authority. The Avenue car park – Members resolved to discuss the agenda item under confidential matters and deferred that discussion to end of Meeting. All street lighting issues have now been referred to Prysman for repair.

**10. Charitable Incorporate Organisation:** Clerk to circulate notes from SLCC course to Members. Some additional information is required by Unity Trust to the bank account to be opened.

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

**12. Neighbourhood Plan:** Members voted to approve the consultation version of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation period will commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 and will continue until the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015. A specific website will be set up for the consultation with a 'link' from the Parish website. Flyers will be sent out to all village residents and draft hard copies of the plan will be available from some Councillors and specific locations throughout the Parish for residents to peruse.

**13. Reports for information:** Parish Website – Gordon Stevens is going to look at providing the Parish Council with some costs for an outside company to run the website. Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Mellor is receiving updates and is forwarding on the emails relating to our Parish.

**14. Tourism:** Cllr Hession agreed to work at putting a list together of the information which visitors to Blakedown would find useful.

**15. Planning and Development Control:**

Planning Applications Received

15/0512/TREE - 38 MILL LANE BLAKEDOWN KIDDERMINSTER

Remove hedge, which consists of 7 Laurel and 5 Hazel. Approved on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Planning Applications Approved

15/9026/NMA - LACUNA CHURCHILL KIDDERMINSTER

Reposition garage. Date Received: 17 September 2015. Decision Date: 30 September 2015

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

a) Members noted bank balances at the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

b) Members approved payments as per the list with the addition of a payment to Mark Jones of £946

c) Bank reconciliation for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 was approved by the Chairman

d) Members noted the budget report for the 2015/16 financial year and agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Mrs A Lindop would meeting shortly, at a date to be arranged, to make a first draft of the budget for the 2016/17 financial year.

**17. Clerk's Report:** The Clerk's report issued with the agenda was noted.

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

**19. Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas:** Cllr Mrs. Fowler and Cllr Long gave an update on the current position with the signal box.

**Confidential Matters brought forward from Agenda item 9:** Members resolved to defer further action on The Avenue car park until after the meeting with Wyre Forest District Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**20. Date of Next Meeting:** –18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion, Blakedown Sports Centre, Birmingham Road, Blakedown.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015

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Chairman to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council

Notes of Public Question Time

Four members of the public were in attendance, the following issues were raised

1. Vehicles being driven recklessly and anti-social behavior causing nuisance to local residents on the Millennium Green car park. These issues have been reported to the Police.
2. Local volunteer litter pickers attended to introduce themselves to Members. The Parish Council agreed to provide high visibility jackets and expressed gratitude for the work being done.
3. Zig-zags road markings outside School still not done.
4. Building rubble on grass verge in Churchill Lane.
5. Parish Council were advised there will be a consultation on the closure of crossing over the railway line near the Viaduct, sometime in the future.