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

**19th May 2015, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury**

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| **Present** | |  |
|  | Councillors: D Turner (Chair), I Tipton, G Davy, D Preston and Borough Councillor Crane. | |

**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. Apologies had been received from Jackie Morton. |
| 2. | **To accept apologies for absence**.  The apologies received from Jackie Morton were accepted. |
| 3. | **Declarations of interest.**  Councillor Turner declared an interest in Item 3:R15/0903. |
| 4. | **Representations from the public.**  There was no representation from the public. |
| 5. | **Reports from Borough and County Councillors.**  Councillor Turner welcomed newly elected Borough Councillor Emma Crane. County Councillors Howard Roberts was unable to attend the meeting. |
| 6. | **Minutes of the last meeting.**  The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th April 2015 were approved and signed as a true record. |
| 7. | **The Recreation Field.**   * Councillor Turner reported that several Councillors had met with the owner of the field adjacent to the Recreation Field, who had proposed to solve the problem of livestock entering the Recreation Field by re-enforcing the boundary from his side of the ditch, and agreed that there was no urgent need for the Parish Council to provide a fence. * The Clerk reported that Awards for All had provisionally agreed the grant of £750 towards the cost of providing a safety surface under the climbing frame. The Chair and the Clerk signed the agreement, which the Clerk will return with other required documentation. The Clerk further reported that the Youth & Play Grants Scheme application for £1,000 for the same project was being considered by Rugby Borough Council. The Chair expressed her thanks for the work the Clerk had put into acquiring the grants. |
| 8. | **The Annual Village Meeting.**  At the Annual Village Meeting held on April 28th, three issues were raised for further consideration:   * There had been overwhelming agreement that a Dog Fouling Bin should be placed in the middle of the village. The Clerk was asked to contact Rugby Borough Council to arrange for a bin to be placed outside ‘Leon’. * A villager from Long Itchington Road had questioned whether there had been any response to his previous concern about the state of the verge outside his home. Soft verges were cut-up by cars and farm vehicles, contributing to the blocked drain. Originally curbs had been requested and although it was acknowledged that this would cost thousands of pounds, if done, then Birdingbury Parish Council not be on to the Highways Department so often. The drain is always blocked making the road slippery in winter and, in the past, causing flooding at the bottom of Back Road because of run-off. Residents try to keep the verges in good condition but walkers often park on them. The problem of keeping the drains clear has been exacerbated by the reduction of drain cleaners in the county from three to one. So far, despite several consultations with the various Locality Officers, there has been no resolution. It was agreed that the Councillors would bring this to the attention of the current Locality Officer when they meet and that the Clerk would inform the villager of the outcome. * The meeting had been clearly in favour of the Parish Council looking at the issue of having a phone mast to improve mobile phone connectivity in the village. Smart meters rely on phone signals and so are not available to villagers who may wish to use them. The Councillors agreed that the Council could show that there was a need, and that a mast in Birdingbury, which stands on high ground, could benefit other villages. Councillor Crane suggested that there may be some money available for this. The Clerk was asked to look into any nationwide schemes which may be supported by the Government to find dead spots and seek advice from WALC on how to proceed. Conscious that the opinions expressed at the meeting did not necessary represent the whole of the village, it was agreed that the Chair’s Report in Birdsong would include this issue. |
| 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)  The Clerk had received the following letters/email correspondence:   * The Clerk had received a letter from the Treasurer of the Birbury Management Committee regarding the payment of the part of the Insurance Premium incurred by the Birdingbury Club on behalf of the Management Committee. Councillors discussed the contents and concluded that the Parish Council accepted the need for Interrupted Business Insurance and agreed to the full cost, as requested by the Birdingbury Club. The Clerk was asked to write to the Birbury Management Committee and the Birdingbury Club with the conclusion. |
| 11. | **Fireworks Event.**  The Annual Village Meeting had raised a few volunteers to help with this year’s Fireworks Event and a few more have volunteered since. It was agreed that Councillor Davy should consult with the organisers and with Rugby Borough Council and Coventry Council regarding the training of one or two individuals to light the fireworks, as requested by the insurance company. The Clerk was asked to put the Fireworks Event on the agenda for July. |
| 12. | **Financial Issues**  12.1 **The following cheque was approved for payment**:   * MFM Grass Cutting Services: 000614 - £459.00 * Clerk’s fees and expenses: 000615 - £172.79 * Birdingbury Estates hedge trimming: 000616 - £120.00 * Web Hosting: 000617 - £45.22 * WALC subscription: 000618 - £120.00   12.2 **Current year financial statement**.   * The financial statement for the current financial year was circulated. |
| 13. | **Planning Issues**.   * R15/0235 – Honeyvine, Marton Road – no decision yet. * R15/0788 – Avon Lea, Marton Road – approved. * R15/0903 – Glebe Rise, Main Street. Councillor Turner left the room. Councillors Preston and Tipton had viewed the plans and proposed a ‘no comments’ response. This was agreed. Councillor Turner returned. * R15/0973 – Paddocks Farm, Marton Road. A planning application for a temporary road at Paddocks Farm to provide access for work previously approved, had been received that morning. Councillors discussed the proposal and agreed with the proviso that the Rugby Borough Council ensure that it is removed at the end of the agreed time and the land returned to its current condition. * **Potential solar farm**.   There has been no further information on the potential solar farm on Long Itchington Road. |
| 14. | **Highways.**  It was agreed to meet with the new Locality Officer, Benjamin Hill, on Tuesday 26th May at 10.00am by the War Memorial. The Clerk was asked to confirm the date with him and Jackie Morton. One of the issues to be discussed with him is the poor quality of drain maintenance. |
| 15. | **Parish Council Elections.**  Councillor Turner reported the Jackie Morton had been appointed as the fifth Parish Councillor, and as five people had put themselves forward for the five places on the Council, there had been no election. The Clerk was asked to clarify with Rugby Borough Council the date on the letters sent to the new Councillors which said they had been elected for one year only. |
| 16. | **Newcomers to the village**  There have been no newcomers to the village in the last month. |
| 17. | **Business considered urgent by the Chair** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda)   * Finding a new Clerk. Councillor Turner proposed that the Clerk undertook the administration to find a replacement on the same basis as last time. Although one person has already expressed an interest, due process would be followed. It was suggested that the position should be advertised through WALC, on the birdingbury.org website, the Notice Board and in Birdsong as well as slightly further afield in the Leam Valley Messenger and the Marton Parish Magazine. The Chair and Clerk will meet in the first week of June to clarify the plan which will be circulated to Councillors via email. |
| 18. | **Date of next meetings**  The next Birdingbury Parish Council will take place on **Tuesday 16th June 2015**. |
|  | There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm  Signed ................................................................ (Chair)  Date .................................................................. |