

## **OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 16TH. MARCH 2020 AT OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL** *[The meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup>. January 2020 was cancelled owing to its being inquorate]*

**PRESENT:** Councillors J.Emmerson (in the Chair), Rachel Pope, M.Rayner and W.M.O. Tansey; and District Councillor G.Illingworth, Chairman of Warwick District Council.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor George Illingworth to the meeting.

#### **2007. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. L. Keeling; County Councillor W.Redford; District Councillors W.Gifford and Mrs. C.P. Gifford.

#### **2008. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th. November 2019 were approved for signature by the Chairman.

#### **2009. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

(a). Cllr. Tansey announced that he proposed to begin installation of the two plant half-barrels at the Car Park entrance on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>. March and invited other Councillors to join him.

(b). County Councillor Redford had indicated that the requested footpath from Sandy Lane to Leamington Rugby Football Club would be provided as part of the Kenilworth – Leamington Cycle Track due to commence in spring 2021.

(c). The booking signs outside Woodland Grange had been removed, but a Certificate of Legal Development for the use of the site as a hotel was being sought. There was no objection to this since it appeared to have similar usage already, but a request had been made to Warwick District Council to ban the signs as not appropriate for this area.

(d). Hedge trimming to improve sight lines had been undertaken at Stoneleigh Road – Sandy Lane junction, Stoneleigh Road and Kenilworth Road, as well as hedge trimming in Old Milverton Lane between Church Lane and the first house.

(e). Warwickshire County Council Communities Directorate had reported that if suitable sites can be identified for trees along Stoneleigh Road, free of overhead and underground services, it would be decided which species were appropriate and hopefully give the Parish Council a choice of which to plant. probably in the coming planting season - all dependant on availability of funding and resources. (Cllr. Illingworth indicated the possibility of the availability of HS2 funds).

#### **2010. DISCUSSION WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Useful discussions took place between Parish Councillors and Councillor George Illingworth on various subjects of interest, including Green Belt concerns, road traffic speed, processing Planning Applications and Broadband availability.

#### **2011. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: MONDAY 27TH. APRIL 2020**

A discussion took place on what had been proposed to be an innovative Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup>. April 2020, but in view of the restrictions cause by the coronavirus epidemic, these

would almost certainly have to be scaled down. Legislation made it necessary to hold the meeting in April, unless the Government introduced new legislation to abandon it. Presuming the meeting was to go ahead it was agreed to consider modifying it by not circulating leaflets to households but to rely on noticeboard announcements and not to provide refreshments, in view of advice not to encourage social gatherings. The highlight was intended to ask attendees to indicate on maps of the area improvements they would like to see. It was agreed that a decision on the arrangements be made at Easter in the light of developments. (Appreciation was expressed to Cllr. Pope for her suggestions and design of publicity leaflets).

## **2012. REDESIGN OF PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**

Cllr. Pope presented a redesign for the Parish Council website. It was agreed that it would be more appropriate to consider the details at a separate group meeting - perhaps by e-mail - with a view to presenting an agreed design for consideration at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

## **2013. CIL EXPENDITURE**

There was no suggestions as to expenditure of the CIL income but this would be partly dependent on suggestions which might be made at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting.

## **2014. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a). With the recent extremely wet weather and local building works, there had been a considerable amount of mud on the road at Church Lane, Old Milverton. The Highways Engineer had had the area swept but a more thorough approach was desirable, though, in recent weeks, the mud had dispersed somewhat. It was hoped that local effort might be made to clear the worst of the mud when conditions dry out.

(b). A discussion took place on the coronavirus emergency which called for draconian alterations to future arrangements by all organisations to discourage social contact. Advice had been received from WALC concerning the legal obligations of Parish Councils.

It included arrangements for dealing with Planning Applications, but in the case of this Parish Council, it was agreed that the existing practice of agreeing Councillors' observations by e-mail be continued, whereby the Clerk responded with reference to their approved observations and reported to the ensuing meeting.

It also included the process in making payments in the absence of a formal meeting. Requests for payments, usually within the approved estimates, would be circulated to Members for approval and the resulting cheques would have to be counter-signed by two Councillors as at present. To cater for this arrangement, in case required in the absence of a formal meeting, the following arrangement for delegation was approved.

## **2015. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO THE CLERK**

Especially in the light of the coronavirus emergency it was unanimously agreed THAT in the event of a Parish Council meeting's being cancelled, power be delegated to the Clerk to pay expenses within approved estimates, subject to their being endorsed by Councillors via e-mail and to their being reported to the ensuing meeting of the Parish Council. Payments outside the scope of the approved estimates shall be subject to majority approval by correspondence or e-mail.

## **2016. AUDIT OF 2019-20 ACCOUNTS**

In view of the coronavirus emergency, to keep procedures as straight forward as possible, it was agreed that, notwithstanding the decision taken at the meeting on 27th. November 2017 (Minute no.

1868) to opt for external audit every three years, the audit of the 2019-20 accounts be subject to an Internal Audit and that an External Audit be undertaken for 2020-21.

## **2017. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Parish Council confirmed the following Planning observations and noted the Appeal decision :

*Quarry Park, Old Milverton Lane, Old Milverton*

Enforcement Notice: Inappropriate use of land for storage

Appeal against Notice lodged

OBSERVATIONS: Support of the Notice by the Parish Council sent to Inspectorate. Since the area is in the Green Belt the inappropriate use for storage should be discontinued; it was required to protect the openness of the Green Belt and to retain its permanence. The fact of any previous enforcement, even though the owners were informed that their action were in breach of regulations, has no bearing on the continuing illegality of their actions.

*W19/0329 12 Old Milverton Road, Old Milverton*

Erection of 3-bedroom 2-storey single dwelling with associated works.

REFUSED AND APPEAL MADE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Appeal dismissed.

*W20/0030 Helen Ley House, Bericote Road, Blackdown*

Use of pasture land to form 17 car park spaces

OBSERVATIONS: No objection.

*W20/0189 River Studio, Old Milverton Lane, Old Milverton*

Erection of bicycle shed

OBSERVATIONS: No objection.

*W20/0243 Pear Tree Cottage, Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown (Application W19/1716 was withdrawn)*

Raising the eaves to achieve a more usable first floor area, replace roof with shallower pitch standing seam roof; external façade cladding with natural slate and vertical timber.

OBJECT. No objection to the raising and re-pitching of the roof but objection to the external alterations comprising re-roofing in standing seam roof and addition of slate and wooden cladding, which is not in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework in that it does not respond to the character or history of the local area nor reflect the identity of the surroundings or enhance the local environment. No similar building with a rolled tin roof or stone cladding is known in this immediate location. While the new design is more pleasing than that in the earlier Application the proposals do not accord with the current Warwick District Council Local Plan Residential Design Guide and do not take into account the materials used on other properties nearby. While a large element of the plan might be covered by permitted development it is hoped that the District Council will issue an Article 4 Direction to restrict the scope of permitted development rights. Contrary to what is claimed, the area is not suburban, but rural. The Parish Council is highly protective of the character of its area reflected in the design of alterations and while there might be a wish to “achieve a fresh contemporary appearance” it must be possible to achieve this without compromising the character of this rural area.

## **2018. GRANT TO LEAMINGTON RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB**

In response to an application received from Leamington Rugby Union Football Club it was agreed that the Parish Council support its application to Warwick District Council to further open up the

main club room to make it more welcoming to all community groups who use it, expand the outside seated space and install a new septic tank system to meet 2019 government regulations. It was noted that owing to the design of the clubhouse and the lack of outside extended space it is very difficult to run combined group events between the rugby, netball and hockey sections of the club as the entrance and lounge areas are not attractive, nor big enough, to hold these events. It was agreed that the sum of £100.00 be granted.

### **2019. PROPOSED LOCAL ELECTRICITY BILL**

A request had been received from Power for People (forwarded and approved by Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC)) to ask local councils to support the Local Electricity Bill. (124 Local Councils had already done so) which would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. This was currently impossible because of the huge set-up and running costs involved in doing so. The benefits would be: (a). Local communities and businesses could buy their electricity from a local energy company. (b). Building more local renewable energy would be financially viable. (c). Communities would benefit from the revenues that new local energy companies would generate, such as more local skilled jobs, energy efficiency schemes and investment in local facilities. Accordingly, it was agreed

THAT the Parish Council

(i) notes that the Local Electricity Bill

- aims to address the current situation, whereby the very large financial set-up and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,
- if made law, would make these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation which empower local businesses, local communities and councils to sell locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and
- would result in revenues received by councils or community organisations that set up local renewable electricity companies could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities;

(ii) accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by a cross-party group of 115 MPs during the 2017-19 Parliamentary session; and

(iii) further resolves to write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at 8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN or [info@powerforpeople.org.uk](mailto:info@powerforpeople.org.uk)) expressing its support.

### **2020. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS**

The payments specified in the Schedule provided for Members, including £123.84 for administrative expenses, £100.00 grant to Leamington Rugby Union Football Club and £450.00 payment to Warwick District Council for the May 2019 elections, were approved and cheques not previously issued were issued following the meeting.

### **2021. BUDGET COMPARISONS AND COMPARISON WITH BANK BALANCES**

The budget comparisons were examined and balances as at 22<sup>nd</sup>. February 2020 verified with bank statements were found to be satisfactory.

### **2022. ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

(a). It was agreed that the Tidy Day, envisaged for the spring be deferred until the autumn.

(b). Cllr Tansey reported that Lockwoods of Rugby Road has offered to despatch parcels as a local service and that he would circulate details.

### **2023. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

CHAIRMAN