

MINUTES

OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2026 AT 8:00PM IN OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL

- PRESENT:** Cllrs Emmerson (Chair), Fitzpatrick, Keeling, Pope, Tansey, C/Cllr Edwards, D/Cllrs Kohler, Bill Gifford, Syson, 1 member of the public [MoP] and the Clerk
2470. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
D/Cllr Carolyn Gifford
2471. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None
2472. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- The MoP was the daughter of a Blackdown resident, who attended to observe and discuss the Richborough Land Development Proposal. Public participation was incorporated in that item on the agenda, when the Chair explained the PC's position and County, District and Parish Councillors discussed and advised about how and when residents may campaign, and how the PC can support residents.
2473. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
- 2473.1. The draft minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 1 December 2025, were approved and signed.
- 2473.2. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting and not covered in this Agenda
2474. **ISSUES & PROJECTS**
- 2474.1. **Issues**
- 2474.1.1. Richborough Land Development Proposal
The Chair briefly recapped the timeline as recorded in the December 2025 minutes. D/Cllr Gifford predicted that the developer's argument will be based on Green Belt qualifying as Grey Belt and WDC's lack of a five year land supply.
The Chair quoted from Richborough about another speculative plan, off Rouncil Lane in Kenilworth, "*Although the land is designated Green Belt, the Warwick District Local Plan is out of date and along with the district's lack of a five year housing land supply, this means the plan holds a reduced weight in decision making. Richborough have brought this plan forward in light of local and national housing crisis, which the current Government have set out to address with a target to deliver 1.5 million homes by 2029. The local plan being 8 years old and with a new plan not expected for at least 2 years, means the District is currently in a position where there is a need for new housing to come forward now in the short term to boost supply*"
A discussion followed about the suitability of the site in view of the general infrastructure. There is a lack of facilities in the area to provide for thousands of new homes and highways structure. Evidence gathering important. D/Cllr Kohler clarified that, if the Planning Officer recommends approval and either the Parish Council objects, District Councillor objects or 5 members of the public object, it will go to committee for consideration.
Objection to the planning application, when it comes, should be all of the infrastructure arguments, etc. The number of objections is also crucial.
D/Cllr Kohler is in consultation with WCC Highways about the road infrastructure in the area.
The PC will post its opinion on its website and social media campaign.

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2474.1.2.	<p><u>South Warwickshire Local Plan [SWLP]</u> D/Cllr Kohler updated about the timeline and the next stage [Preferred Options] is now likely to be in June.</p> <p>Cllr Pope gave an update on research to-date for a Green Belt review and asked for approval to go ahead with UVECIC. This was approved and <u>it was resolved to commission a Green Belt Review with UVECIC.</u></p> <p>MoP asked about funding reports and/or complimentary reports. The PC and MoP will coordinate in order to limit duplications of professional reports. D/Cllr Gifford suggested that more than one expert expressing the same opinion would help.</p> <p>Further discussion followed about SWLP awareness.</p> <p>Referring back to planning applications, it is important to get a strong response (as many responses as possible) within the consultation deadline or 21 days.</p>
2474.2.	<p>CIL Funded Initiatives</p>
2474.2.1.	<p><u>Footpath signs (Cllr Pope)</u> Quotes coming in c. £700-800 per board. Looking for 6 boards.</p> <p>The Chair asked whether costs would include installation. Cllr Pope does not think so, so installation will be an additional cost.</p> <p>Cllr Tansey has followed up a response about footpath sign ideas with farmers.</p>
2474.2.2.	<p><u>Blackdown bench (Cllr Emmerson)</u> Not yet installed – carry forward.</p> <p>Cllr Keeling observed that the tree-planting will not be able to go ahead this winter.</p>
2474.3.	<p>Parish Environment</p>
2474.3.1.	<p><u>Platinum Jubilee plaque on Old Milverton Green</u> Carry forward</p>
2474.3.2.	<p><u>Community Maintenance</u> Pothole repair effected promptly.</p> <p>Cllr Tansey noted defibrillator discussion is not on the agenda.</p> <p>Proposed a Spring Tidy Day. A discussion followed about location and encouraging a good turnout from the community. Dates around the Annual Parish Meeting were considered, but a date in March was preferred – 7 March. WhatsApp message and leaflet closer to the time – Clerk to post on the website.</p> <p>Hedge trimming required and fallen trees on footpaths in a number of locations. A brief discussion followed.</p> <p>Clerk reported the damaged village sign and received a reference, shared with Cllr Fitzpatrick.</p> <p>The Chair asked C/Cllr Edwards about patching on Sandy Lane to take place throughout.</p>
2475.	<p>COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p>
2475.1.	<p>Warwickshire County Council C/Cllr Edwards, currently involved in budget-setting – apparently the most difficult budget ever set.</p> <p>Also working on planning applications, liaising with WCC Highways.</p>
2475.2.	<p>Warwick District Council D/Cllr Gifford mentioned WDC budget will be confirmed later this week.</p>

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2476.	PLANNING				
2476.1.	<p>Applications Decided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REFUSED - W/25/1475 - Micro Energy Storage Unit, Kenilworth Road, Old Milverton, Leamington Spa - Construction and operation of a micro energy storage facility with associated enclosure. OBJECT – development in greenbelt (Sent: 18/11/2025) 				
2476.2.	<p>Applications Ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) AMENDMENTS RECEIVED 15/12/2025 OBJECTION REMAINS (Sent: 12/01/2026) • 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) AMENDMENTS RECEIVED 19/11/2025 OBJECTION REMAINS - C/Cllr Edwards noted that WCC Highways are in agreement with the PC • W/25/1440 - Woodland Grange, Old Milverton Lane, Old Milverton, Leamington Spa, CV32 6RN - Demolition of existing courtyard buildings and erection of single storey infill extension and associated works. No objection (Sent: 18/11/2025) raised some inaccuracies in the application with the Planners • W/25/1549 - Moorfields, Leamington Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa, CV32 6RG - Installation of 6no 15m high lighting posts, along with 6no luminaires to provide adequate (RFU SAFETY STANDARD) lighting the 2nd pitch of the Rugby Club. No objection 				
2476.3.	<p>New Applications: None</p>				
2476.4.	<p>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Other Applications (non-planning application and not requiring comment):</p>				
2477.	FINANCE				
2477.1.	<p>The Clerk presented the DRAFT Budget for 2026/27. The budget generates a precept figure of £9,012. <u>It was resolved to approve and adopt the Budget 2026/27. It was resolved that the precept should be £9,012.</u> ACTION: Clerk to notify WDC of the Precept 2026/27</p>				
2477.2.	<p>The Financial Report & Bank reconciliation was approved and signed.</p>				
2477.3.	<p>The following payments were approved:</p> <table data-bbox="451 1910 1276 1989"> <tr> <td>• Clerk's Salary</td> <td>£321.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Website Support (OCT-DEC) + Domain</td> <td>£268.00</td> </tr> </table>	• Clerk's Salary	£321.46	• Website Support (OCT-DEC) + Domain	£268.00
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2478.	COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION
2478.1.	Communications
2478.1.1.	Recruitment The Chair will organise advertising seeking a new Councillor. ACTION: Chair to advertise for a new Councillor
2478.1.2.	The Clerk gave an update on the progress of website migration to ombparish.gov.uk. Midland Computers dealt with our previous webmaster. Previous webmaster has stepped back from the role. The Clerk has volunteered to take over the administration and this was agreed. This is separate to role of Clerk, so timesheet to be kept. The Clerk does not currently have access to the website. Following up with Midland Computers. It was agreed the Chair will send a thank you gift to the previous webmaster. ACTION: Chair to send gift and submit receipts to Clerk
2478.2.	Training
2479.	ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Tansey asked for Defibrillator to be included on future agendas. Email to the estate to confirm installation at the village hall will be acceptable. ACTION: Clerk to write to the estate ACTION: Clerk to add to future agenda
2480.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk confirmed that, due to rule that Annual Parish Meetings may not be held on licensed premises, the proposal to hold it at Old Leamingtonians RFC will not go ahead. The Annual Parish Assembly will take place on 27 April 2026 at Old Milverton Village Hall.
2481.	NEXT MEETING Monday, 16 March 2026 at 8pm in Old Milverton Village Hall.

Signed as a
true record:

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(Chair)

Date:

