

CHURCHILL AND BLAKEDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 15th November 2017 in the Norman Dawson Sports Pavilion, Blakedown.

PRESENT: Chairman Cllr R. Shade, Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs P Hayward and Cllrs R T Benney, B Hession, J W Long, J Lorton, P Mellor and N Rowlinson.

In attendance: Angela Preece - Clerk to the Parish Council, District Cllr I Hardiman, PCSO R Ruston and one member of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting and, at his invitation, Alexandra Powell, the Community Led Housing Co-ordinator for Wyre Forest District Council gave a presentation on the concept of Community Led Housing. Members thanked her very much for her presentation.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks. The Chairman asked Members if they would consider deferring the December meeting until the following week, the 20th December 2017 instead of the 13th December 2017. An invitation had been received to attend Bromsgrove Area CALC meeting on the 13th December 2017 when Members from Worcestershire County Council were attending to speak about the Local Transport Plan. Members agreed to reschedule the next Parish Council meeting for the 20th December 2017.

2. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs S Fowler, District/County Cllr M Hart and District Cllr S Williams.

3. Declarations of Interest: Previously made declarations (for which a dispensation has been granted) still in place. Cllr Hession declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 13 a) planning application 17/0683/FULL 102 Belbroughton Road, Blakedown.

4. Community Policing: PCSO Rebecca Ruston gave her report. She advised that monthly reports would no longer be sent out. Crime statistics can be obtained from the website. Since the 1st October 2017 there had been a burglary at a dwelling in Mill Lane, criminal damage where tyres were slashed on a vehicle and a burglary at a business on Sugar Loaf Lane. There had been some incidents in Churchill where sheds had been broken into, plus theft from a motor vehicle. The Chairman thanked PCSO Ruston and PC Mustafa for attending the service on Remembrance Sunday.

The Meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**. Notes of which are appended to these minutes.

5. Community Led Housing: Presentation earlier in the Meeting.

6. Dispensations: No requests for a dispensation received by the Clerk.

7. Minutes: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th October 2017 were approved.

8. District and County Council Matters: Cllr Hardiman gave the report from County Councillor Marcus Hart. There is still a concern about Children's Services with some 760 children currently being 'Looked After' in Worcestershire, a rise of about 50 in the last six months. They are now working with Essex County Council to achieve better outcomes for those children. A £4 million investment for Kidderminster Railway Station has been approved, hopefully work will commence next year being completed in 2019. Circa £55 million of Government funding has been received to complete the Southern Link Road and dual Carrington Bridge.

The Local Transport Plan 4 was approved at the Full Council Meeting on the 9th November 2017. Cllr Hart will monitor any proposals affecting this area. Cllr Hart is still waiting to hear from Blakedown School as to when he might be able to visit them in his local member role. A site visit is planned for the 24th November 2017 to look at parking issues around Station Drive, speeding traffic on the A456 and other highways issues, Cllr Hart will be joined by an Officer from County Highways and Cllr Richard Benney.

Cllr Hardiman gave his District Councillor's Report. Lionfields redevelopment – the District Council is close to awarding the contract for a new cinema and leisure hub for the former Glades site. The District Council is in talks with Kidderminster College who have obtained the former Levine's site opposite Market Street car park. The College wishes to swap that piece of land for part of the Council's car park, adjacent to the College to allow them to increase the College footprint.

The District Council is proposing to invest to allow the Hub and Support Services to be consolidated on one site, which would be at Green Street. The existing offices at Green Street will be refurbished and new purpose-built units will be built for leasing purposes to provide income. This project will provide substantial savings, thus increasing income to ensure value for money for tax payers. Local Plan Review – a revised project plan has been agreed as the large number of responses have taken longer than anticipated to process, together with a greater time being required for the County Council to complete the 'traffic modelling' for highways requirements. An eight weeks consultation on the pre-submission document will take place in July 2018. The document will then be submitted to the Secretary of State, followed by the Examiner and the Planning Inspector in early 2019. The Plan will, hopefully, be adopted in late 2019.

Cllr Hardiman left the Meeting at 8.45 p.m.

9. Lengthsman & Environmental Maintenance Reports: a) Lengthsman: The new Lengthsman has taken over the role. b) Litter and grass cutting: New Contractor has taken over the role of emptying bins. There are still issues with the dog bag dispensers which Cllr Lorton is working on. There are also issues with black sacks full of dog faeces being left by the bin on the Millennium Green, the site will be monitored. c) Benches and bus shelters: Nothing further to report with regard to bus shelters. Clerk to identify a suitable bench for purchase.

10. Highways, Traffic, Car Park and Parking Matters: a) Highways/traffic/speed enforcement issues: (i) Village gateways. Now installed. (ii) Parking issues around the Railway Station and surrounding roads. Already covered. b) Vehicle Activated Signs: Ongoing.

Cllr Lorton raised an issue with the temporary pedestrian crossing on Birmingham Road which he felt was not in the correct location to be used by children going to and from School. The parking meter has been returned to the village car park but is not in use at the moment.

11. The Churchill and Blakedown Villages Trust: A mechanism for recharging costs to the Trust had been agreed. There is also a recommendation from the Finance Committee (to be dealt with under agenda item 16 c) that a sum of money be earmarked which may be needed to cover running costs for the signal box during this current financial year.

12. Wyre Forest Local Plan Review: The outline planning application for the former Lea Castle site has now been approved and there are huge concerns for the effect the increased traffic will have on the Parish which need to be addressed with the Local Plan Review.

13. Planning and Development Control:

a) Planning Applications Received

17/0677/CERTP 33 GLADSTONE PLACE BLAKEDOWN

Proposed single storey side extension under permitted development to form gym and play room.
Already approved.

Cllr Hession, having declared an interest, left the room at 9.10 p.m.

17/0683/FULL 102 BELBROUGHTON ROAD BLAKEDOWN
Single storey extension and enlargement to attic space. No objection.

Cllr Hession rejoined the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

17/3069/PNH 46 BELBROUGHTON ROAD BLAKEDOWN
Single storey rear extension. For information only.

b) Notification of Appeal

17/0301/FULL NEW WOOD FARM NEW WOOD LANE BLAKEDOWN
Erection of front porch and dormer window to domestic detached garage building.
Appeal Starting Date: 23/10/2017

c) Planning Decisions approved

17/0528/FULL 3 WATERWORKS COTTAGES STOURBRIDGE ROAD ISMERE
conversion and rear extension of existing garage building, with additional first floor extension adjoining main house. replacement of existing dormer and new dormer to rear of main roof.

17/0529/FULL CHURCHILL FOREST NURSERY CHURCHILL LANE CHURCHILL
Open fronted plant and machinery shed. To store and maintain equipment for the cultivation of Christmas Trees.

14. Parish Website: Cllr Rowlinson advised he is still working on the website, the framework is in place but content needs to be added. He will provide an overview of what is needed to make progress.

15. SmartWater: Cllr Mellor reported that approximately 300 kits had now been issued but there are some areas where delivery is needed. Approximately 20 signs have now been put up and there are a few more to be done. Another drop-in session will be arranged and residents are advised how to collect the kits via the newsletter.

16. Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:

a) Members noted bank balances at the 7th November 2017.

b) Members approved payments as per the list with the addition of the following payments: NPower £148.64 (signal box), Heartstart Midlands £29.38 (replacement defibrillator pads), Worcs CALC £30 (training) and Blakedown Historical Society £258.97 (reimbursement of telephone line costs for the signal box) Lengthsman £154.00.

c) Finance Committee

Members approved recommendations from the Finance Committee Meeting on the 8th November 2017 as follows

- Recommendation 1: Members should seek to recoup costs where they are providing services without a necessity to do so.
- Recommendation 2: That the Parish Council enters into a five-year agreement with Wyre Forest District Council for the Localism Contracts.
- Recommendation 3: A sum of £500 should be earmarked in the budget as payment to the Trust towards ongoing costs for the running of the signal box (should it be required).

17. Clerk's Report: Clerks report on ongoing items noted.

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

19. Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas: Cllr Hession asked for an agenda item to be added to discuss Community hydroelectric schemes.

20. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 20th December 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion, Blakedown Sports Centre, Birmingham Road, Blakedown.

The meeting closed at 21.30 p.m.

Dated this 20th December 2017

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Chairman to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council

Notes of Public Question Time

No issues raised.