

Minutes of the meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council
20th January 2015, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury

Present

Councillors: D Turner (Chair), I Tipton, G Davy, T Healey, County Councillor Howard Roberts and Borough Councillor Robin Hazelton

In Attendance

Joanna Bloomfield (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

Councillor Turner opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Councillor Preston had tendered his apologies.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

The Parish Council agreed to accept the apologies from Councillor Preston.

3. Declarations of interest.

Councillor Davy declared an interest in item 11 – Planning Issues.

4. Representations from the public.

There were no representations from the public.

5. Reports from Borough and County Councillors.

Borough Councillor Hazelton reported:

- That sandbags are available for councils which require them and he brought with him refills for the incident grab bag.
- That a warning had been circulated about bogus callers. Councillors reported that Birdingbury Neighbourhood Watch has re-circulated the warning to the village.
- That any contentious planning applications can be referred to him, if necessary.

County Councillor Roberts reported:

- That a new temporary Locality Officer is in place and he is trying to secure a meeting with him.
- That Health Watch (the only body empowered by law to enter NHS properties) Warwickshire have produced an on-line survey into GP access. The Clerk was asked to circulate the link to all Councillors.
- That the WCC Rugby Area Councillors' Fund has been allocated and Birdingbury Parish Council has received a portion for the replacement of the safety surface in the Recreation Field. Councillors thanked Councillor Roberts for his support.
- That it is time for budget setting again and he has made it clear that his support for the budget is dependant on the rural communities not being forgotten, particularly in the matter of road conditions and drainage.
- That the work on the corner opposite Bourton Hall to replace earthenware pipes has been timetabled to take place this week but the contractors have been delayed. He has been assured that they are on their way.
- That he had been copied into the response from Jeremy Wright MP to the letter sent from Birdingbury Parish Council regarding lower national speed limits on rural roads. He thinks this is a missed opportunity but it may be possible to revisit sometime in the future. He raised the suggestion of 20mph zones, which are now enforceable, through the village.

Councillors raised the issue of the Birdingbury footpaths. RBC has notified its intention to do repairs to one side of Main Street which is actually in better condition than others in the village, particularly Marton Road and the Jitty. He suggested that the Clerk write to Alan Mycock of Highways to ask why and when the other footpaths will be repaired, with a copy to himself and Paul Turner.

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

With a slight amendment to item 5 – ‘on the corner opposite Bourton Hall’ rather than ‘at the bottom of Bourton Hill’ - the minutes of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 23rd November 2014 were approved and signed as a true record.

7. **The Recreation Field.**

- Councillor Healey reported that the hedge that borders Main Street has been cut. It has also been inter-planted in areas where it was thinning, and is now looking good.
- The Clerk reported that a representative from Sovereign Play Grounds would be visiting the Recreation Field on the 29th January in order to prepare a quote for the surface under the climbing frame.
- Councillor Turner, as Chair, signed the WCC Rugby Area Councillors Fund grant acceptance form.

8. **Reports from Councillors** (other than Planning and Highway issues).

Councillor Davy reported that she had noticed a stack of tyres on the Long Itchington Road. It was decided that if they were not removed shortly (thirty-forty tyres are regularly collected by RBC from that ditch) Councillor Tipton would report them. She also reported on the Bonfire Night debrief meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that the Birdingbury Parish Council should undertake the insurance of the next event and also underwrite the cost of training a second person to light the fireworks. The Clerk was asked to find out what cost this would be to the Council and to put the subject on the agenda for the Annual Village Meeting.

Councillor Tipton reported his concern that a static caravan, which is apparently being used for accommodation and running a business, has appeared in the village for which the Council has not received a planning application. The Clerk was asked to raise this with RBC and request an Enforcement Officer look into the matter.

9. **Correspondence requiring attention** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda)

- The Council reviewed the quotation from MM Grass Cutting Services, which they agreed to accept.
- The WALC Transparency Code of Practice, relating to the annual audit of councils in receipt of less than £25,000 per annum, had been previously circulated. Councillors agreed that Birdingbury Parish Council already exceeded the level of transparency the Code described and therefore it would not impact on the production and audit of the annual accounts.
- As council meetings can now be recorded and filmed by members of the public, WALC have produced a template for a Media & Filming Policy and protocol. The Clerk was asked to prepare these so that they relate to Birdingbury and to circulate prior to the next meeting.

10. **Financial Issues**

10.1 The following cheques were approved for payment:

- Clerk's fees and expenses (November and December): 000605- £337.47
- The Birdingbury Community Room Management Committee Insurance: 000606 - £114.07
- The Birdingbury PCC re allotment rent: 000607: £85.00

10.2 The financial statement was circulated.

10.3 War Memorials Trust. The Clerk explained that payment from The War Memorials Trust was still awaited.

11. **Planning Issues.**

- R14/2382 - The Old Post Office, Marton Road
Council Davy left the room whilst the Council reviewed the amended planning application and decided to offer no comments.

12. **Highways**

Further to the discussion held earlier, the Clerk was asked to forward the email addressed to Alan Mycock, to the new Locality Officer Glen Robinson, as well.

13. **Elections**

The Council considered a time table for the May elections, suggested by WALC. It was decided that Councillor Turner would report on the election in her Chair's Report for the next edition of Birdsong and that, with the Clerk, she would prepare a poster suitable for the notice board and website for discussion at the next Birdingbury Parish Council meeting. The Clerk was asked to forward a copy of the timetable to Councillor Preston. It was also agreed that the right of villagers to stand as councillors, together with information relating to applications, should be advertised widely and residents of all ages should be encouraged to stand.

13. **Newcomers to the village**

Councillor Davy will visit the newcomers to the village.

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

There was no further business considered urgent by the Chair.

15. **Date of next meetings**

The next Birdingbury Parish Council will take place on **Tuesday 24th February 2015**.

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

Signed (Chair)

Date