

OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PARISH MEETING MONDAY, 18TH. OCTOBER 2021 AT OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL

The Annual Parish Meeting on 26th. April 2021 was held via zoom owing to coronavirus precautions and was poorly attended so this special Parish Meeting was arranged to give electors the opportunity to make their views known.

PRESENT: Councillors J. Emmerson (in the Chair), Mrs. L.Keeling, Rachel Pope, M. Rayner and W.M.O.Tansey; Barbara Bosworth, Andy Daniels, Jerry McDonagh, Laura Fitzpatrick, Tim Ovens, Mrs. Lesley Rayner, Andy Rogers, Cathy Rogers, Christopher Sutton, Carmel Timms and Nicola Wall

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Mrs. Christine Sutton.

1. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman gave a comprehensive report on the main business to which the Parish Council had given attention in the previous two years.

He drew attention to funding which had been made available to the Parish Council in connection with recently-introduced Planning Policy in respect of alterations to “Blackdown” on Old Milverton Lane. This was available to the Parish Council for a limited period for projects of benefit to the local community.

Seven projects were put up on posters for consideration, comprising:

- Signage at footpath entrances
- Feasibility study for new footways and cycleways
- Tree planting
- Signage to indicate Blackdown
- Provision of benches and litter bins
- Contribution to Old Milverton Village Hall improvements
- Decorative hardstanding at notice boards

Those present were asked to indicate their comments orally or under the posters and the observations were taken away for processing by Councillor Rachel Pope.

Thanks were expressed for their interest in the Parish to County Councillor Wallace Redford and County and District Councillor Bill Gifford; District Councillors A. Boad, P. Kohler, D. Russell, Mrs C.P. Gifford and Mrs S. Syson; all Old Milverton and Blackdown Parish Councillors; Internal Auditor Norman Pratt; and Parish Clerk Graham Cooper.

2. DITCH AND VERGES IN CHURCH LANE

Attention was drawn to the fact that the field owner had cleared the ditch in Church Lane following the cutting of the hedge earlier in the year and had left the off-cuts on the grass verge, making mowing impossible. The Clerk was asked to take the matter up with the owner with a view to completing the clearing up.

3. UPDATING THE PARISH WEBSITE

Those in attendance were invited to suggest additional items which might feature in the Parish Council's website, but few, if any, suggestions were made at the meeting.

It appeared that not many residents used the site and one lady observed that the Parish Council's e-mail address was rather long.

4. PARISH TIDY DAY

Thanks were expressed to those who participated in the Parish Tidy Day on Saturday 25th. September 2021.

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

It was announced that, since Mrs. Ann Kelsey had resigned as the Parish Council's representative on Neighbourhood Watch, Mrs Rachel Emmerson had agreed to represent Blackdown, taking in Old Milverton until a successor could be recruited. Meanwhile, the final circulation from Mrs. Kelsey had referred to an observation that someone had been tampering with gate and door locks, and that residents should theretofore be vigilant, I case someone was "casing" the area for later break-ins.

The meeting ended with general discussion and the serving of cheese and wine.

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Chairman