

Minutes of the meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council
21st April 2015, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury

Present

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

In Attendance

Joanna Bloomfield (Clerk) and one member of the public.

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

Councillor Turner opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

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

There were no apologies to accept.

3. **Declarations of interest.**

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

4. **Representations from the public.**

There was no representation from the public.

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

Neither Borough Councillor Robin Hazelton or County Councillors Howard Roberts were at the meeting.

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

With an amendment to show the attendance of Councillor Davy, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th 2015 were approved and signed as a true record.

7. **The Recreation Field.**

- Councillor Turner had had communication by telephone concerning the escape of a horse into another field via the Recreation Field. The lease between the Parish Council and Coventry Diocesan Trustees states that the Parish Council is responsible for stock proofing the Recreation Field. The Councillors discussed what has been a bone of contention over the years and agreed that they accept the provision. The owner of the adjacent field would like to see a layered hedge, but it was agreed that this was an extravagant use of public money when fencing and wire would do the same job. The Clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting with the relevant parties.
- The Clerk reported that she had researched the cost of Wicksteed safety surfaces, which proved much more expensive than the quote from RTC. She further reported that the grant applications to Awards for All and the Rugby Borough Council Youth and Play Grant 2015-16 are now in.

8. **The War Memorial**

The Clerk reported that she now had the application form to list the War Memorial with Historic England. As they are no costs to the Parish Council, it was agreed to go ahead and the Clerk was asked to complete the application.

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

Councillor Healey: Two portacabins have been placed in the turning area by the Hovel, containing items which belong to the village and are used for village events. Although this is not Parish Council property, the Parish Council has a responsibility to make it available to all residents.

Councillor Davy: At the May Birbury Room Management Committee meeting, it had been agreed to accept the suggestions put forward by the Birdingbury Club regarding the formula for deciding the insurance contribution.

Councillor Turner: Three week ago the roof of Youth Club storage shed was in imminent danger of being blown off by promised gales. The Chair circulated her concerns by email and arranged for the repairs to be done within the day. The Council agreed to pay the account and the Clerk was asked to write and request that the handyman contact Councillor Healey regarding work at the Recreation Field. It raised the question of who owns the Youth Club shed now there is no longer a Birdingbury Youth Club. It sits on Club property and is included in the Club's insurance policy. It was suggested that the Parish Council formally accepts responsibility for the shed and Councillor Davy was asked to take the proposition to the Birbury Committee.

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

The Clerk had received the following letters/email correspondence:

- The Allotments Association has concerns about the state of the ash trees at the site, and rights of way. The Clerk was asked to contact the RBC arborist and ask him to inspect the trees for signs of ash die-back. Either Councillor Turner or Councillor Preston would meet with him. Allotmenters should take due care to maintain free access, keeping the public right of way clear as they would be liable if the path was obstructed and a member of the public was injured. The right of way is the responsibility of RBC and the stile the responsibility of WCC so any problems or infringements by dogs should be reported. The Clerk was asked to respond to the Allotment Association.
- The owner of the field adjacent to the Recreation Field with a query about the stock proofing of the field – dealt with in item 7, above.
- The Country Show Committee asking permission to use the Recreation Field during the weekend of the Country Show, 11th-12th July. This was agreed.
- The Willoughby Challenge announcing the 2015 competition.
- An introduction to a handyman. The Clerk was asked to write and thank them.

11. **Fireworks Event.**

At the Birdingbury Parish Council meeting in January it was agreed that the insurance for the Bonfire Night event would be put on the Parish Council's policy. Zurich Insurance raised a number of issues, including the nature of the training received by the person lighting the fireworks. As it is not a legal requirement to have a trained person, it is the commercial retailers of fireworks who offer training. Councillors discussed to best way to proceed and agreed that in the first instant Councillor Davy will contact a Fire Officer and see if it was possible for the Parish Council to pay for them to train several residents at the same time and Councillor Tipton will speak to Shaun Lawson. It was acknowledged that with the Parish Council taking on the insurance and training costs, it must also be prepared to underwrite the event, maybe to the extent of losing money.

It was agreed to request volunteers for a Committee at the Annual Village Meeting.

12. **Financial Issues**
- 12.1 **The following cheque was approved for payment:**
- Godfrey Payton re: the Hovel: 000610 - £10.00
 - Clerk's fees and expenses (March): 000612 - £172.12
 - R. Lennon re: repair of Youth Club shed: 000613 - £166.99
- 12.2 **Current year financial statement.**
- The financial statement for the new financial year was circulated.
 - The precept has been received from RBC.
- 12.3 **End of year financial statement .**
- The end of year financial statement, as it will be presented at the Village Meeting, was circulated.
- 12.4 **Annual Return.**
- The accounting statements on the Annual Return were read and agreed. The Annual Return was signed by the Chair and the Clerk ready for forwarding to the internal auditor.
13. **Planning Issues.**
- R15/0526 – Marton Glebe Farm, Stockton Road – approved.
 - R15/0235 – Honeyvine, Marton Road – no decision yet.
 - R15/0545 & R15/0587 – Paddock Farm, Marton Road – approved.
 - **Potential solar farm.**
There has been no formal planning application yet but residents on Stockton Road overlooking the site understand that the intended site is now nearer to Long Itchington Road and there is some disquiet that the developers held a village information session but subsequently seem to have changed the position of the site.
14. **Highways.**
The Clerk has written to Benjamin Hill, the new Locality Officer, regarding the footpath on Marton Road and awaits a reply.
15. **Parish Council Elections.**
Councillor Turner reported that as five residents had put themselves forward to be on the Council, there would be no election in Birdingbury. She proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Healey who was leaving the Council and extended a welcome to Jackie Morton who will be joining the Council at the next meeting.
16. **Newcomers to the village**
Councillor Davy volunteered to visit newcomers at Lingfield.
17. **Business considered urgent by the Chair** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda)
The Councillors discussed the forthcoming Annual Village Meeting on Tuesday 28th April, including items for the agenda.
18. **Date of next meetings**
The next Birdingbury Parish Council will take place on **Tuesday 19th May 2015.**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.15pm

Signed (Chair)

Date