

Minutes for the Meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council
16th April 2013, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury

Present

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

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. Borough Councillor Hazelton had sent his apologies.

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

It was agreed to accept the apology for absence from Councillor Hazelton.

3. **Declarations of interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Representations from the public.**

There were no representations from the public.

5. **Report from Borough/County Councillor.**

There was no report from Borough/County Councillor Hazelton.

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

The minutes of the Parish Council held on 19th March 2013 were unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

7. **The Parish Plan – Housing Survey.**

As a follow-up to the presentation by Richard Mugglestone from Midland Rural Housing Group at the last BPC meeting, Councillors discussed whether to move forward with a Housing Needs Survey. The MRHG survey format had been previously circulated. Some concern was expressed that the government had not yet decided what it wants, and that there was some merit in waiting to see where things were going. A Housing Needs Survey was carried out in the village three years ago when the then Council came under considerable pressure from Warwickshire Rural Housing to allow housing but WRH could not agree that any low cost housing should be available for people on the Birdingbury Parish list. It was noted with disappointment that this survey does not appear to have been registered with Rugby Borough Council but advice had been received that if BPC commissioned a survey from MRHG, paid for by RBC, it would be recognised by them. It was considered that the outcome would not be very different to the previous one but new people had come into the village with children, who may need houses in the future. No Councillor had been approached about this matter, but a survey would look at what the village wants and provide evidence should the question of housing come up in the future. The opportunity to do this without cost to the village may not be available one or two years down the road. It was agreed, as there is now only one village meeting a year, to put the issue on the Village Meeting Agenda as a separate item, explaining to the meeting that because of changes in legislation, BPC was trying to stay ahead of the game and one option would be a HNS at no cost. The meetings views could then be taken into account.

Action

Clerk: To put Housing Needs Survey as a separate item on the Village Meeting Agenda.

8. **Village Archive Store.**

Chris Barney, as a representative of the Birdingbury History Group, distributed a draft Memorandum of Agreement between the BPC, PCC and BHG concerning the Village Archive Store. Councillors read and discussed the document, and agreed, subject to some clarification on access, to it being an agreement in principle which could be logged with each of the member groups rather than a signed agreement. Birdingbury Parish Council would retain ultimate responsibility and much of the Parish Council material would be 'Reference only', statutory BPC items NOT TO BE REMOVED. It was further agreed that it should be discussed at the Village Meeting.

9. **The Recreation Field.**

Following the disbanding of the Recreation Field Committee, responsibility for the day to day running of the field returned to BPC, although this position is not very different in terms of legality. The annual inspection is due in September. ROSPA, who undertook the inspection last year, had quoted £100 but RBC had circulated information relating to group commissioning of inspections by Morrall Play for £40. The Clerk was asked to contact Morrall Play. The new fencing was beginning to sag, possibly as the result of children climbing through. Councillors agreed to view, and possibly tightened up the fixings.

Action

Clerk: To contact Morrall Play regarding annual inspection.

10. **Bus Shelter.**

Volunteers were aware of the 1st June deadline, with roof slates, drain, screed and bench still to do. Chris Barney will put in bench when the rest finished. The Chair expressed the Councils thanks for all the work at bus shelter: a good job done well.

11. **Reports from Councillors.**

Councillor Tipton:

- introduced himself to newcomers to the village. They had researched villages and based their decision to settle in Birdingbury on the Parish Plan, as they felt over building had ruined their previous village.
- Sheep still going out on road.

Councillor Turner:

- villager really liked the fact that Parish Plan showed village did not want street lights, whilst other areas are up in arms about losing their street lights.
- Councillor Hazelton had visited, appalled that road safety signing and lining had not been done. The Clerk was asked to write to the Head of Service for Transport & Highways, explaining that the work had been ordered over a year ago, paid for ahead of time but still not completed, despite endeavours of Graham Stanley.

Action

Clerk: to write to Head of Service for Transport & Highways.

12. **Correspondence requiring action** (and not elsewhere on the agenda).
The Chair had received a letter from relating to applying for Village Green status for the recreation field. It was agreed to raise the issue at the Village Meeting.
13. **Financial Issues**
- 13.1 The following cheques were approved for signing:
- Clerk’s fee and expenses, March 000529 - £159.74
 - Godfrey Payton – The Hovel annual payment, 000530 - £10.00
 - WALC annual subscription, 000531 - £116.00
- 13.2 The end-of-year financial statement was circulated. It was agreed to present this to the Village Meeting. Councillor Morton expressed his appreciation of the mosaics in the bus shelter as unique and superb.
- 13.3 The Annual Return Accounting Statements were read. It was proposed by Councillor Morton and seconded by Councillor Healey that they should be agreed.
- 13.4 It was proposed by Councillor Morton and seconded by Councillor Tipton, that BPC support the annual Willoughby Challenge. It was further agreed that a small donation of £50 be made towards a team kit as the competitors were good ambassadors for the village.
- 13.5 The Clerk informed the Council that the first instalment of the Precept had been received.
14. **Planning Issues.**
There were no planning issues.
15. **Highways.**
There were no Highways issues.
16. **Newcomers to the village.**
Councillor Morton to welcome newcomers at The Old Orchard and Councillor Healey to welcome newcomers at Back Lane.
17. **Business considered urgent by the Chair** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda).
There was no business considered urgent by the Chair.
18. **Village Meeting.**
The Clerk was asked to add Housing Needs Survey and Village Green to the Village Meeting agenda, to be available by the weekend.
19. **Date of next meeting.**
The Annual General Meeting of the Birdingbury Parish Council is to be held on Tuesday 21st May 2013 at 7.30pm at the Birbury, followed by a Parish Council meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.52pm

Signed (Chair)

Date