

OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, 4TH. APRIL 2022 AT OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL

The meeting scheduled for 14th. March 2022 was postponed as inquorate

PRESENT: Councillors J. Emmerson (in the Chair), Mrs. L. Keeling, Rachel Pope, and W.M.O.Tansey; County and District Councillors Carolyn Gifford and W.L.Gifford.

2158. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Rayner (out of the country); and County Councillor W. Redford.

2159. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th. January 2022 were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

2160. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The operation of the Parish Council's banking arrangement with HSBC was back to normal, though no official clearance had been received. Consideration would be given to lodging an official complaint concerning the unsatisfactory history of safeguarding clearance as reported on 29th. November 2022 (min. no. 2133(a)) a summary of which is at Appendix A.

2161. TRAFFIC COUNTING AND SPEED MEASURING

The Parish Council had requested that traffic counting and speed measuring strips be applied in the preferred order of (1) Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown, heading towards Kenilworth Road approximately outside Pear Tree Cottage in the 40 mph zone; (2) Old Milverton Road in Old Milverton village; (3) Sandy Lane, Blackdown, heading towards Stoneleigh Road, near North Leamington School in the 30 mph zone; and (4) in Old Milverton Lane, Old Milverton, just inside the 30 mph zone before the railway bridge. If financing proved difficult, (1) and (2) could be applied in 2022-23 and (3) and (4) in 2023-24.

2162. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDING FROM CIL SOURCE.

The Parish Council had £7,130.00 in CIL funds to spend before 7th. October 2024. Several schemes had been suggested, and three were being taken forward as reported on 17th. January 2022:

(a). Illustrated information boards and litter bins at footpaths and cycle ways. Cllr. Pope had been working on the possibility and had produced a coloured information example of signage which might be installed at:

- *Old Milverton Road, Old Milverton, for footpath W176 (from Old Milverton to Bamburgh Grove) in Old Milverton);*

- *Old Milverton Road, Old Milverton*, for footpath W177 (from Old Milverton Road towards River Avon);
- *St. James's Meadow Road* for footpath from the end of St. James's Meadow Road towards the River Avon [SITE NOT IN OLD MILVERTON]
- *Guy's Cliffe Avenue* area for footway towards Old Milverton Road and River Avon [SITE NOT IN OLD MILVERTON]
- *Bamburgh Grove* (off Northumberland Road) for footpath towards Old Milverton [SITE NOT IN OLD MILVERTON]

From past experience, it might be problematic to arrange for the litter bins, in which case a contractor would have to be employed; agreement would have to be sought from land-owners for the siting, including obtaining the co-operation of Royal Leamington Spa Town Council where three sites were in its area.

Cllr. Pope was researching the information to be included on the boards and an order of cost would be investigated.

Meanwhile Cllr Pope was liaising with Cllr. Keeling as to where installations might be made in Blackdown.

(b). The Clerk had asked the Highway Engineers to investigate the feasibility of installing two "Blackdown" road signs on Stoneleigh Road which entailed committing a non-returnable amount of £500.00, but which could be used to off-set the cost if the resulting scheme proceeded. It had been envisaged that the signs should indicate "Blackdown" or "Welcome to Blackdown" or the like, but Cllr. Keeling suggested an enquiry be made as to whether an alternative wording might be used, including "Please drive carefully" but this might constitute another scheme.

(c). Cllr. Emmerson had been in touch with the Highways Engineers concerning a feasibility study into the formation of a footpath in the southern grass verge of Old Milverton Lane and had ascertained that the cost of such a scheme might be in the order of £1.1m. It was decided that he should ask Sustrans of Bristol, a walking and cycling charity, which works with employers and local authorities, if they would undertake the study.

2163. ADDITIONAL CIL FUNDS

Meanwhile, the Parish Council had been informed that, subject to confirmation, it could expect further CIL contributions arising from the development at Jephson House, Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown, in stages of £7,500.00 by 28th. April 2022, £13,669.69 by 28th. April 2022, £3,830.31 in October 2022 and £13,669.69 by 28th. April 2023 according to a formula [but, from information received after the meeting, there would be likely maxima of £13.600 in each financial year].

2164. SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

At its meeting on 17th. January 2022, the Parish Council accepted that it would not be able to invite Ridge Consultants to represent it in considering the development of the South Warwickshire Local Plan, since publicity had indicated it was already representing another nearby interest. However, the Clerk had made further enquires which indicated that this was not now the case and that their nearest client was at Long Marston. Accordingly, Ridges would be willing to represent the Parish Council for which £3,000 should be budgeted unless they were asked to appear at the examinations in public, when the fees would be reviewed. Accordingly, it was agreed to engage Ridge Consultants on these terms and to seek their advice on whether, at this early stage, the Parish Council should take issue with the published possibilities for land use.

2165. TRANSFERRING THE BANK ACCOUNTS TO UNITY TRUST BANK

At its meeting on 17th. January 2022 the Parish Council had agreed to transfer its accounts to the Unity Trust Bank, Four Bindley Place, Birmingham B1Q 2B, as used and recommended by WALC. Accordingly, the Parish Council confirmed agreement to the Resolution and to the Declarations on the official application form and noted the requirement for the submission of the previous six months bank statements, business plan (i.e. the latest prepared estimates), Standing Orders, letter on headed paper and recent meeting minutes, together with two cheques for £500 made out to Old Milverton and Blackdown Joint Parish Council to initiate the current and the capital accounts.

2166. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a). It was noted with thanks that Cllr.. Tansey had arranged for the ditches and verges in Church Lane and Old Milverton Village Green to be cleared following the previous year's hedge cutting..

(b). It was noted, again with thanks, that Cllr. Tansy had arranged for trees provided by the Woodland Trust, to be planted in Old Milverton along the line behind the village notice board and around the recently managed hedge towards the church.

(c). The latest Police Priorities were noted. The operations preferred by the Parish Council - high visibility traffic speed monitoring in Sandy Lane, Blackdown and in Old Milverton village - had not been selected on this occasion, having attracted insufficient votes. However, it was understood that a TRUcam automated speed and number plate checker was to be installed in Sandy Lane.

(d). A request was received from St. James Church PCC for a contribution towards a Parish Tea Party, open to all residents of the two parishes, to be held on Sunday, 5th. June 2022 to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: accordingly, it was agreed that £200.00 be donated under Section 137 (4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

(e). An application was considered from Leamington Rugby Football Club for a contribution and statement of support for its application to Warwick District Council for funding to replace pitch lights which would upgrade existing facilities. The Parish Council rarely makes financial contributions to such applications but agreed to support the application which should

greatly strengthen the Club's application for a RUCIS (Rural/Urban Capital Improvements Scheme) grant.

(f). A letter was received from the national office of WALC drawing attention to the existence of its committee specifically dedicated to smaller councils with an electorate under 6,000 which would consider matters of particular relevance to such councils.

2167. ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2022 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

With so little preparation time and the fact that the arrangements made in 2021 were so well received that it was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for Monday, 25th. April 2022 comprise the essential elements as required by law and that a secondary, more diverse, meeting be held on Monday, 17th. October 2022, replacing the Parish Council meeting planned for that date.

2168. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a). Although three reminders had been sent a response was still awaited from the Planning Office to the queries arising concerning:

W21/0924 Pear Tree Cottage, Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown

Demolition and replacement with new dwelling and associated works

(b). A response was still awaited from Planning Enforcement concerning the present use of Quarry Park, Old Milverton Lane. Although it had been made clear that the matter would take its turn on the list, it was agreed that a chaser should be sent

(c). The following observation was confirmed:

W22/0051 New Farm, Kenilworth Road, Blackdown

Demolition and erection of replacement with garage and associated works

OBSERVATION: No objection but attention drawn to the fact that the replacement and associated works will cover a larger footprint and the new building will be slightly nearer the road.

(d). The following decision was noted:

W22/0382 AG New Farm, Kenilworth Road, Blackdown

Demolition of agricultural building and replacement with steel portal frame agricultural building

NO APPROVAL PROVED NECESSARY

2169. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The payments specified in the schedule, including £130.88 Clerk's administrative expenses, two amounts of £500.00 to open new accounts with Unity Trust Bank, £200.00 to St. James's Church towards HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend Tea and £149.00 for 2022-23 subscription to WALC.

2170. BUDGET COMPARISONS AND COMPARISON WITH BANK BALANCES

Balances as at 22nd. January 2022 (Current account) and 22nd. December 2021 (Capital account) were verified by one of the Parish Councillors.

2171. ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS None

2172. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CHAIRMAN

OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Safeguarding checks problem with accounts 01316079 and 13160432

- 6.11.2020 Letter from HSBC Safeguards indicating the need for organisational details of Parish Council's accounts. Telephoned 0800 030 4516 and the adviser indicated that the matter had been "dealt with".
- 29.01.2021 Letter from HSBC indicating the need to provide further information and inviting call to 0800 030 4516. Spoke to Bojan with the details and nothing further heard so assumed that all was well.
- 15.06.2021 Telephone interview with Chris Jessop at 3.30 p.m. at the end of which I took it that all the necessary information had been given.
- 10.08.2021 Letter from HSBC referring to the interview and indicating that more details should have been submitted (which had not been mentioned during the interview) and the need to complete the review by 8.09.2021
- 12.08.2021 Letter from HSBC indicating more information needed
- 17.08.2021 Spoke to Rachel of HSBC who said that if any further information is needed they would telephone. If nothing else was needed we should hear no more.
- 19.08.2021 Spoke to Lorraine at 9.30 a.m. who indicated it was necessary to verify the 6 trustees, which I duly confirmed. I was also asked to provide a copy of my driving licence which I e-mailed on 19.08.2021 to cmb.okye.response@hsbc.com
- 24.08.2021 Letter from HSBC indicating some further information as required
- 26.08.2021 Spoke to Chloe who was unable to identify anything further required except that my e-mail of 19.08.2021 could not be identified so I re-sent immediately and she confirmed its receipt. She thought that this completed all requirements.
- 01.09.2021 E-mail from HSBC setting out information required
- 10.09.2021 Letter to HSBC expressing the hope that all information required had now been provided.
- 11.10.2021 Letter from HSBC indicating that still more information was outstanding

- 11.11.2021 Letter from HSBC indicating that not all required information had been received and that this could result in withdrawal of the accounts from 13.12.2021
- 12.10.2021 Spoke to Rachel who confirmed that I had provided the requested information on 19.08.2021. I referred to my frustration. She apologised and said she would arrange for a letter to be sent confirming that all details had been provided and that the accounts would remain open.
- 15.11.2021 Spoke Elaine who gave me to understand that some matters remained to be followed up based on the details already given. A Case Manager would telephone me in the next 2 days to deal with the matter and meanwhile our accounts would remain open.
- 18.11.2021 Spoke to Khaled since no call had been returned. The Manger dealing with it was Chris Jessop to whom a message was being sent to call me within the next 2 working days
- 25.11.2021 No return call received so spoke to David who went to a great deal of trouble in assimilating the information provided and I was on line for a lengthy time. He kept referring to the completion of a form, but at appeared all the requested information had been provided orally. He was still unable to sort the matter out but promised I should be contacted and I expressed concern about the the threat to close the Council's accounts.
- 06.12.2021 Still no communication received, so spoke to Raj who confirmed that all necessary details had been provided and that, therefore, the accounts would not be closed. He sent an e-mail to the Departent processing the matter and seemed positive that the matter would be cleared soon and that a communication to that effect would be sent.
- 20.12.2021 Letter received dated 14.12.2021 from HSBC advising that the accounts had been withdrawn
- 21.12.2012 Attended HSBC Bank, Leamington Spa, to try to rectify the situation and was assisted by Oliver, who put me in contact with Louise (staff ID43348685) who promised to e-mail the Safeguarding Team with a request that they contact me urgently especially in view of the delays already experienced.
- 23.12.2021 Telephone call from Tracy Burkinshaw, a person who at last seemed to see our point of view. She seemed to understand how the Bank had gone wrong: it appears Chris Jessop, who carried out the original telephone

interview had left and her work had not been taken over. I was asked to submit proof of the Parish Council's administrative address and to confirm the signatories, which was duly done. Tracey Burkinshaw promised to set in motion arrangements to unlock the account.

- 31.12.2021 Received through post bank statements for the accounts and message from Tracy Burkinshaw that the review had been extended so that the accounts could be used and as soon as she gets the case back from the next stage she will conclude the review.
- 26.01.2022 Letter received from HSBC indicating that further details required by telephone interview to enable review to take place by 11.04.22. Telephone and spoke to Amar who indicated that all the details had already been provided, so the wrong letter had been sent, and that I should receive confirmation of the completion of the review by "next week"
- 29.01.2022 E-mail received from Tracy Burkinshaw of HSBC indicating that the safeguarding review had now been completed.