

# MINUTES

**OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 28 APRIL 2025 AT 8:00PM  
AT OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Emmerson (Chair), Keeling, Pope and Tansey, D/Cllrs Gifford (Bill), Syson, 17 members of the public and the Clerk.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

C/Cllr Redford

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2024**

**a.** The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly were approved and signed by the Chair.

**b.** Any matters arising are covered in the Chairman's Report

**3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2024/25**

**a. Chair of the Council: Jamie Emmerson**

Eight meetings of the Joint Parish Council [JPC] were held in May, June (short meeting to approve Governance Statement, time critical) July, September, October, November 2024 and January and March 2025

Personnel

J Emmerson (Chair) and L Keeling in Blackdown and W Tansey (Vice Chair) and R Pope in Old Milverton H Eldridge (Clerk)

Vacancy on the PC - We have had some in interest (varying degrees) over recent months in joining from three people, expression of interest received from one of these, expected to be co-opted to the council in May 2025

Warwick District Council

No one party in overall control, Green and Labour have formed joint administration, total 44 seats:

Conservative	5
Liberal Democrat	10
Green Party	15
Labour Party	10
Whitnash Residents Association	3
Vacant	1

Councillors for Leamington Lillington (3 x Lib Dem – A Boad, P Kohler & D Russell) and Leamington Milverton (3 x Lib Dem – C Gifford, B Gifford & S Syson) Wards remain unchanged.

Warwickshire County Council

Elections will be held on Thursday, 01/05/2025 – remember to bring photo ID

Both District and County Councils have been debating devolution to a Unitary Authority, following the Government's 'English Devolution White Paper' publication on 16/12/2024. Any new unified (WCC & WDC) authority is unlikely to be part of current WM combined authority.

Some responsibilities are likely to devolve down to Parish Councils, but what these are and their effect remains to be seen.

Finances

The JPC holds nearly £94,000 of cash (£9k down on last year) including £23,325 amount of CIL funds (£30k last year)

Total Precept income annually of £8,200 (was £7,500) – less than £100 per dwelling, in fact with more dwellings overall cost per dwelling is lower now.

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The main funds could be used in the main for professional advice in protecting the area from inappropriate development in the green belt

The CIL funds have to be spent within 5 years of receipt on appropriate infrastructure projects. Currently on track with spending. If expired it is returned to WDC to spend on infrastructure across the district.

### Matters dealt with

The minutes of the JPC meetings are displayed on the notice boards and posted on the website, all the detail is contained within the minutes.

But to give a summary of what has been going on in the past 12 months.

- CIL Funded projects
  - Wildlife surveys – Cllr Pope to talk about, part of the rationale for doing these was to be able to demonstrate in response to the local plan the diversity of wildlife, will inform signage/information boards at footpath entrances
  - Bench for Stoneleigh Road/Bericote Road – STILL awaiting contractor to install, if anyone has any contacts? When in position will lead to planting around it.
  - Foot/Cycle route from Old Milverton to Blackdown – feasibility study complete, copies available to take away, is/will be on website
- Matters arising from 2024 Annual Parish Meeting  
A few issues were raised, and \* will need to be chased up with WCC after this week's elections:
  - Platinum jubilee plaque for Old Milverton Green (Bench contractor?)
  - Setts under noticeboard nr Old Milverton Green \*
  - Highways patching and widening of Old Milverton Lane \*
- South Warwickshire Local Plan [SWLP]  
Cllr Pope will report further on this.
- Other
  - Traffic Survey completed in 2024, will likely commission one for 2025 at next PC meeting
  - There is a project for installation of flashing signs to indicate a temporary 20mph limit at North Leamington School, partly as a result of above
  - St James Church, Old Milverton has a project for an extension including kitchen and toilet facilities which the PC is supportive of, could include defibrillator
  - 2 small wildlife cameras purchased for monitoring in Old Milverton and Blackdown – Otters, Badgers, Muntjac Deer, Foxes – all help in support of bio diversity of the area
  - Ground maintenance (e.g mowing) – the PC attempting to check what WCC and WDC obligations are and that they are carried out and to interest external contractor to fill in any gaps – limited success here

### Neighbourhood Watch

As last year, A vacancy exists for a co-ordinator, BUT you can sign up and access the information online

### Thanks

The Chair thanked the following:

County Councillor Wallace Redford

District Councillors:

(Blackdown) A Boad, P Kohler, D Russell

(Old Milverton) B Gifford, Mrs C P Gifford, Mrs S Syson



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Parish Councillors  
 Clerk, Helen Eldridge  
 People who help out – tidy days etc

**b. Response to the South Warwickshire Local Plan: Cllr Rachel Pope**

Cllr Pope gave a brief update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan

**c. CIL Update: Cllr Rachel Pope**

Cllr Pope gave a brief update on the CIL projects, including a progress report on the Local Plan & Wildlife Surveys

**4. OPEN FORUM**

- A question was raised about the proposed location of a defibrillator at the Church. A discussion followed about alternative locations. The conclusion was that wherever it is located, it will require time to get to, and heart attacks can occur anywhere, e.g. in the fields as well as near a road. The JPC and Church are looking at the opportunity to incorporate the electrics required, etc., with the extension at the church.
- A question was also asked, does the Saxon Mill have a defibrillator. [UPDATE 13/05/2025: According to the website <https://www.defibfinder.uk/> it does]

Signed as a  
 true record:

(Chair)

Date:

DRAFT

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