

**BLACK BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**ON 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026 AT 7PM**

Present: Cllr Andy Lanham (in the chair)

In attendance: C Street (clerk), 5 members of the public (including 2 councillors)

Annual Parish Meeting 2025: These were agreed and signed.

Chairman's report for the year: Given by Cllr Andy Lanham (see appendix)

Questions from the public:

- Why is the public footpath being converted to a bridleway? Ask OCC for their response.
- Request for update on the state of the tennis court surface. Add to next agenda to take another look at this.
- Request to turn the speed cameras around for a time (although only one is active as two of them are currently broken/damaged).
- What is the intention with the wild flower area on the corner? Agreed to speak to the grass cutter to include this area in the regular cutting.
- Discussion around climbing frame and woodchip surfacing. The climbing frame has been moved (although not by the parish council) in preparation for repainting. Agreed to look for quotes for resurfacing before the RoSPA inspection in July.
- Pot hole outside The Vines has been reported on Fix My Street but this is still outstanding.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Chairman's report:

Over the past twelve months your parish council has continued to attend to village matters within their area of responsibility. This includes attending regular meetings of the council, dealing with any planning applications and general day to day matters. The day-to-day matters include such things as grass cutting, tree maintenance, fix-my-street...etc, the more mundane stuff.

Other items of note have been that the lease on the playpark expired this year, this has meant that over the past twelve months the council has had to liaise with Christchurch College in order to get the lease renewed. This process has been a long drawn-out affair ably dealt with by Councillor Shaw. The process has now been concluded, we are now in the process of paying the bill, which ensures that the playpark will remain under lease to ourselves for the next ten years.

As I am sure most of you are aware that numerous trees have been planted around the village over the past few years and looking after them has been an ongoing process for members of the council. Due to last year's summer being a hot and dry one myself and Councillor Miles spent many hours watering them. I do now feel that we are now seeing the fruits of our labour and that the trees are starting to look very nice with those around the green looking particularly good.

We are currently in the process of addressing the issues around the speed indicating devices. The one located along the Alvescot Road was knocked off its post and damaged. We hope our insurance will cover this one. The one on the Bampton Road has stop working and unfortunately the company that supplied it has gone bust, so we need to find another solution for that one.

Councillors often attend other events out of the village. Councillor Miles has attended a number of flood committee meetings over the past year and I have attended a number of RAF Brize Norton Local Community Working Group meetings held at RAF Brize Norton.

Councillor Shaw has dealt with the lion's share of matters arising for the playpark including working with Christchurch and their contractors.

At the end of the last council year, we had a full complement of five councillors. We have since had to say goodbye to Yve Dearman and Alan Clark. This has left us with three councillors, which is the bare minimum allowed for us to be able to legally function as a council.

In order for the council to continue to function we need volunteers to step forward and become active, long term, members of the Parish Council. If we do not get support from within the village then we will have to take serious steps towards finding ways for village matters to be governed from elsewhere. Please support the Parish Council and help keep decision making within the village.

To finish, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their help and support over the past year and to our parish clerk for putting up with us for the past twelve months.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_