

OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 7TH. SEPTEMBER 2020 AT OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL

This Parish Council Meeting was held at Old Milverton Village Hall in accordance with the Coronavirus Regulations since not all parties had ready access to on-line “Zoom” facilities.

PRESENT: Councillors J. Emmerson (in the Chair), Mrs. L. Keeling, Rachel Pope, and W.M.O. Tansey; and District Councillor Sidney Syson.

2035. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2036. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th. July 2020 were approved for signature by the Chairman.

2037. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a). Councillor Tansey reported that he hoped the plant half-barrels would be installed at the entrance to the Car Park during the autumn. The Chairman would correspond with the two long-serving Councillors who retired in 2019 requesting the agreement to the adding to the barrels inscriptions recording their long service, which would be financed privately by the Parish Councillors.

(b). The Clerk reported that the possibility of planting additional trees along the verges in Stoneleigh Road remained under consideration by the Forestry Section of Warwickshire County Council, subject to consideration of underground services and street furniture, and the resources which might be available in the present 2020-21 planting season were being assessed.

(c). It was agreed that the next Parish Tidy Day would most likely take place in May 2021, depending on coronavirus regulations. Meanwhile, the litter problem had abated recently and the District Council had been quick to clear up any fly-tipping.

2038. REDESIGN OF PARISH WEBSITE

Cllr. Pope reported on her progress in redesigning the Parish website and it was agreed in principle to add a section entitled “Parish Notices” or similar on which to include items normally displayed only on the Parish notice boards.

2039. CIRCULAR TO RESIDENTS

A draft of a circular prepared by Cllr. Pope to be sent to local residents inviting suggestions for additions to local amenities was considered and approved. This would compensate to a small degree the fact that owing to the coronavirus regulations the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting had not been able to take place at which such matters were to have been discussed; it also might assist in deciding on the financing of initiatives from the CIL contribution received in 2019.

The Chairman kindly agreed to arrange for the printing of the circular, which would be distributed to local householders by the Parish Councillors. The return date for suggestions was decided as Saturday 31st. October and, if appropriate, reminders might be sent.

2040. GRANT TO OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL

An application had been received from the Management Committee of Old Milverton Village Hall for a grant of £500.00 to finance improved lighting including external and emergency lighting costing £7,182.33. The application, which had been anticipated and was included in the current year's budget, was unanimously approved.

2041. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a). A card was received from Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant Warwickshire expressing appreciation to all local councils in that their "innovation, collaboration, courage and selflessness shown by so many during the COVID-19 pandemic has been truly inspirational and uplifting".

(b). Depending on arrangements applicable at the time, it was agreed that the annual visit by the Chairman of Warwick District Council take place on Monday, 18th. January 2021.

2042. DEFERMENT OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Since the coronavirus emergency had made the holding of the 2020 Annual Parish meeting and the Annual General Meeting impossible, it was formally agreed that matters be taken forward to the appropriate 2021 meetings which included that the Chairman would serve two years in office.

2043. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following Planning Application actions were approved:

W20/0886 - Highfield Barn, Sandy Lane Farm, Old Milverton Lane, Old Milverton

Change of use from agricultural to garden land

OBSERVATIONS: No direct objection but request made to consider the application in accordance with the usual regulations since the Parish Council would like to see the openness of the area preserved as far as it is possible to do so.

W20/0243 - Pear Tree Cottage, Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown

Enlargement and remodelling

REFUSED BUT APPEAL MADE. The Parish Council informed the Inspector that it maintained its initial objections to the Application.

2044. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The payments specified in the Schedule provided for Members, including £124.65 for administrative expenses and £500.00 grant to Old Milverton Village Hall were approved and the cheques were signed at the end of the meeting.

2045. BUDGET COMPARISONS AND COMPARISON WITH BANK BALANCES

The budget comparisons were examined and balances as at 22nd. July 2020 verified with bank statements were found to be satisfactory.

2046. ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLERK'S SALARY

It was agreed that the Clerk's salary be increased by £100 per annum to £2,700 with effect from 1st. July 2020.

2047. ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

(a). There had been an occasion where a camper van was parked in the Old Milverton Village Hall Car Park over night and it was considered important to discourage such use in future: the Parish Council might be asked to support such prohibition by way of a notice or other means. This assistance was looked on favourably.

2048. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

CHAIRMAN