

These minutes are in draft and subject to consideration at the meeting of the Parish Council on 16 May 2016. After 30 May, they may be regarded as approved if no amendments have been indicated.

OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 21ST. MARCH 2016 AT THE OLD VICARAGE, OLD MILVERTON

The meeting was scheduled to be at Old Milverton Village Hall, which, on arrival, was found to have been double-booked and was therefore convened at The Old Vicarage

PRESENT: Councillors J.M.Lander (in the Chair), J.Emmerson, Mrs.A.Kelsey and W.M.O.Tansey; and District Councillors W.L.Gifford, and Miss H.Grainger.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Mrs. L.Keeling, County Councillor W.Redford and District Councillor Mrs. A.M.Stevens

1713. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th. January 2016 were approved, and were signed by the Chairman.

1714. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a). There had been no progress from the Speed Gun Team, since guidance was still awaited from the Police.

(b). Police Sargent Allison Wiggins had agreed to make a presentation on “A Typical Day in the Life of a Police Officer” and Mrs, Sarah Lander had kindly agreed to prepare the refreshments at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 25th. April 2016, when there would also be an opportunity to discuss details of the latest developments in the Local Plan.

1715. WARWICK DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

Latest modifications to the Local Plan had been published by Warwick District Council and the Parish Council had been dismayed to learn that a plot of Green Belt land alongside Kenilworth Road A452 between Northumberland Road and Old Milverton Lane had been included for the provision of 250 houses and that this and the area between this plot and the railway line should be removed from the Green Belt, the latter area being for future development. Representations could be made from 11th. March to 22nd. April 2016 at 4.45 pm: it was agreed that the Parish Council should make a representation with advice from Hunter Page Planning. A public meeting had been called on Monday evening 14th. March at St. James's Church which was attended by some 150 people, most of whom objected to the proposed obliteration of the Green Belt area, and it was suggested from the floor that a “Fighting Fund” be set up to oppose the plan in this area. It was agreed to record thanks to Cllr. Mrs. Kesley and to Mr. Geoff Mason and his helpers for their help in publicising the meeting and the erection of notices.

The Parish Council agreed in principle to investigate the practicability of receiving contributions and to presenting its case to the Inspector later in the year at an estimate cost of £8,000.

1716. OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

There had been no progress on the Neighbourhood Plan in view of the uncertainty of the Local Plan.

1717. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

W15/2108,9 Helen Lay House, Bericote Road, Blackdown

Removal of condition restricting use to a care home

GRANTED

W15/2156LB Manor Farm, Old Milverton Road, Old Milverton

Conversion of barn to single dwelling

OBSERVATIONS: No objection

(Note: Cllr. Tansey had declared a personal interest and did not participate in consideration of this item)

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W16/0122 Blackdown House, Sandy Lane, Blackdown
Change of use from live-work unit to single dwelling house
GRANTED.

W16/0194 Jephson House, Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown
Conversion of office areas to flats
PRIOR APPROVAL WAS NOT NEEDED

1718. ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was agreed to adopt the Financial Regulations at Appendix A in replacement of those previously adopted on 17th. October 2005.

1719. INTERNAL AUDITORSHIP

Especially in view of the additional duty formally placed on the Internal Auditor it was agreed it make an annual payment of £50.00 to cover expenses.

1720. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a). The final version of Warwickshire Local Councils' Charter was noted

(b). A request was received from Old Milverton Village Hall Committee for financial assistance towards an event on Saturday 11th. June 2016 to celebrate HM The Queen's 90th. Birthday, and it was agree to contribute £100 towards the cost of wine or other drinks, under section 137 of the local Government Act 1974, on the understanding that both Old Milverton and Blackdown residents would be included.

1721. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTSIt was agreed to take issue with Warwick District Council over its invoice for £3,140.74 in respect of contribution towards 2015 Election Costs, which was a grossly inflated figure over the guidance which had been given in November 2014 based on which the Parish Council had estimated £1,750. The additional balance was attributed to the fact that the Parish Council Elections had been concurrent with the General and District Council elections, which had incurred expenses in the processing of postal votes, running 3 elections, counting of ballot papers over 2 days, each day demanding a fresh team of counting staff and a general increase in the usual number of people involved, and associated costs. It was resolved that this account be challenged on the basis that the Parish Council should not be required to finance General and District Council Election costs.

The remaining accounts were approved for payment, which included £1,200 (inc. VAT) for professional services.

1722. ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Attention was drawn to a development on the south side of Hill Wootton Road just past the River Avon, in Leek Wootton Parish, and the Clerk was asked to enquire into its status.

1723. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

Grateful thanks were expressed to Cllr. Mrs Kelsey for making available accommodation at The Old Vicarage for the holding of the meeting.

CHAIRMAN