**Minutes for the Meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council**

**15th January 2013, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present** |  |
|  | Councillors: D Turner (Chair), I Tipton (Vice-Chair) and G Davy. |
| **In Attendance** |  |
|  | Joanna Bloomfield (Clerk) and three members of the public. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  1. | **Welcome and apologies for absence**.Councillor Turner opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Councillors Morton and Healey had both sent their apologies for this meeting. Borough Councillor Hazelton was expected. |
|  2. | **To accept apologies for absence**.It was agreed to accept the apologies for absence from Councillors Morton and Healey. |
|  3. | **Declarations of interest.**There were no declarations of interest. |
|  4. | **Representations from the public.**There were no representations from the public. |
|  5. | **Report from Borough Councillor.**As Borough Councillor Hazleton had not arrived, it was decided to continue with the meeting and allow him to speak when he did. |
|  6. | **Minutes of the last meeting.**The minutes of the Parish Council held on 20th November 2012 were unanimously approved and signed as a true record. |
|  7. | **The Parish Plan.** Councillor Turner had visited a Rugby Planning Officer to discuss the new legal framework and was advised that it was not necessary to re-do the Parish Plan, but to update the housing paragraphs, although there was no urgency. A new Midland Rural Housing Group, with Richard Mugglestone at the helm, has replaced the existing Warwickshire Rural Housing Group. Under the old system new housing was only allowed to meet the need for rented and/or affordable housing, but now it also includes special needs such as disability or age. The Chair was also advised that a commissioned Housing Needs Survey from MRHG would carry more weight that a Parish Council Housing Needs Survey. There would obviously be a cost to this but the Borough Council has grants available. The Chair had asked that the changes to the new legal framework be emailed to her and the Clerk. It was suggested that the Council get a feel for what the village wants before commissioning a review. It was agreed that Richard Mugglestone should be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting in March. Action**Clerk** to invite Richard Mugglestone to the March Birdingbury Parish Council meeting. |
|  8. | **Mowing of verges and playing field.** Councillors reviewed the quote from MFM (who currently mow the verges and playing field) for 2013, comparing it with the cost in 2012, and agreed to accept.Action**Clerk** to write to MFM accepting the quote for 2013. |
|  9. | **Storage for village archive.**The original idea for a purpose built archive store had been advised against and as a result it had been agreed that a metal filing store would be more appropriate, with a cost to each of the three parties (PCC, the History Group and Birdingbury Parish Council) of £220. The PCC and the History Group had forwarded cheques of this amount to the Clerk. The store and suspension filing system had been ordered from Viking at a slightly reduced amount to the published figures and those quoted before the new year, leaving a surplus for files, etc. Councillors discussed who would be key holders and were advised that this would be agreed at a meeting of the History Group in early March, when the distribution of the space would also be decided. |
| 10. | **Village Green**. Councillor Turner had raised the issue with the PCC, which, although not given a formal response, had not said ‘No’. She undertook to explore the matter further and the Clerk was asked to place it on the agenda for March.Action**Clerk** to put Village Green on agenda for March Birdingbury Parish Council meeting. |
| 11. | **Reports from Councillors.*** Councillor Tipton: had received correspondence from a villager relating to an elderly neighbour. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Rugby Borough Council in their role as responsible landlord with cc to Warwickshire Social Services. Councillor Tipton to forward photographic evidence to Clerk to attach.
* Councillor Turner: reported that Councillor Morton had brought the issue of fly tipping under the viaduct to her attention. *(see Highways, below)* Clerk was also asked to contact Stratford Council regarding fly tipping on the Long Itchington Road.

Actions**Councillor Tipton** to forward photograph to Clerk.**Clerk** to contact Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire Social Services regarding resident.**Clerk** to contact Stratford Council regarding fly tipping on the Long Itchington Road. |
| 12. | **Correspondence requiring action.**WALC Nominations for attendance at a Royal Garden Party. It was agreed that Councillor Tipton should be nominated to attend.Action**Clerk** to forward nomination to WALC |
| 13. | **Financial Issues**13.1 Approval of Cheques The following cheques were approved and signed:* PCC re: Allotments – cheque no: 512 £80.00
* Viking re: village archive store – cheque no: 513 £486.00
* Clerk’s fee and expenses Nov & Dec – cheque no: 514 £345.85
* Eric Smith, Joiner re: notice boards for bus shelter – cheque no:515 £600.00
* Viking re: suspension files – cheque no: 516 £109.75

13.2 Financial statement: Circulated by the Clerk. 13.3 Annual Precept: The Chair reported that this had been requested at the amount discussed at the November meeting. She had received no comments whatsoever as a result of the Birdsong article. |
| 14. | **Planning Issues*** Pioneer Farm, Stockton Road, Birdingbury – R13/0015. Councillors had reviewed the file as prepared by RBC and agreed to offer ‘No Comment’.

Action**Clerk** to email RBC Planning Department with the Council’s response of ‘No Comment’. |
| 15. | **Highways** * Verge under the Viaduct. As requested at the November meeting the Clerk contacted Highways with the concerns relating to verges and the potential for traffic to leave the road and enter the water as the verges were being eroded. Councillors also expressed concern about eroded verges on the bridge. Highways had visited and erected some reflectors but as it was felt that they had not completely understood the situation, the Clerk had subsequently contacted Mark Widdows and offered a site meeting. There has been no response to this. It was agreed by Councillors that this was such an important, and potentially lethal issue, that the Clerk should contact Highways again and this time request a site meeting.

As well as the concern over the state of the verges, an incident of fly-tipping had also occurred. This was reported to RBC by the Chair and removed the following day. The contents appeared to be domestic Christmas detritus with personal tags, in a revolting state. The Clerk was asked to write to RBC thanking them for their prompt action and asking whether it was possible to pursue and prosecute the offenders.* Leamington Hastings Road – damaged culvert. This has been reported to Highways. Mark Widdows replied, saying that it had been inspected and added to ‘Defects’.
* Stockton Road – speed limits. As the speed limits had not been changed, merely new signs indicating where restrictions ended, it was agreed that the Council could take no action. The Chair to contact the villager who expressed concern, with Council’s decision.
* Road sweeping in Birdingbury. Originally an issue raised by a villager due to erosion of verge on Long Itchington Road, possibly by buses reversing around the corner and damaging the verge, resulting in mud on the road causing dangerous driving conditions on a downhill section just before a T-junction. This is compounded by rain water run-off because of the recent wet weather, which freezes in a large area of ice. The Clerk was asked to contact Graham Stanley regarding this issue, attaching photograph provided by Councillor Tipton.
* Blocked drain on Bourton Hill. This was raised by a number of villagers but had now been repaired by Severn Trent Water, as it was their responsibility.

Action**Clerk** to write to Mark Widdows requesting site visit concerning the verge under the viaduct and over the bridge.**Clerk** to contact RBC regarding fly tipping under viaduct.**Chair** to contact villager concerned with speed limit on Stockton Road.**Clerk** to contact Graham Stanley regarding verge on Long Itchington Road.   |
| 16. | **Newcomers to the village.**There were no new residents in Birdingbury since the last meeting. Councillor Tipton reported that he had met the new residents at Masters Court and introduced them to other residents. |
| 17. | **Business considered urgent by the Chair** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda).There were no items of considered urgent by the Chair. |
| 18. | **Date of next meeting**The next meeting of the Birdingbury Parish Council is to be held onTuesday 19th February 2013 at 7.30pm at the Birbury. |
|  | There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.35pmSigned ................................................................ (Chair)Date .....................................................................  |