Draft Minutes of the meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council

22nd April 2014, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury

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| **Present** | |  |
|  | Councillors: D Turner (Chair), I Tipton, G Davy, T Healey and D Preston | |

**In Attendance**

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

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| 1. | **Welcome and apologies for absence**.  Councillor Turner opened the meeting and welcomed those present. County Councillor Roberts and Borough Councillor Hazelton were unable to attend due to Rugby Council Meeting. |
| 2. | **To accept apologies for absence**.  There were no apologies for absence to accept. |
| 3. | **Declarations of interest.**  There were no declarations of interest. |
| 4. | **Representations from the public.**  There were no representations from the public. |
| 5. | **Reports from Borough and County Councillors.**  As neither Councillor was in attendance, there were no reports to receive. |
| 6. | **Minutes of the last meeting.**  The minutes of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th March 2014 were unanimously approved and signed as a true record. |
| 7. | **Underground Coal Gasification**.  No application has yet been received. Although RBC have agreed to set up a committee to respond if an application is received, this had not yet been set up. Councillors agreed to remain alert for any change in circumstance and that they were in communication with a well informed villager with an interest in the matter. |
| 8. | **War Memorial Restoration**.  The Clerk reported that Inspire Conservation had signed the ‘Contractor Declaration’ form required by The War Memorial Trust but no date for the work had yet been confirmed. |
| 9. | **The Recreation Field**  Councillor Healey reported on the current state of the Recreation Field. The hedge has now been cut but it requires cutting inside where the machine couldn’t quite reach. Councillor Turner volunteered to do this when their hedge is done, although it would not be for a month or two. Councillor Healey also reported that he thought the benches were beyond repair. The Council discussed various means of replacement including paying for new benches and asking the Village Distribution Fund for help. They decided that initially the Council should notify the family of the original donors that the benches have deteriorated beyond repair and needed to be replaced. |
| 10. | **Parish Council Financial Regulations**  The Clerk reported that although this subject had been discussed as the result of a letter from the bank offering an on-line service, which had been declined, she felt it was necessary to have a clear response to the recent change in legislation. The Council confirmed their agreement that the current system of signing the cheques at the Parish Council Meeting acted as a safeguard for all concerned. They further agreed to revisit the question once a year. |
| 11. | **Reports from Councillors.**  Councillor Tipton reported that two drains at the top of the village were thick with mud and required clearing. The Clerk was asked to write to RBC requesting that they clear the drains. He also reported that he had received an email from RBC about flood wardens working in groups to combat potential flooding, but as Birdingbury does not have the necessity for a flood committee, he would respond on behalf of the Parish Council to that effect.  Councillor Turner reported on the litter pick when twelve villagers collected a lot of rubbish, including bottles, mostly from the edge of the village. Associating the litter pick with Swapshop helped with the turnout. Councillors discussed the amount of rubbish collected and its possible origins. Up to 50 tyres are collected from the ditch on the Long Itchington Road each year. RBC charges £1-2 to recycle a tyre but it must cost more to collect. The Council asked the Clerk to write to RBC and WCC regarding the litter pick and the large amount collected, enquiring what arrangements can be made for the collection of the rubbish as it is too much to put into individual bins and also ask about tyres on Long Itchington Road, with copies to Councillors Roberts and Hazelton. Fast food rubbish from the recently opened McDonalds was now found within Birdingbury. Councillors agreed to keep an eye on this, and write to the company if necessary. The new litter picks were a good quality. |
| 12. | **Correspondence requiring attention** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda).   * The Council agreed to a request from the organizers of the Country Show to use the Recreation Field for children’s events. * Councillor Davy agreed to sow poppy seeds provided by Rugby in Flower, for display around the War Memorial. |
| 13. | **Financial Issues**  13.1 The following cheques were approved:   * Clerk’s fees and expenses – March: 000573 - £166.97 * WALC annual subscription: 000571 - £118.00 * The Hovel annual payment: 000572 - £10.00   13.2/3 The end of year financial statement was circulated.  13.4 Councillor Turner read the Accounting Statements, which were agreed and signed |
| 14. | **Planning Issues**.   * R11/2061 – Staddlestones. The Clerk reported that this application has now been referred by the Secretary of State to an Informal Hearing. The Council agreed that they had no further comment to make. |
| 15. | **Highways**  The dragon teeth at the village entrances have now been repainted but the rest of the white lining has not. |
| 16. | **Newcomers to the village**  Councillors Tipton and Healey had both welcomed newcomers to the village. |
| 17. | **Business considered urgent by the Chair** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda)  Councillor Turner asked Councillors to deliver leaflets advertising the Annual Village Meeting. |
| 18. | **Date of next meetings**  The **Annual Village Meeting** will take place on **Tuesday 29th April** and the next Birdingbury Parish Council will take place on **Tuesday 20th May** after the AGM. |
|  | There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.32pm  Signed ................................................................ (Chair)  Date .................................................................. |