

Draft Minutes for the Meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council
16th July 2013, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury

Present

Councillors: D Turner (Chair), I Tipton, G Davy, T Healey and C Morton, and Borough Councillor Hazelton.

In Attendance

Joanna Bloomfield (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence.**

Councillor Turner opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Roberts.

2. **To accept apologies for absence.**

It was agreed to accept the apologies for absence from County Councillor Roberts.

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 Hazelton.**

Borough Councillor Hazelton:

- asked the Parish Councillors to keep in mind the Civic Sunday service for 2014. This year it took place at the end of June.
- reported that Rugby Borough Council had a new slogan 'Soil and rubble in green bins cause trouble' and will refuse to take bins which contain soil – a label will be applied informing the owners and the bin will be left in place. Councillor Turner will alert villagers to this in her BirdSong article.
- reported that scrap metal dealers are now under local government control. Lorries need a licence to carry scrap metal and can be stopped and asked to produce it. It was hoped to reduce the amount of stolen agricultural machinery ending up as scrap.

6. **Minutes of the last meeting.**

The minutes of the Parish Council held on 18th June 2013 were unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

7. **The Housing Needs Survey.**

It has been agreed with Richard Mugglestone of Midlands Rural Housing that the HNS will be delivered with the October issue of BirdSong, with the response required by the end of the month. A report will be available for the Parish Council meeting in November or January. A short article from MRH indicating the reasons for the survey and the timetable has been forwarded to BirdSong for the August edition and Councillor Turner will also mention it in her column. MRH have offered to donate £50 to BirdSong for distributing the survey.

8. **War Memorial.**

Since the June meeting, the Clerk had circulated a report on avenues of funding for repair and conservation of the War Memorial. Two specialist companies were willing inspect the memorial and give advice and quote free of charge. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the companies and arrange for the inspections to take place before the next Parish Council meeting so that Councillors would be fully informed.

9. **The Recreation Field.**

The annual inspection had finally taken place during the morning, Councillor Healey meeting with the inspector. Morrall Play Services will forward a report with photographic evidence. Councillors discussed various minor repairs which were required. It was agreed that Councillor Healey will fill cracks in posts and remove a bolt that could catch and that a quote will be requested for the repair of the hunter seats. It was also agreed that Councillor Davy, who had carried out extensive research into the most suitable chippings available, would organize new chippings to provide a deeper surface, with a budget of £150.
10. **PCC/Allotment rent.**

As requested at the June meeting, the Clerk had written to the PCC but as yet no reply had been received.
11. **Reports from Councillors.**

Councillor Morton: questioned why the Recreation Field had been put on special watch by Rugby Police. Councillor Turner explained that the subject was discussed at the Dunchurch Panel, where it was agreed that it was worth making youngsters aware that misbehaving - lighting fires, staying overnight, bottles left behind – does not go unnoticed and she requested that Birdingbury be added to list of other villages. It was agreed that Councillor Turner should also mention this in her BirdSong column. Councillors also discussed anti-social behaviour under the railway arches, particularly on the far side of the river. Often youngsters in cars from Bourton/Frankton and beyond leaving smashed bottles and syringes and spray painting. It was agreed to ask PCSO Steadman to include the railway arches in the watch.
Councillors Turner and Davy: had visited newcomers to the village.
12. **Correspondence requiring action** (and not elsewhere on the agenda).

There was no correspondence requiring action.
13. **Financial Issues.**
 - 13.1 The following cheques were approved for signing:
 - MFM Grass Cutting Services, 000544: £264.00
 - Clerk's fees and expenses, 000545: £286.70
 - Willoughby Challenge, 000546: £80.00
 - Zurich Insurance, 000547: £719.63
 - 13.2 The financial statement was circulated.
 - 13.3 The Clerk reported that no-one had asked to view the accounts and the Annual Return had been posted to the auditors.
 - 13.4 The Clerk reported that insurance premium was due. In 2012 the Council agreed to a three year contract with Zurich Insurance which gave a discount on the yearly premium. This year Zurich Insurance have introduced a system whereby if the

cover (and therefore premium) is increased in line with their recommendations to take into account inflation, claims will be settled without question. Councillors had the choice of keeping the cover the same as last year, but the company would not guarantee a 'no quibble' pay-out. It was agreed to accept Zurich Insurance's advice.

13.5 The Clerk reported that although the Council had agreed to support the Willoughby Challenge, no cheque had been approved for signing. This was now rectified.

14. **Planning Issues.**

- R11/2061 – Birdingbury Fields Farm. No final decision had been made by Rugby Borough Council.
- R13/1108 & R11/1146 – The Old Stone Cottage. Councillors Davy and Healey visited and recommended that the Council offer 'No comments'. This was agreed.
- R13/0895 - Abberley. Councillors Tipton and Morton visited and recommended a 'no comments' response which was communicated to the planning department in line with their dead line of 12th July.
- R13/1172 – Elm House. Councillors Turner and Healey visited and recommended that the Council offer 'No comments'. This was agreed.

Action

Clerk to forward the Councils response to planning applications.

15. **Highways.**

As requested at the last Parish Council meeting, the Clerk had written to Graham Stanley. A response had been received from Graham Stanley and circulated. Councillors discussed the response which they felt was entirely unsatisfactory, with Highways making a unilateral decision not to paint chevrons at the village gateways, at odds with the expert advice given by Graham Stanley and the agreed schedule of works. Councillors agreed that the contractors should at least have put their argument (that reduced speed limits on the surrounding roads to be introduced by RBC would be sufficient) to the council for consideration and questioned whether the Council had paid for work not done. They also questioned the timescale for the change of speed limits on rural roads. It was agreed that, particularly due to the number of people living on the Marton and Leamington Hastings Roads who complain about fast cars, the Clerk should write to Graham Stanley expressing the Councils concerns.

Action

Clerk to contact Graham Stanley.

16. **Newcomers to the village.**

There were no new villagers since the last meeting.

17. **Business considered urgent by the Chair** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda).

There was no business considered urgent by the Chair.

18. **Date of next meeting.**

The next Parish Council meeting is to be held on Tuesday 17th September 2013 at 7.30pm at the Birbury.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.12pm

Signed (Chair)

Date