

MINUTES

OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 MAY 2025 AT 8:00PM IN OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL

- PRESENT:** Cllrs Emmerson, Keeling, Pope, Tansey, D/Cllrs Carolyn Gifford, Bill Gifford, C/Cllr Edwards [arrived at 20:38], 1x Member of the Public/Prospective new Councillor and the Clerk
- 2401. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**
Jamie Emmerson was prepared to stand and was duly re-elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 2402. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**
Will Tansey was re-elected as Vice-Chair.
- 2403. CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER**
Adrian Fitzpatrick was co-opted to the Council and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and given the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form, together with a copy of the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct for information.
- 2404. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
D/Cllr Syson. New C/Cllr Ben Edwards will be late due to attending 2 other PC meetings this evening.
- 2405. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None
- 2406. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None present
The Chair explained the addition of this item, which clearly sets out the time allowed for Members of the Public to speak and gives them the opportunity to do so at the start of the meeting.
- 2407. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
- 2407.1. The DRAFT minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 10 March 2025 were approved and signed.
- 2407.2. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting and not covered in this Agenda
- 2408. ISSUES & PROJECTS**
- 2408.1. **Annual Parish Meeting, 28 April 2025**
Cllr Fitzpatrick attended as a Member of the Public and found it informative. The local plan generated more interest. Cllr Pope has received comments that the feasibility study for the cycle route is an excellent document.
Village Hall Committee raised that, if the defibrillator waits for the building at the church to be completed, this may take a long time. The Village Hall now has exterior electricity supply and could have a defibrillator fitted sooner.
ACTION: Cllr Tansey to research and discuss with Village Hall Committee and the PCC at the Church.
D/Cllr Gifford recommended someone who has experience of commissioning a defibrillator and will forward details to Cllr Tansey

MINUTES

2408.2.	CIL Funded Initiatives Footpath Signs Website friendly versions of the wildlife surveys are ready to go and reports will be sent once payment is made (payment to be approved at Finance). ACTION: Cllr Pope will start to draft information boards. ACTION: Cllr Tansey to forward to relevant parties re land ownership. Clerk has not had response from WCC Highways – no need to pursue at this time.
2408.2.1.	Trail Cameras Cllr Tansey has a number of images that may be suitable for uploading to the website. Considering relocating cameras.
2408.2.1.1.	
2408.2.2.	Blackdown bench and trees No progress. Cllr Emmerson will speak to the contractor
2408.2.3.	Footpath Feasibility Study Study has now been distributed. D/Cllr Gifford asked whether it is on the website – Cllr Emmerson suggested adding a link to the shared version on OneDrive. No further action can be taken until SWLP moves forward. ACTION: Cllr Pope to post on the website ACTION: Clerk to remove from future agenda
2408.3.	SWLP Opinion received from the Barrister – Sarah Clover from King’s Chambers was asked about the DRAFT policy directive 7, green belt policy of SWLP, where the view is taken that if they have greenbelt sites and non-greenbelt sites, the greenbelt site is more sustainable they can sue that as a reason to take a greenbelt site. The Barrister has looked into this for us and is adamant of the position that you cannot choose the site you like best – the designation does count for something and says they have misinterpreted the NPPF, <i>“This is a serious error and will potentially thwart this draft plan if it goes uncorrected. I would advise those instructed to challenge it. At this stage the local planning authorities have the opportunity to correct it for themselves and they should certainly be invited to do so. The draft policy should make it very plain that any consideration of releasing land from the greenbelt will only be done in accordance with the most up to date version of the NPPF. This version requires exceptional circumstances...”</i> Clerk has forwarded to Heads of Planning at Warwick DC and Stratford-on-Avon DC, but clerk has received no acknowledgement. ACTION: Clerk to write to ask for response/acknowledgement, copy D/Cllrs [UPDATE 21/05/2025: Philip Clarke, WDC acknowledged receipt] ACTION: Cllr Pope to forward Opinion to D/Cllrs Autumn to Jan window for the Preferred Option to be published. Summary of comments may be released sooner.
2408.4.	Parish Environment
2408.4.1.	Platinum Jubilee plaque C/F Cllr Emmerson

MINUTES

2408.4.2.	Community Maintenance Cllr Tansey collected plant protectors from a couple of years ago. Observation: Not a lot of 'No Mow May' going on. Tidy Day – for consideration. None since Autumn 2024. A discussion followed regarding the Local Plan signs that should be removed.
2409.	COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS
2409.1.	Warwickshire County Council Former C/Cllr Redford 12 years of support – the PC wishes to record its thanks for his help and support over those years. A discussion followed about the election results and party make-up of the new County Council. New C/Cllr Ben Edwards [arrived at 20:38 (part way through this discussion)]. He introduced himself and he was congratulated and welcomed him to the meeting. C/Cllr Edwards is currently 'finding his feet' and gathering issues to forward and ask departments about. The PC will forward for his information. ACTION: PC to forward outstanding issues to C/Cllr Edwards
2409.2.	Warwick District Council Review of Public Space Protection Orders is out for consultation.
2410.	PLANNING
2410.1.	Applications Decided None
2410.2.	Applications Ongoing: - W/23/1698 - Woodberry of Leamington Spa, Bericote Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa, CV32 6QP - Demolition of existing office (Use class E (g) (i)), storage buildings (Use class B8), manufacturing building (use class B2) and erection of a new storage building (Use class B8) with ancillary office space. (Use Class E (g) (i)). OBJECT (Sent: 15/01/2024) - W/25/0147 - The Crofts, Bericote Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa, CV32 6QP - Replacement of current septic tanks and soakaway for new 20,000L septic tank and 330m² drainage field. No objection (Sent: 13/05/2025)
2410.3.	New Applications: - W/25/0458 - Moorfields, Leamington Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa, CV32 6RG - Tower Sign displaying the Rugby Club and other details. Councillors considered this an improvement – Councillors agreed 'No objection' - W/25/0643 - Woodland Grange, Old Milverton Lane, Old Milverton, Leamington Spa, CV32 6RN - Erection of a first-floor flat roof extension to the eastern elevation of the property. Councillors agreed 'No objection'
2410.4.	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Other Applications (non-planning application and not requiring comment): None
2411.	FINANCE
2411.1.	Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25

MINUTES

2411.1.1.	Annual Governance Return 2024/25 The Chair read the items out and all approved. The Chair and Clerk signed the Return.																
2411.1.2.	Annual Accounting Statements 2024/25 The Chair explained an historical anomaly in the books which causes a difference between Box 7 and Box 8. The Internal Auditor has been unconcerned about this difference, but as the AGAR is going to the External Auditor this year the Clerk will be seeking advice from the External Auditor in due course to get this corrected. The statement was approved as it stands and signed by the Chair and RFO (Clerk) signed the statement.																
2411.2.	Financial Report																
2411.2.1.	The financial reports 1. For the year ended 31/03/2025 and 2. To 19/05/2025 were approved.																
2411.2.2.	The following payments were approved: <table> <tr> <td>• Refund (HE): Software</td><td>£84.99</td></tr> <tr> <td>• WALC Membership 2025/26</td><td>£150.60</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Clerk's Salary (APR)</td><td>£311.34</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Website Support (JAN-MAR)</td><td>£60.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Payroll Services 2025/26</td><td>£120.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Biodiversity Audit (Summer)</td><td>£459.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Insurance to 31/05/2026</td><td>£478.71</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Clerk's Salary (MAY)</td><td>£311.14</td></tr> </table>	• Refund (HE): Software	£84.99	• WALC Membership 2025/26	£150.60	• Clerk's Salary (APR)	£311.34	• Website Support (JAN-MAR)	£60.00	• Payroll Services 2025/26	£120.00	• Biodiversity Audit (Summer)	£459.00	• Insurance to 31/05/2026	£478.71	• Clerk's Salary (MAY)	£311.14
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2412.	COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION																
2412.1.	Insurance 2025/26 The PC notes a long Term Undertaking is currently in place with Clear Councils Insurance in 2024 expires 31 May 2027. 2025/26 Premium approved under 2411.2.2.																
2412.2.	Training ACTION: Clerk to arrange training for Cllr Fitzpatrick																
2412.3.	Communications																
2412.3.1.	Councillor Emails & .gov.uk Domain C/F Cllr Emmerson																
2413.	ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS None																
2414.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS None																
2415.	NEXT MEETING The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 7 July 2025 at 8pm in Old Milverton Village Hall. The Chair gave apologies for the next meeting.																
Signed as a true record: _____ (Chair) Date: _____																	

