

MINUTES

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

- PRESENT:** Cllrs Emmerson (Chair), Fitzpatrick, Keeling, Pope, C/Cllr Edwards, D/Cllrs Bill Gifford, Syson and the Clerk
- 2434. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Cllr Tansey [Approved reason: Work commitments], D/Cllr C Gifford
- 2435. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None
- 2436. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None present
- 2437. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
- 2437.1.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 7 July were approved and signed.
- 2437.2.** There were no matters arising not included on the Agenda.
- 2438. ISSUES & PROJECTS**
- 2438.1. CIL Funded Initiatives**
- 2438.1.1.** Footpath signs (Cllr Pope)
Cllr Pope presented her thoughts, e.g. use the established 'Love North Leamington Green Belt' name and visuals, use Countryside Code "Respect Protect Enjoy". Do signs want to be authoritative or friendly and informative?
Cllr Tansey is investigating ownership of land at Leicester Lane footpath. Landowners' opinions should also be considered.
A discussion followed.
- 2438.1.1.1.** Trail Cameras (Cllr Tansey)
These are now established.
ACTION: Clerk to remove from future agenda.
- 2438.1.2.** Blackdown bench (Cllr Emmerson / Clerk)
Nothing to report. Cllr Emmerson is struggling to get any contractor to install.
- 2438.2. South Warwickshire Local Plan [SWLP]**
Responses have been published. Several Councillors observed that the Yes/No responses appear to be wrong – they are not in agreement with the accompanying comments. Cllrs will check all responses relating to SG06 and D/Cllr Gifford will feed back this observation to the SWLP Team.
D/Cllr Gifford 690 responses is good response in comparison to number of residents in the area, although less than comments for other areas. Quality of responses is most important, not number.
SWLP team is awaiting information from WCC Highways, but are in process of cost analysis. December still aim for publication of the next stage.
WDC Chair of the SWLP Committee has resigned because of disappointment in attendance. D/Cllr Boad feels wrong to have LibDem Chairs representing both councils. WDC attendance low in comparison with SoADC (evening -v- daytime meetings). Should not affect practical progress on SWLP.
A discussion followed.

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2438.3.	Parish Environment
2438.3.1.	Platinum Jubilee plaque on Old Milverton Green Nothing to report. A brief discussion took place, explaining the plinth idea. Cllr Emmerson will explore ideas for changing configuration of multiple plaques.
	C/F to October
2438.3.2.	Community Maintenance Autumn Tidy Day Dates circulated. Cllr Pope can only do 11/10/2025 – agreed. D/Cllr Clifford offered to circulate the date on his newsletter. Cllr Pope to pass info to him. ACTION: Cllr Pope to organise and forward information to D/Cllr Gifford
2439.	COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS
2439.1.	Warwickshire County Council C/Cllr Edwards has delegated highways projects and has approved installation of bollards at New Farm, Leamington Road (south-east of Riverside Hotel Kenilworth (Ramada)) Councillor grant fund - £4,000 left to spend. Cllr Pope suggested posting information on the PC website. https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllrgrants New leader of WCC ‘does not believe in cycle lanes’ and is commissioning a review. Unlikely to stop K2L, which is already under way. Aware of Sustrans feasibility study – future of that may be affected. Chair asked about road closure on Sandy Lane – C/Cllr Edwards will look into. Nothing shown on mapping. Cllr Keeling raise a recent traffic incident at Stoneleigh Road/Sandy Lane junction. C/Cllr Edwards will raise with County Surveyor. A brief discussion about local Community Speed Watch activity and pothole reporting followed.
2439.2.	Warwick District Council Changes to balance of power within WDC with 3 Councillors setting up an alternative Labour group. WDC has recently approved plans, including Tachbrook Country Park, athletics track to replace Edmondscote and the Community Stadium – the latter two have been approved to move towards planning application stage. Two by-elections next week – result may further affect balance of power across the council. Local Government reorganisation – Cabinet reshuffle has caused a new Minister for Local Government and Homelessness, Alison McGovern MP to be appointed on 06/09/2025. Regarding the idea of splitting the county North/South, C/Cllr Edwards noted that Reform Cllrs are aware that in splitting the county, north Warks would not be viable. Consultation on reorganisation open until Friday. A brief discussion followed.
2440.	PLANNING
2440.1.	Applications Decided: None

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2440.2.	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/25/0643 - 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. No objection (Sent: 12/06/2025) - W/25/0655 - Nuffield Health Warwickshire Hospital, Old Milverton Lane, Old Milverton, Leamington Spa - Full planning permission for the erection of a Radiotherapy Centre at Nuffield Health Warwickshire Hospital, Old Milverton Lane, Leamington Spa, CV32 6RW OBJECT - inappropriate development in the Green Belt and inadequate provision of car parking (Sent: 17/06/2025) - W/25/0930 - 20 Old Milverton Road, Old Milverton, Leamington Spa, CV32 6SA - Demolish the existing ground floor lean-to and conservatory. Construct new two storey side extension. Raise the height of the existing pitched roof. No objection (Sent: 02/09/2025)						
2440.3.	New Applications: W/25/0646 - Woodland Grange, Old Milverton Lane, Old Milverton, Leamington Spa, CV32 6RN - Erection of single storey extension to existing restaurant facilities. Comment due 09/09/2025 Councillors had not seen this application in advance. ACTION: Clerk to forward after meeting as a point of urgency. <i>[UPDATE; Clerk circulated and Councillors agreed to object, along the same lines as their objection to the Nuffield W/25/0655, being overdevelopment in the green belt. (Sent: 09/09/2025)]</i>						
2440.4.	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Other Applications (non-planning application and not requiring comment): None						
2441.	FINANCE						
2441.1.	The Financial Report & Bank reconciliation to 07/07/2025 was approved and signed. PO Box renewed for 2025/26 at £371.50, which Chair feels is expensive. A discussion followed about possible alternatives. Chair asked Clerk to ask Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe PC if they would like to share the PO Box No. ACTION: Clerk to test whether post to another council will arrive and speak to LW&GC PC and provide update in Oct.						
2441.2.	To approve payments as listed in the Financial Report <table> <tr> <td>○ Refund (HE): Backup hard drive</td><td>-£62.98</td></tr> <tr> <td>○ Clerk's salary (AUG) + backpay</td><td>-£362.54</td></tr> <tr> <td>○ Clerk's salary (SEP)</td><td>TBC</td></tr> </table>	○ Refund (HE): Backup hard drive	-£62.98	○ Clerk's salary (AUG) + backpay	-£362.54	○ Clerk's salary (SEP)	TBC
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Councillor Authorisers and Cllr Fitzpatrick signed Account Management Submission Form to give Cllr Fitzpatrick Authorisation rights.

ACTION: Clerk to submit Account Management form to bank

2442.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

2442.1.

Communications

Reviewed the discussion at the last meeting and satisfactory responses to questions Clerk raised with Midland Computers.

Cllr Pope has spoken to the website designer about the forthcoming changes, who understands and is 'on board' use quotes.

A discussion followed.

Council agreed to go ahead with the proposal from Midland Computers Ltd.

ACTION: Clerk to proceed with Midland Computers

2442.2.

Training

None

2443.

ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Cllr Keeling noted recruitment is no longer on the agenda. Asked the Council to bear in mind that she would like to resign when a replacement volunteers, but will continue until such time. All Councillors agreed to bear this in mind.

2444.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Police Walkabouts – Cllrs Emmerson and Fitzpatrick have taken a walk with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team. PCSO King would like to repeat every 2-3 months and is looking to have another walk in Oct/Nov. Cllr Pope and Keeling agreed to join him. Chair will liaise with Councillors and PCSO to arrange.

ACTION: Cllr Emmerson to liaise with PCSO

2445.

Next Meeting

Monday, 20 October 2025 at 8pm in Old Milverton Village Hall.

Signed as a
true record:

(Chair)

Date: _____

