

MINUTES

OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 13 JANUARY 2025 AT 8:00PM IN OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Emmerson (Chair), Keeling, Pope, Tansey, C/Cllr Redford, D/Cllrs Gifford, Syson, 5 members of public [MoP] and the Clerk

2376. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2377. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2377.1. No interests were declared

2378. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2378.1. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 25 November 2024 were approved and signed

2378.2. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting and not covered in this Agenda

NOTE: South Warwickshire Local Plan [SWLP] was brought to the beginning of the meeting for public participation, because a number of members of public attended to discuss this topic.

- Minutes of the discussion are below at 2379.2 -

2379. ISSUES & PROJECTS

2379.1. CIL FUNDED INITIATIVES

2379.1.1. FOOTPATH SIGNS/WILDLIFE INFORMATION BOARDS [Cllr Pope]

Progress is ongoing. The Clerk has not received response from WCC Highways Localities Officer – will try again.

ACTION: Clerk to write again to Localities Officer [Sent: 14/01/2025]

2379.1.1.1. TRAIL CAMERAS [Cllr Tansey]

Cameras are currently placed in two locations and further locations have been identified.

2379.1.2. BLACKDOWN BENCH AND TREES [Cllr Emmerson/Clerk]

Nothing to report. Awaiting contractor

ACTION: Carry forward

2379.1.3. FOOTPATH FEASIBILITY STUDY [Cllr Emmerson]

Cllr Emmerson has had teams call with Sustrans. Report is currently being costed and prepared for publication.

2379.2. SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN [SWLP]

Friday (10/01/2025) saw publication of the SWLP Preferred Options Consultation. SG06 is north of Sandy Lane/east of Stoneleigh Road in Blackdown, South of Sandy Lane and south side of Old Milverton Lane from Kenilworth Road to the railway line in Old Milverton (see map image in Appendix A).

The PC was expecting this publication and have asked Howard Cole, planning consultants, to assist with terms of reference to: look at the plan overall to assess implications for Old Milverton and Blackdown, to look at technical evidence and accuracy. Initial findings report to be delivered later this week, but Cllr Pope received and circulated a summary of the consultant's initial findings (see Appendix B).

A discussion followed which included:

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Consultant has already identified that the green belt should not be needed to satisfy housing requirements. The number of sites identified would more than cover the number of houses needed.

The green belt review: PC will take issue with fact that only identified as making a weak to moderate contribution. This assessment makes land vulnerable to being taken out of the green belt. Protection of agricultural land – the farm will not be sustainable as a business for the tenant farmer with fields sold.

D/Cllr Gifford advised PC to bear in mind that aesthetic value is not relevant to green belt arguments. It is most important to assess whether land is doing job of protecting from encroachment of Coventry/West Midlands. Argue green belt not being down-graded based on the 5 purposes of green belt before the aesthetic argument.

Strong emphasis on sustainability and ‘walkable neighbourhoods’. Employment and retail development is now south of Leamington. Development in this area is not walkable and there are no stations near by.

Roads and infrastructure are valid planning reasons. However District is the planning authority, while County is responsible for infrastructure. Discussion at planning committee included 15 to 25 year plan period. 25 years chosen, so infrastructure to be fully considered.

Cllr Pope believes the SWLP team are using the old NPPF, not the new one?

PC is also consulting with a Barrister to look at the plan from a legal point of view. The PC has built up reserves to help support legal challenges to the Local Plan.

D/Cllr Syson advised there are a number of public events, including in Leamington. Please see <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/preferred-options.cfm>

A member of the public suggested use of social media.

ACTION: PC to promote and encourage maximum responses, using various methods

ACTION: PC to investigate use of professional support for social media campaign

ACTION: Cllr Pope to instruct the Barrister

2379.3.

DEFIBRILLATOR [awaiting Church project progress]

Cllr Pope circulated correspondence over the Christmas period with a member of the Village Hall Committee, asking why the Church was ‘preferred option’ to the Village Hall. Cllr Keeling clarified the informal discussion that she believed prompted the correspondence and expressed concern if there was any misunderstanding. The PC’s understanding is that historically the Village Hall could not easily facilitate a defibrillator as it would require a source of electricity. The Church is considering incorporating a defibrillator in the proposed new extension, with required facilities included. A discussion followed about locations/logistics of defibrillators.

Correspondent was satisfied with Cllr Pope’s response.

2379.4.

PARISH ENVIRONMENT

2379.4.1.

Platinum Jubilee plaque on OM Green [Cllr Emmerson]

Awaiting contractor – need bigger stone slab because current one is full. One member of public offered a piece of stone (an old step).

ACTION: Cllr Tansey to follow up with the member of public

2379.4.2.

Community Maintenance

Nothing to report

2380.

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

2380.1.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



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2380.2.	<p>C/Cllr Redford mentioned the current ‘Devolution’ question – Councils are waiting for a Government announcement on council areas to be made Unitary Authorities [UA]. If Warwickshire is chosen, elections in May would have to be cancelled. Cllr Emmerson asked what a UA would that look like? Unknown: there are currently over 300 councillors (District and County). It is anticipated that with a UA this may reduce to 90-110? Areas involved (wards and divisions) may have to be redrawn.</p> <p>WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL</p> <p>D/Cllr Gifford continued the discussion about devolution. Head of WCC has volunteered the whole of Warwickshire to be fast tracked (English Devolution White Paper - County Council elections 2025.pdf), but opinions vary. Some prefer a South Warwickshire UA. A UA will be a completely new Council, with all powers of District and County. Town and Parish Councils will be affected, some responsibilities may be devolved down to town and parish level is unknown.</p> <p>Joint statement on the Devolution White Paper - Warwick District Council</p> <p>D/Cllr Syson – Residents are encouraged to report anything to do with waste problems online (missed or damaged bins)(Rubbish, waste and recycling - Warwick District Council)</p>
2381.	PLANNING
2381.1.	<p>APPLICATIONS DECIDED</p> <p>None</p>
2381.2.	<p>APPLICATIONS ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W/23/1698 - Woodberry of Leamington Spa, Bericote Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa, CV32 6QP – Object (sent: 15/01/2024)
2381.3.	<p>NEW APPLICATIONS</p> <p>None</p>
2381.4.	<p>OTHER APPLICATIONS [FOR INFORMATION ONLY]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W/24/1332 – Woodberry of Leamington Spa, Bericote Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa, CV32 6QP - Lawful Development Certificate for existing building works and use including the erection of existing storage buildings, office building, two storage shelters and wood dipping unit and the siting of containers for a period in excess of 10 years prior to the date of the submission of the application. • W/24/1582 – Liberty House, Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa, CV32 6QR – Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the erection of two roof dormers to facilitate a loft conversion, as shown on drawing no. 2024 - PL47 A, received on 22/11/2024, with the materials used in any exterior work to be of a similar appearance to those used in the construction of the exterior of the existing dwellinghouse. • W/24/1583 – Liberty House, Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa, CV32 6QR – Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed erection of a single storey side extension, as shown on drawing no's. 2024 - PL42 A and 2024 - PL45, received on 22/11/2024, with the materials used in any exterior work to be of a similar appearance to those used in the construction of the exterior of the existing dwellinghouse. • W/24/1584 – Liberty House, Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa, CV32 6QR – Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed erection of a two-storey rear extension, as shown on drawing no's. 2024 - PL42 A and 2024 - PL45, received on 22/11/2024, with the materials used in any exterior work to be of a

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similar appearance to those used in the construction of the exterior of the existing dwellinghouse.

LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES DO NOT REQUIRE A RESPONSE

2382.

FINANCE

2382.1.

TO CONSIDER THE 2025/26 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

The Clerk presented the DRAFT Budget for 2025/25 (circulated to councillors in advance). Expenditure calculates to circa £8,200. The previous Clerk's estimates predicted the Precept remaining at £7,500. The Clerk asked the Council to decide whether to request precept of £8,200 to cover identified expenditure or remain at £7,500 and fund additional from reserves.

One Member of the Public raised a question about 'dipping into' reserves for day-to-day business, when previously stated (at item 2379.2) the reserves are to go towards Local Plan expenses. Cost of living has been a consideration – Clerk noted that the tax base has been raised and the Band D equivalent for £8,200 would be £40.10 (In 2024/25 the £7,500 Precept Band D equivalent was £39.34).

A discussion followed and in conclusion the Council agreed to request a precept of £8,200.

ACTION: Clerk to notify WDC of Precept request (Sent: 14/01/2025)

2382.2.

TO CONSIDER THE FINANCIAL REPORT & BANK RECONCILIATION

Councillors approved the Financial Report

2382.3.

TO APPROVE PAYMENTS AS LISTED IN THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The following payments were approved:

Clerk's Salary (DEC)	£	311.34
Clerk's Salary (JAN)	£	311.14
Tax (Q3)	£	50.80
Web Services	£	60.00

ACTION: Clerk to set up payments and circulate for authorisation

2383.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

2384.

RECRUITMENT

A prospective Cllr attended beginning of this meeting as observer

ACTION: Cllr Tansey to follow up

2385.

TRAINING

(list of training available at www.walc.org.uk/whats-on)

No training requested

2386.

COMMUNICATIONS

2386.1.

To consider councillor emails & .gov.uk domain [Cllr Emmerson]

Nothing to report

ACTION: Carry forward

2387.

ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

None

2388.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

2389.

NEXT MEETING

Monday 10 March 2025 at 8pm in Old Milverton Village Hall.



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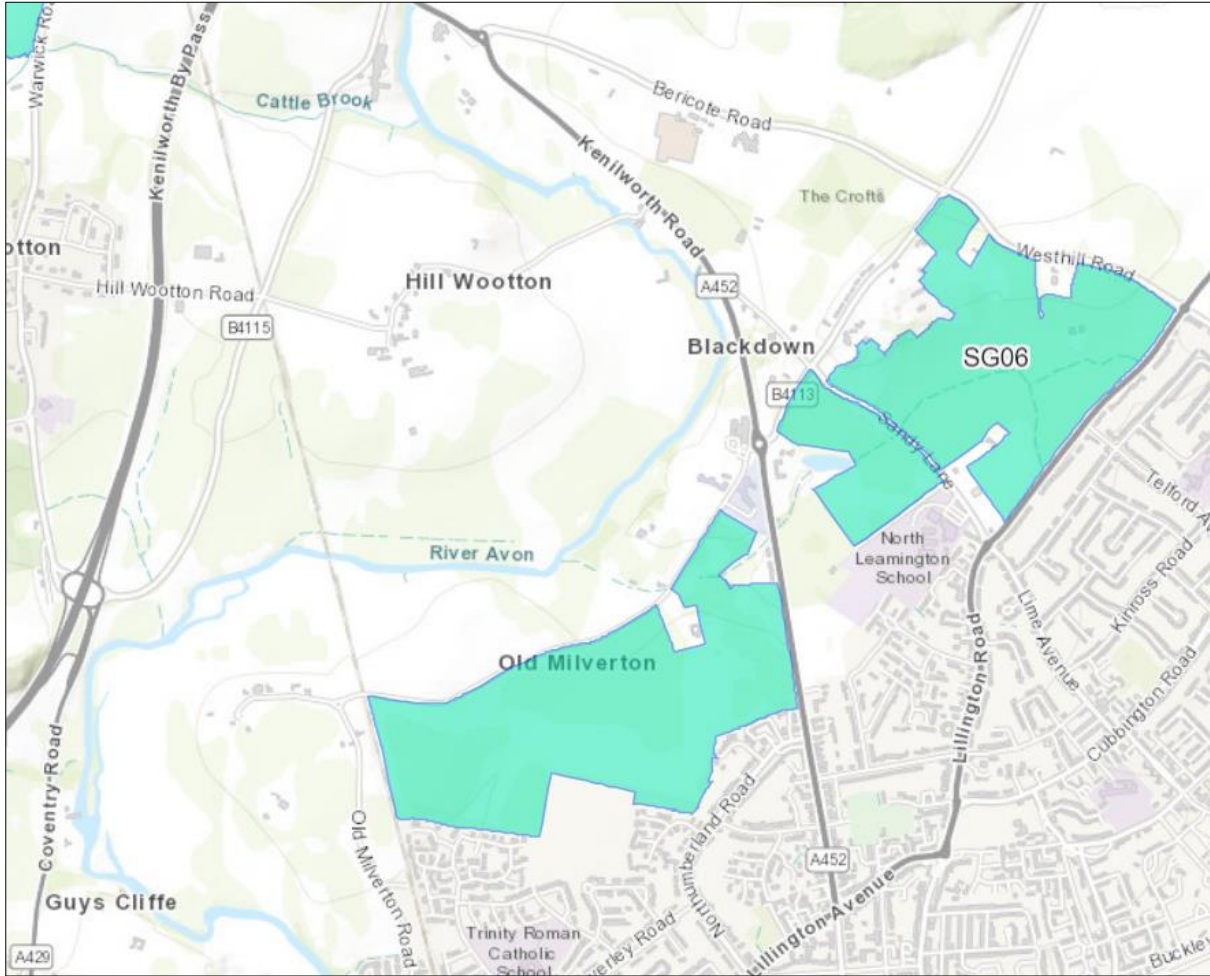
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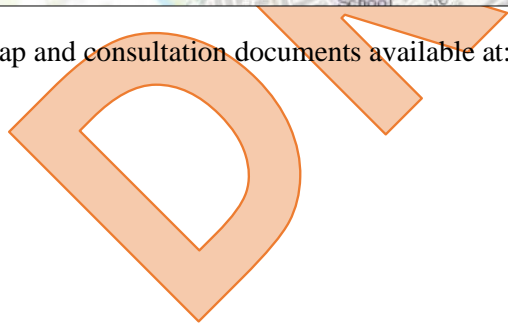


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Appendix A



Interactive map and consultation documents available at: [South Warwickshire Local Plan](#)



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Appendix B

Email from Planning Consultants giving a brief summary of progress referred to by Cllr Pope at 2379.2

Date: Mon, 13 Jan 2025 at 10:50

Subject: RE: Confirmation of services required

To: Cllr Rachel Pope

Hi Rachel,

I am making good progress and set out a summary note of headlines below for the parish meeting today.

1. NPPF changes –

- a. Housing need – the NPPF expects plans to use the standard methodology to define the level of housing required over the plan period and include a 5% buffer, unless the Regulation 19 version can be published by 12 March 2025 which is clearly timetabled for December 2025. Therefore, the annual housing requirement would be 1,182 for Stratford on Avon and 1,115 for Warwick (2,297 combined) giving a plan total of 54,435 for the period 2025-2050 (29,558 and 27,878 respectively).

The current Preferred Options Plan makes allowance for 54,450 of which 26,443 comprise existing commitments and windfalls leaving some 31,000 to allocate. Preferred Options Plan seeks sites for 28,000, so additional allocations to accommodate 3,000 dwellings would be needed.

- b. Green Belt – the NPP is clear that where it is necessary to release Green Belt land for development plans should give priority to previously developed land, then consider grey belt which is not previously developed then other Green Belt locations.

‘grey belt’ is defined as land in the Green Belt comprising previously developed land and/or any other land that, in either case, does not strongly contribute to any of purpose to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas, to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another, or to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns.

On that basis the Green Belt Review will need to be revised to account for this change.

2. Overall capacity and strategy

- a. The dwelling capacity of the potential sites identified as Strategic Growth Locations is 74,500 and for the New Settlements 82,000
- b. The preferred strategy is to locate additional development on urban land, at sustainable travel hubs, enterprise hubs and areas of deprivation.

3. Current and ongoing work

- a. Examining the evidence to identify site capacities which fit the preferred strategy locations outside of the Green Belt
- b. Applying ‘grey belt’ definition to sites that may be needed to address any shortfalls

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4. Current summary and conclusions

- a. Green Belt review does not identify the three parcels within SOA6 at Old Milverton as strongly contributing to Green Belt purposes (moderate and weak)
- b. However, reasonably confident that there will be sufficient capacity, in line with the preferred strategy without the need to seek Green Belt releases. However, if this is not the case
- c. Argue that plan should only be for 15 years, so less sites needed to meet the dwelling requirement and reserve new settlements to cover the following plan period.

I hope this helps.

Best wishes

DRAFT