

OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 6TH. SEPTEMBER 2021 AT OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Councillors J. Emmerson (in the Chair), Rachel Pope and M. Rayner; County and District Councillor W.L.Gifford and District Councillor Mrs. C.P.Gifford

2117. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. L. Keeling and W.M.O. Tansey; County Councillor W. Redford; District Councillors A.Boad, P.Kohler, D. Russell and Sidney Syson.

2118. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th. July 2021 were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

2119. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a).A list of items collated by Cllrs. Emmerson and Pope for which CIL funds might be used was presented and approved as improvements for the benefit of the community and it was agreed that these be referred to Warwick District Council to check on their appropriateness for inclusion.

(b). Arrangements for the Tidy Day on Saturday 25th.September were discussed and approved. The Clerk would open the Parish Hall and Cllr. Pope would make available black sacks and appropriate equipment for litter gathering. Notices would be added to the Parish Notice Boards and details sent to those local residents who had approved receipt of Parish Council matters by e-mail. Mrs. Nicola Wall had kindly volunteered to arrange tea and coffee after the event and volunteers were being informed that donations of cakes would be welcome, which would be supplemented with cake arranged by Cllr. Pope.

(c). Arrangements were also approved for the extraordinary Parish Meeting on Monday 18th. October, when the suggestions for CIL expenditure would be presented and attendees encouraged to be interactive in selecting appropriate items. This might include covering the notice boards in Old Milverton Village Hall with lining paper on which conclusions might be posted. The Clerk was asked to arrange white and red wine (including prosecco), likely with Majestic Wines, on a sale or return basis, including hire of glasses at £1 each, which would be reimbursed when returned in good condition, and to arrange the provision of cheeses and savoury biscuits.

(d). The Parish's nomination to the Neighbourhood Watch Community Re-engagement had come in fourth. Details were awaited concerning traffic speed monitoring in Blackdown and Old Milverton.

2120. REDESIGN OF PARISH WEBSITE

Cllr. Pope reported that work on redesigning the Parish website remained in progress.

2121. TRAFFIC COUNTING AND SPEEDING. County Councillors Gifford and Redford had kindly agreed to contribute from their allowances towards traffic counting and speeding in both Blackdown and Old Milverton, the arrangements for which would be announced.

2122. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a). Warwickshire Police would be arranging a Property Marking event on Sunday 19th. September when 15 minute slots could be booked and this was being advertised throughout the area.

(b). District Councillor Bill Gifford reminded Councillors that the consultation for the merger of Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council had begun on 6th. September, details of which were available on line. The Clerk would circulate the details.

(c). District Councillor Bill Gifford announce that Warwick District Council was making arrangements to accommodate 25 Afghan families following recent developments in that country.

2123. HSBC BANK ARRANGEMENTS

The Parish Council's Bank, HSBC had embarked on revision of conditions including safeguarding practices and for several months had directed queries to the Clerk, but instead of requesting a comprehensive list of items, had come back again repeatedly with further requests, including checks on him, as administrator, requesting a copy of his driver's licence and the provision of a domestic invoice to prove address. With effect from 1st. November 2021 the present accounts would be included in the bank's Charitable Bank Account category which would entail a monthly fee of £5.00 plus £0.40 for the processing of cheques; the Clerk had calculated that, on this basis, the bill for 2020-21 would have been £70.80. Members were not unsympathetic about the introduction of fees, which other banks might well follow, but it was agreed to monitor the situation before deciding whether to continue with HSBC or to change to another bank, which might well follow a similar arrangement in due course.

2124. FISHING RIGHTS ON RIVER AVON AT THE SAXON MILL

The Parish Council had been approached by Heather Clatworthy, a local resident and long distant open water swimmer, who had spearheaded concerns over the recent acquisition by an individual of fishing rights on the River Avon in the vicinity of the Saxon Mill, from which he was seeking to ban other users of the river and footpaths so that the area could be claimed for his business "The Saxon Mill Fishery". Some river users appeared to have taken issue with the harsh verbal treatment they had been received. The great majority of river users - walkers, swimmers, paddlers and the local community - appeared to treat the area with respect and the farmer of the land abutting most of the area had been positive in wishing to support and educate the public having access to these fields, especially during the on-going pandemic. Local people had undertaken clean-ups of the land.

Heather Clatworthy had liaised with landowners and users of the land and water and had formed the working group, including the Waterways and Environmental Policy Officer of British Canoeing and the Police with a view to agreeing a policy to settle this matter amicably. The Parish Council had agreed to participate in several zoom meetings and it was generally agreed that notices would be appropriate in an attempt to educate all users in the right treatment of the area. Helen Eldridge of Leek Wootton and Guy's Cliffe Parish Council, a designer, had kindly agreed to design the graphics for £80.00. It was agreed that the Parish Council contribute 50% of this cost and that it would give favourable consideration to sharing with Leek Wootton Parish Council the preparation and erection of the approved notice(s). There was concern in case a fence appeared across the public footpath there and the matter would therefore be kept under review. A further meeting was planned.

025. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following Planning Application actions were approved or noted, as appropriate:

W20/1529 Jephson House, Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown

Part alteration, demolition and redevelopment of the site to provide 20 residential units, etc.
GRANTED

W21/0741 The Crofts Old Leamingtonians Rugby Football Club, Bericote Road, Blackdown

Variation of time limits for use as caravan and camp site
GRANTED

W21/0924 Pear Tree Cottage, Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown

Demolition and replacement with new dwelling and associated works

OBSERVATIONS: No problems in principle, but OBJECTION made because replacement would appear to have a detrimental effect on neighbours, regarding height; the illustrations depict property not in keeping with others in this semi-rural position whose size might constitute an unacceptable increase in area (Planners were asked to check this point)

2126. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The payments specified in the Schedule, including £900.00 to Ridge and Partners LLP for professional assistance in making representation to the proposed South Warwickshire Local Plan Call-for-Sites Consultation and £131.52 for general administrative expenses, were approved.

2127. BUDGET COMPARISONS AND COMPARISON WITH BANK BALANCES

The budget comparisons were considered and balances as at 22nd. July 2021 were verified by one of the Parish Councillors.

2128. ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

None.

2029. ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLERK'S SALARY

It was agreed that the Clerk's salary be increased by £100 per annum to £2,800 with effect from 1st. July 2020.

2130. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

CHAIRMAN