

Draft Minutes for the Meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council
19th March 2013, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury

Present

Councillors: D Turner (Chair), I Tipton (Vice-Chair), G Davy and T Healey.

In Attendance

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

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

Councillor Turner opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Councillors Morton had sent his apologies for this meeting. Borough Councillor Hazelton was expected.

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

It was agreed to accept the apology for absence from Councillors Morton.

3. **Declarations of interest.**

Councillors Davy and Tipton declared an interest in item 9/Village Shop.

4. **Representations from the public.**

There were no representations from the public.

5. **Report from Borough Councillor.**

As Borough Councillor Hazelton had not arrived, it was decided to continue with the meeting and allow him to speak when he did.

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

The minutes of the Parish Council held on 19th February 2013 were unanimously approved, subject to a minor change of wording, and signed as a true record.

7. **The Parish Plan.**

Richard Mugglestone from the Midland Rural Housing Group attended at the invitation of the BPC. He explained that the MRHG was a 'not for profit' organization, contracted to Rugby Borough Council to 'enable' the Council's housing needs. As the most recent BPC survey registered with RBC that he could find was dated 2006, and Councillors thought there should be a later one, he agreed to check this with RBC. If the BPC decided to update the Housing Section of the Parish Plan, it could use a generic survey developed by MRHG, with the option of adding more pertinent questions if required, which BPC could sign and have delivered to every house in the village, possibly in conjunction with Birdsong. This would be at no cost to the Parish, and if requested, had good possibility of going to the top of RBC's list. Richard Mugglestone undertook to send an electronic copy of the format to the Clerk. Although new planning laws had a 'presumption in favour of development', these still had to fit in with the Rugby Borough Council's Housing Plan. If a Local Need Survey showed a need in a village like Birdingbury, it was possible that planning consent for one or two open market homes outside the village envelope could be granted to cross-fund affordable homes within.

It was agreed that no decision should be taken at this meeting, but that in theory it would be a good idea to get an up-to-date feel for what the village wanted so that this could be reflected when reviewing planning applications and that evidence gathered could be used to protect the village from future development, if required. It was also felt that an

updated, unbiased survey, registered with RBC would carry more weight than the Parish Plan when contesting/defending a position.

Action

Clerk to forward survey format, when received.

8. **Village Archive.**

Chris Barney, as representative of the History Group, gave the Council an update on the Village Archive store. The filing cabinet (not lockable) purchased by BPC last year and the new tambour fronted cabinets were now in place, and keys were distributed. The files were in the process of being listed and indexed. The capacity was sufficient for some while. The History Group requested that BPC become the responsible body/custodians of the archives. After a discussion around the reasons for this – History Group not constituted, other groups may want to add/make use of archive, safe-guarding and accountability, faith in the Council, Council's statutory responsibility for its own records - it was decided that the History Group should draw up a memorandum to cover the situation – not a legal agreement but an understanding, with the responsibility being delegated to the History Group who would handle the log of files and present an annual report to the Village Meeting. This would then be debated at the next BPC meeting in April.

9. **Issues raised by villagers.**

Dog fouling: It was agreed that Councillor Turner would put in her Chair's report in Birdsong a plea for dog owners to be careful of other people's property, particularly where front gardens are open to the street. The continuing bad weather has made the problem worse than usual.

Village Green: Councillor Turner reported that this would be a long and complicated process. The Church Wardens thought it was an interesting proposition, and to have the playing field registered as an open space could work in their favour if they applied for permission to build on Glebe Field at any time in the future. BPC will return to the subject in due course.

Village Shop: Councillors discussed the practicality of the village running a community shop: that 20 or so volunteers would be required, as well as a manager and that Bubbenhall, at three times the size of Birdingbury, still had to close its Post Office. It was agreed that should this question be raised at the Village Meeting, the question would need to be asked back – could the village organize the necessary volunteers with time to dedicate to a not for profit organization? Councillor Tipton, as chair of the Birdingbury Club, outlined plans that the Club had for diversifying including the introduction of a small store of non-perishables, but obviously these would not be available during the day. The Club may be able to fulfil some functions of a shop, and will circulate details when the service becomes available.

10. **Bus shelter.**

The paving around the bus shelter has now been laid, notice boards are up and the glass is in. The bad weather has prevented further work, but now that the paving is down, scaffolding will be able to be put up and the roof finished, when the weather improves. Councillors were appreciative of all the work carried out so far. A Grand Opening has been arranged for 1st June.

11. **Reports from Councillors.**

Councillor Tipton:

- Longer term plans for the Birdingbury Club include creating a meeting place that could be used without the need to be overseen, but this will require moving walls.
- Sheep have been reported escaping from Top Field through the starter homes and on to the Long Itchington Road. The farmer has agreed to repair fence/hedge.
- Back Lane. A representative from RBC visited and the family of the tenant are very happy with the outcome. It was agreed that this was a good use of the Parish Council: nudging another authority into action.
- Recreation Field Committee. As Council representative he had questioned the need to be a formal committee and as a result of a discussion, the decision was taken to return the remit to the PC. The Committee will report at the next Village Meeting and request a list of volunteers who would be prepared to be called upon to make up working parties. It was agreed that the Recreation Field was a major item for the PC, well used and asset to the village.

Councillor Davy:

- As Secretary to the Recreation Field Committee, Councillor Davy handed to the Clerk a cheque for £288.29 being the residual funds of the Committee. She also passed over an account for £241.73 for the work to the hedge. The Clerk was asked to write to Peter Welch, chair of the committee for over 10 years and regular worker, to thank him for all his hard work. Councillor Davy also reported that the toddler swing had been repaired at the expense of the Country Show. The Clerk was asked to write to express the Council's thanks. The Clerk was also asked to put the Recreation Field as a standing order on BPC meeting agenda.

Councillor Healey:

- Requested that a working party be put together to clean the Cenotaph when the weather improved and suggested that this could be an agenda item for the Village Meeting.

Actions

Clerk to write to Peter Welch.

Clerk to write to Birdingbury Country Show.

Clerk to put Recreation Field as standing order on BPC agenda.

Clerk to put cleaning of the cenotaph on the Village Meeting agenda.

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:

- Clerk's fee and expenses, February 000524 - £159.74
- Village archive store, keys 000525 - £11.96
- Bus shelter, ballast 000526 - £11.71
- Bus shelter, laying of paving 000527 - £150
- Recreation Field, hedging trimming 000528 - £241.73

13.2 The financial statement was circulated.

13.3 The Clerk reported that the Parish Amenity Verge Cutting grant was now available at £595, the same amount as last year.

13.4 It was agreed that the Clerk should approach Andrew Armbrister to act as Internal

Auditor for the BPC accounts.

13.5 The Clerk was asked to contact Graham Stanley to remind him of the commitment to finish the gateway signs and linings by 31st March and to request that the money paid upfront is accrued, should the deadline be missed.

Actions

Clerk to apply for Parish Amenity Verge Cutting grant.

Clerk to write to Andrew Armbrister.

Clerk to contact Graham Stanley.

14. **Planning Issues**

- R13/0177 – Linden, Main Street, Birdingbury: Clerk reported that this had been granted.
- R12/1969 – Thurlby, Main Street, Birdingbury: it was decided not to add to the decision already submitted.

15. **Highways.**

It was noted that ruts in the verges under the viaduct had been filled with screed.

16. **Newcomers to the village**

There is a new baby on Marton Road and new residents at The Old Orchard.

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

Councillor Turner raised the issue of revising the list of local doctors, services and groups, which could be delivered with Birdsong and/or the Parish Plan. It was agreed that she would discuss this with the editor of Birdsong. It was also agreed that she would use her Chair's Report in the next issue of Birdsong to remind people of the necessity of cutting back vegetation that overhangs public spaces, particularly those at eye level, and obscure site lines at road conjunctions.

18. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Birdingbury Parish Council is to be held on Tuesday 16th April 2013 at 7.30pm at the Birbury.

The Annual Village Meeting is to be hold on Tuesday 23rd April 2013 at 7.30pm at the Birbury.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm

Signed (Chair)

Date