

OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY MONDAY, 25th. APRIL 2022, AT OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Councillors J. Emmerson (in the Chair), Mrs. L. Keeling, Rachel Pope; and Mr. C. Sutton and Mrs. C. Sutton.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor M. Rayner

1. MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th. April 2021 were approved for signature by the Chairman.

2. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Due to sparse attendance of the April 2021 Annual Meeting, (which was held in Zoom owing to coronavirus restrictions) an interim ‘real-life’ meeting took place in October 2021, referred to as a Special Annual Parish Meeting. 11 parishioners attended as well as the Parish Councillors.

7 Parish Council Meetings were held, the March meeting being delayed as inquorate because of illness..

Personnel had comprised J. Emmerson (Chair) and L. Keeling representing Blackdown; and W. Tansey (Vice Chair), R. Pope and M. Rayner Old Milverton, together with G Cooper (Clerk). The next council will be elected or formed uncontested in May 2023

Finances

The Parish Council held a balance of over £83,000 including over £7,000 of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds, from development of Blackdown Manor, Old Milverton Lane. A further £13,750 (capped amount) was anticipated in 2022-23 and the same amount in 2023-24 from development of Jephson House, Stoneleigh Road. CIL funding had to be spent within five years on appropriate projects or the amount would revert to the District Council.

The total precept was £7,500 – less than £100 per dwelling

The main funds (those not ring-fenced for CIL purposes) could be used in the main for professional advice in protecting the area from inappropriate development in the green belt.

Other matters processed

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings were displayed on the parish notice boards; they were also posted on the website, where all the details of actions taken were summarised. However, in brief summary, the coarsely flayed hedge in Church Lane and Old Milverton Village Green had been tidied as arranged by Councillor Will Tansey, who had also arranged for the planting of trees to whom thanks were due.

The Parish Council had supported initiatives of the Warwick Rural East Community Forum, but it was difficult to gather sufficient votes owing to the small number of voting residents.

Close contact had been maintained with the Highways Engineer to carry out road repairs; it was hoped to update the Parish Website based on suggestions received by Councillor Rachel Pugh; consideration was being given to initiatives to be financed from the CIL funding, comprising signage at footpath entrances, feasibility study for footpaths between Old Milverton and Blackdown Roundabout and signage indicating Blackdown; a Parish Tidy Day had been held on 25th. September 2021, which it was proposed to repeat in 2022; Councillors had participated in monitoring traffic counting and speeding and a more sophisticated device was planned for Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown; problems had been experience with HSBC Bank, not of the Parish Council's making, and it was proposed that the banking arrangements be transferred elsewhere; problems had been experienced between walkers and anglers on the River Avon near the Saxon Mill, which appeared to have been settled; concern had been expressed about the apparent development at Quarry Bank, Old Milverton Lane, which was being investigated

Work had begun on the South Warwickshire Local Plan to replace the current Warwick Local Plan in respect of which Ridge & Partners of Cheltenham had been engaged to represent the Parish's interests.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mrs Rachel Emmerson was looking after the local Neighbourhood Watch details on behalf of the Parish Council and there had been no serious crime during the year. Residents could report any incidents for inclusion on the Website.

4. COMING ARRANGEMENTS

The arrangements adopted in 2021 had been well received and it was therefore announced that similar plans were anticipated for a Special Parish Meeting on Monday, 17th. October 2022.

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Chairman