

MINUTES

**OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 22 APRIL 2024
AT OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors Emmerson (Chair), Keeling, Pope and Tansey, 19 members of the public and the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

D/Cllrs C Gifford, Syson, C/Cllr Redford, Nicola Wall [OMVH]

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2023

a. The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly were approved and signed by the Chair [**Proposer: Jerry McDonagh (resident) / Seconder: Peter Hamnett (resident)**]

b. Any matters arising are covered in the Chairman's Report

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOINT PARISH COUNCIL 2023/24

a. The Chairman's Report

6 meetings were held in May, July, September and October 2023 (November cancelled due to date/venue issue), January and March 2024.

Personnel

Blackdown: Cllrs Emmerson (Chair) and Keeling
Old Milverton [OM]: Cllrs Tansey (Vice Chair) and Pope
Clerk: Helen Eldridge

Parish Council Elections were held in May 2023. This was an uncontested election, due to less candidates than seats on the Council, so did not go to a ballot. At least one vacancy remains on the Joint Parish Council [JPC]. If anyone is interested in being co-opted, please approach a Councillor.

It is also worth noting that the District Council Elections in May saw the Green Party win most seats (14/44). Conservatives dropped 13 seats (to 6).

Party	2023	2019
Conservative	6	19
Liberal Democrat	10	9
Green	14	8
Labour	11	5
Whitnash Residents Association	3	3

The Councillors for Lillington Ward (covers Blackdown) and Milverton Ward (covers Old Milverton) remain unchanged.

Finances

The JPC holds nearly £102,000 of cash, including £30,680 of Community Infrastructure Levy [CIL] funds.

Total Precept income annually of £7,500, which is less than £100 per dwelling.

Reserve funds are likely to be required for professional advice about protecting the area from inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

Matters Dealt With

The minutes of the JPC meetings are displayed on the noticeboards and website, but to give an summary of the last year:

- CIL Projects (listed below)

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- Traffic Survey 2023 done, 2024 survey has been requested
- WCC County Highways carried out footway improvements on Stoneleigh Road, although works could have gone further
- Transfer of banking from HSBC to Unity Trust Bank complete
- Chesford Bridge Field noise complaints
- New planters installed in Old Milverton
- Website improvements are ongoing
- River Avon: Fishing/swimming near Saxon Mill
- Maintenance on OM Green, hedges and mown areas. Requirement of removal of arisings due to infestations has informed consideration of community funded maintenance in addition to WDC highways maintenance
- Support of St James Church plans for a new meeting room
- Planning: Objected to Woodberry of Leamington Spa, Bericote Road, application to demolish and rebuild, citing inappropriate size in the green belt

Neighbourhood Watch

Vacancy exists for a Co-ordinator, but you can sign up and access information online.

Thanks

The Chairman thanked:

- C/Cllr Wallace Redford
- D/Cllrs Boad, Kohler and Russell (Blackdown/Lillington Ward)
- D/Cllrs B Gifford, C Gifford and Syson (Old Milverton/Milverton Ward)
- Parish Councillors
- Auditor: John Plumb
- Clerk: Helen Eldridge
- And anyone who plants a tree, mows an area they don't have to, or picks up some litter

b. Response to the South Warwickshire Local Plan [SWLP]

Cllr Pope gave a brief update about the SWLP.

The programme has been delayed due to the WDC changes following the Elections and the next phase will be in Autumn 2024.

The JPC will be seeking professional advice to ensure its response is robust.

c. CIL Update

The JPC holds £30,680 of Community Infrastructure Levy [CIL] funds. These relate to the developments at Blackdown Manor, Old Milverton Lane, and Jephson House, Stoneleigh Road.

CIL funds must be spent within 5 years of receipt on appropriate infrastructure projects and the first payment (£7,130) will expire in October 2024. To 31 March 2024 £3,850 has been spent on signage, a bench and wildlife surveys. If not spent, outstanding money will be returned to WDC to be spent on infrastructure across the district.

CIL Funded Projects:

- Blackdown bench purchased and awaiting installation. Tree-planting to follow.
- Wildlife studies commissioned to inform signage/information boards at footpath entrances (examples of information boards were available)
- "Welcome to Blackdown" signs installed
- Research under way to commission a feasibility study for a footpath between Old Milverton and Blackdown (Cost estimate: feasibility study, £6,000 / higher level plan, £10,000)



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4.

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman opened a questions and answers session, after which the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20:36

Signed as a true record: (Chair) Date:

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