

Minutes of the meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council
24th February 2015, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury

Present

Councillors: D Turner (Chair), I Tipton, T Healey and D Preston.

In Attendance

Joanna Bloomfield (Clerk) and two members of the public.

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

Councillor Turner opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Councillor Davy had tendered her apologies.

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

The Parish Council agreed to accept the apologies from Councillor Davy.

3. **Declarations of interest.**

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

4. **Representations from the public.**

Two members of the public attended the meeting to apprise the Council of the proposed solar farm on the Long Itchington Road. They expressed concern that the only notification of a consultation meeting held at the Birbury had been in the Rugby Observer, which is not seen by all the village, and that they had had to leaflet the village publicising the event. They also expressed concern that the original eight acres may increase if the twenty acre site in Long Itchington does not go ahead. They asked that as soon as the Parish Council is notified of a planning application, that this information is forwarded to them. This was agreed. Councillor Turner explained the planning process and suggested that as concerned members of the public they contact the planning office themselves to make the case for being interested neighbours and to be included in the formal consultation process as the Borough Council often takes more notice of a neighbour's point of view than that of the Parish Council. The Council also discussed the logistics of the planning application, that it will be the company leasing the land who will apply for planning approval, not the land owner.

5. **Reports from Borough and County Councillors.**

As neither Borough Councillor Hazelton nor County Councillor Roberts were in attendance, there were no reports to receive.

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

The minutes of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th January 2015 were approved and signed as a true record.

7. **The War Memorial**

The Clerk reported that £166.00 had been received from the War Memorials Trust, bringing the project to a close. The WMT had suggested that the Council consider having the memorial listed and the Clerk was asked to enquire from the planning office what were the costs and implications of this.

8. **The Recreation Field**

The quote from Sovereign Play for a safety surface under the climbing frame had been previously circulated. Councillors discussed this and the quote received from RTC in November. Councillor Healey volunteered to look at other playgrounds in the area to see what surfaces they have used and what funding was obtained. The Clerk will investigate further funding revenues.

9. **Reports from Councillors** (other than Planning and Highway issues).

There were no reports from the Councillors.

10. **Correspondence requiring attention** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda)

- NALC Legal Topic - Electronic Communication of Summons: a change in legislation now enables agendas and summonses to be sent by email, as opposed to postal and hand delivery previously. Councillors agreed to receive the summons and agenda by email and also agreed that the agenda would continue to appear on Birdingbury.org and as a hard copy on the noticeboard. The Clerk was asked to amend the Standing Orders to reflect this change.
- RBC National Spring Clean: the Council had previously agreed to arrange a litterpick in the spring. The RBC's letter offered the loan of equipment and the collection of rubbish, including bulky items and reminded councils to complete a risk assessment before the event. The Council agreed that notification of the litterpick should go into the next edition of Birdsong.
- Councillor Turner had received a letter from a Marton resident who had collected litter between the villages for the last twenty-two years, but was now retiring. She expressed her appreciation of all that the Councillors do to keep the village running smoothly. Councillor Turner had replied.
- The Clerk had received a letter from the Allotment Association introducing the new treasurer.

11. **Financial Issues**

11.1 The following cheque was approved for payment:

- Clerk's fees and expenses(January): 000608- £171.75

11.2 The Council agreed to pay the annual fee of £35.00 to the Information Office for Data Protection, paid by standing order.

11.2 The financial statement was circulated.

The Council discussed the reserves in relation to the safety surface in the recreation ground. It was decided to continue looking for funding for this (see above).

12. **Planning Issues.**

- R14/1978 - High Mead, Marton Road
- R14/2382 - The Old Post Office, Marton Road

The Clerk reported that both planning applications had been approved since the last meeting.

Other Planning Issues:

- Councillors further discussed the potential of a planning application in relation to a solar farm and agreed that as this was a significant issue, if only to a minority of residents, it would be put as an agenda item on the next Birdingbury Parish Council meeting.

- 13. **Highways**
Councillors discussed the recent re-construction of the Jitty and part of Main Street pavements. They agreed that they were pleased it had been done but that the footpath in Marton Road is in a particularly poor state and as yet there has been no notification that this will be remedied. When the current work is completed, the Clerk will write to the Highways Authority asking whether there are there any infrastructure reasons why Marton Road has not been done.

- 14. **Elections**
Councillor Turner had previously circulated a poster advertising the forthcoming election including an invitation for nominations. It was agreed that this should be put on the noticeboard and birdingbury.org. RBC have sent correspondence detailing the election process and timetable.

- 15. **Newcomers to the village**
There were no newcomers to the village.

- 16. **Media Policy**
The Clerk had previously circulated the NALC proposed Media Policy. The Council discussed the policy in relation to the Birdingbury Parish Council and decided that it was not required.

- 17. **Business considered urgent by the Chair** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda)
There was no further business considered urgent by the Chair.

- 18. **Date of next meetings**
The next Birdingbury Parish Council will take place on **Tuesday 17th March 2015**.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm

Signed (Chair)

Date