**Minutes of the meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council**

**17th March 2015, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury**

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

**In Attendance**

Joanna Bloomfield (Clerk).

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| 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.**  There was no representation from the public. |
| 5. | **Reports from Borough and County Councillors.**  Borough Councillor Hazelton reported that:   * the applications for RBC Community Grants were open. * Birdingbury Parish Council should seek a copy of the Flood Risk Strategy Consultation from Grandborough Parish Council.   County Councillor Roberts reported that :   * The Purdah period for the County and Borough Councils starts between 23 – 30th March. * Rates bill have been circulated. Warwickshire County Council has put up the rates by 1.95% due to cuts in Government grants as well as pulling down £4m from reserves to ease the burden on residents in the face of the competing problems of increasing young and old.   Councillors asked about the proposed building development at Ashlawn Road: Planners are still looking at the application, with County Highways against changes in Dunchurch. This particular development forms part of the long term plan, probably not due for thirty years, but the developers are trying to bring it forward. There is to be a public meeting, but the development could be scuppered if the traffic situation cannot be sorted out and the need to prove that all building is sustainable.  Councillors also asked about the closures on the gyratory system, particularly why no temporary traffic lights had been in place at the Ashlawn Road/Barby Lane junction. Councillor Roberts has arranged a meeting with the Portfolio Holder, specifically in light of the impact on the hospital and residents attending for outpatient treatment. Traffic management no longer a police issue, it is up to the contractors to arrange and a lot of public money had been put in to the work, so it is reasonable to ask why this happened.  The Councillors reported that they, and the Birdingbury residents, were very pleased with the work on the Jitty and Main Street pavement. |
| 6. | **Minutes of the last meeting.**  The minutes of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 24th February 2015 were approved and signed as a true record. |
| 7. | **The Recreation Field**  Councillors discussed further funding for the safety surface under the climbing frame and agreed that the Clerk should apply for £1,000 from the RBC Youth & Play Grant Scheme and £750 from Awards for All, in addition to the £535 received from the WCC Rugby Area Grant. They further agreed that the Parish Council would fund the difference between the money raised and the quote for the work. Councillor Healey had visited several nearby play areas to see which companies had been involved in their construction and recommended that Wicksteed be considered. |
| 8. | **Parish Walk/Litter pick**  It was agreed that the Litter Pick should take place on Saturday 2nd May, 10.00 – 11.00am. The Clerk to hire hi-viz vests and black sacks from RBC and arrange collection of the rubbish. Councillor Davy agreed to undertake a risk assessment prior to the event.  It was further agreed that the Parish Walk, with representatives from WCC, should be for the new Council after the elections in May. |
| 9. | **Reports from Councillors** (other than Planning and Highway issues).  Councillors discussed the Birdingbury Fireworks, particularly the insurance which the Parish Council have agreed to cover. The Clerk was asked to find out from the insurance company how much this would cost and to put the Fireworks on the Annual Village Meeting agenda. Volunteers would be sought to help and possibly undertake some training in working safely with fireworks.  Councillors also discussed the recently circulated note from the Birdingbury Club looking for a Business Manager. Councillor Tipton advised that an outside person was being sought to drive the business forward as a wholly drinking establishment will not survive and the Committee was looking to maintain the status and use of the building. As tenants, the Parish Council has an interest in what goes on in the building and it is to be hoped that feedback to the Council will continue. |
| 10. | **Correspondence requiring attention** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda)   * WALC circulated a letter prepared by Stratford Council on tackling Dog Fouling, which the Chair agreed to put on the notice board |
| 11. | **War Memorial.**  The Clerk reported that the listing of historic buildings, including War Memorials, came under the jurisdiction of Historic England (formerly part of English Heritage which was in the process of becoming two separate institutions). The newly published website was experiencing problems but a copy of the listing application form had been forwarded by email and the issue would be on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting. |
| 12. | **Financial Issues**  12.1 **The following cheque was approved for payment**:   * Clerk’s fees and expenses (February): 000609- £171.75   12.2 **The financial statement was circulated**.   * Councillors discussed projects within the village which may require funding, including the continuing refurbishment at the Recreation Field - painting the slide, replacing the picnic seat – as well as the possibility of ring-fencing a sum for paying a handyman to undertake work around the village on an ‘as needed’ basis. The Chair agreed to publicise this in her Birdsong report, asking if anyone in the village knew of a local person who would be willing to undertake this sort of work.   12.3 **Annual audit**.   * It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Andrew Armbrister to see if he would kindly agree to act as the Internal Auditor for the Council’s accounts again this year. |
| 13. | **Planning Issues**.   * **R15/0448 - Davenport Cottage, Back Lane**.   As this was for listed building consent, the Council did not invoke the protocol but the Clerk was asked to make a ‘no comments’ response.   * **Potential solar farm**.   There had been no further developments on this issue to report. |
| 14. | **Highways**  Now that the work on Main Street is completed, the Clerk was asked to write to the Highways Authority thanking them for the work on the Jitty and Main Street and asking whether there are there any infrastructure reasons or issues of ownership that makes it difficult to repair the footpath on Marton Road. Councillors also discussed the continuing issue of ruts only half-filled. |
| 15. | **Elections**  The Clerk circulated the five election packs forwarded from RBC. The Clerk was asked to request three more election packs in case more residents wished to put themselves forward for election. The Chair would report that these are available in her Birdsong report. |
| 16. | **Newcomers to the village**  There were no newcomers to the village. |
| 17. | **Business considered urgent by the Chair** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda)  The Councillors discussed the forthcoming Annual Village Meeting on Tuesday 28th April, including items for the agenda.  The Clerk was asked to forward a poster for the National Plant Monitoring Scheme to Birdsong. |
| 18. | **Date of next meetings**  The next Birdingbury Parish Council will take place on **Tuesday 21st April 2015**. |
|  | There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9pm  Signed ................................................................ (Chair)  Date .................................................................. |