

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council
25th February 2014, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury

Present

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

In Attendance

Joanna Bloomfield (Clerk), Richard Mugglestone (Midland Rural Housing) and one member of the public.

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

Councillor Turner opened the meeting and welcomed those present. County Councillor Howard and Borough Councillor Hazelton had both sent their apologies.

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

There were no apologies for absence to accept.

3. **Declarations of interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Representations from the public.**

There were no representations from the public.

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

As neither Councillor was in attendance, there were no reports to receive.

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

With an amendment to item 5 (change £264 to £246), the minutes of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st January 2014 were unanimously approved and signed as a true record.

7. **Housing Need Survey.**

Richard Mugglestone from Rural Housing Needs took the Councillors through the report. The Councillors decided that the best way to communicate the outcomes to the village was at the Annual Village Meeting in April. Richard Mugglestone volunteered to attend and present the findings. It has been found that, in some cases, more residents respond after a public meeting. The Council can hear the views of the villagers and discuss the issue again in May. The Clerk was asked to put the Housing Need Survey on the agenda for the May Parish Council meeting. The Chair asked Richard Mugglestone to forward the report to Rugby Borough Council without any Parish Council comment, but with a note that the Parish Council was sharing the findings with the village and would comment thereafter.

8. **Underground Coal Gasification.**

Councillor Turner has responded to an Undergraduate who was interested in the response of local people to the possibility of UCG for his dissertation. It was suggested that a copy of the letter sent from 'No UCG Warwicks' to the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament should be forwarded to him. An article about the probability of land being available in Princethorpe has appeared in the Coventry Evening Telegraph.

9. **Grit Bins.**
The Chair thanked Councillor Healey for his work in putting the new bins in place. Those already in place have been filled. The WCC has now agreed the placing of the new grit bins outside the Birbury and by the steps at the end of the Jitty in Back Lane
10. **The Recreation Field**
Councillor Healey advised that they were waiting for good weather before beginning the repairs to the Recreation Field. In terms of urgency, filling-in the side at the top of the slide was the most important and several options were being investigated. Because it was necessary to get a car up to the field, it was preferable that the path dries out and the hedge is cut back. When there is a significantly dry spell, the wooden equipment can be sprayed with preservative. The bench is also in a dangerous state.
11. **Litterpick dates.**
The Councillors agreed that they will pick litter from around the village on Saturday 5th April starting at 11.00am, meeting at the Birbury, from where, hopefully, other volunteers may join in. The Chair will mention this in her report in Birdsong.
12. **Reports from Councillors.**
There were no reports from the Councillors.
13. **Correspondence requiring attention** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda).
The Clerk reported that Lloyds Bank had written offering internet banking as an alternative to the current method. After a short discussion, it was decided not to accept the offer.
14. **Financial Issues.**
14.1 The following cheques were approved for signing:
 - Glasdon (grit bins) – 000565: £643.20
 - Clerk's fees, cheque – 000566: £325.83
 - WALC (training fees) – 000567: £40.0014.2 The financial statement was circulated. The Clerk pointed out that the monies had been received from RBC for the cleaning of the War Memorial and repairs to the Recreation Field. These amounts have been ring-fenced on the financial statement. The War Memorial Trust will consider the application from Birdingbury Parish Council for a grant on 28th February. The Clerk was asked to contact the restoration company once the response from The War Memorial Trust had been received.
15. **Planning Issues.**
 - R14/0136 - Turtle Cottage, Main Street.
Councillors Tipton and Davy had visited the property and advised a response of 'no comments'. The Clerk reported that the planning application had been approved.
 - Pre-determination.
The Councillors discussed the paper on Pre-determination issued by WALC, bringing themselves up to date.
16. **Highways.**
 - Village entrances. The Clerk reported that Paul Manhood had replied to the correspondence saying that the re-painting of the crocodile-teeth at the village entrances has been placed on an order to be done when the weather improves.

- Bourton Hill – gullies. Paul Manhood’s email also stated that they would re-visit the verges on Bourton Hill when the weather improves with the view to making good.

17. **Newcomers to the village.**

Councillor Healey reported that a new resident was due shortly, and he agreed to make a welcome visit when applicable.

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

There was no business considered urgent by the Chair and not discussed elsewhere.

19. **Date of next meetings** – The next Birdingbury Parish Council meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 18th March 2014 but because this, and the Annual Village Meeting, both fall within the school Easter holidays the Council decided to move the **Parish Council meeting to Tuesday 22nd April** and the **Annual Village Meeting to Tuesday 29th April.**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.10pm

Signed (Chair)

Date