

Minutes of the meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council

21 July 2015, held at The Birbury, Birdingbury

Present

Councillors: D Turner (Chair), I Tipton, G Davy, D Preston and J Morton.

In Attendance

Joanna Bloomfield (Clerk.

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.**
Councillor Turner declared an interest in item 14 – Glebe Rise. Councillor Davy declared an interest in item 14 – Masters' Court and Paddocks Farm.
4. **Representations from the public.** There was no representation from the public.
5. **Reports from Borough and County Councillors.** Neither County Councillor Howard nor Borough Councillor Crane were in attendance.
6. **Dog Fouling Bin**
Councillors again agreed that they wished to discuss the issue of dog fouling bins not being offered free of charge to rural communities with Borough Councillor Crane and the Clerk was asked to put it on the September agenda. Councillors also discussed various options of bins available, some, such as those already at the cycle track, probably cheaper than the example quoted by RBC and others which have solar powered indicators which show that they require emptying, which would probably be more expensive.
7. **Telephone Mast**
The initial requirement for a telephone mast in the area was for villagers who wished to use a smart meter in their homes. Councillors discussed the fact that smart meters can work through the internet but that this is no help for those who did not use the internet. Councillors also discussed the fact that mobile and internet technology were racing against each other and it may only be a matter of time before progress overtakes the need for masts. Councillors agreed that as they were not, as a Parish Council, going to pursue a mast, the issue should not be a standing agenda item, but they would review the situation again in the new year. The Clerk was asked to put it on the agenda for then.
8. **Fly Tipping**
Councillors discussed the restriction on taking rubbish to various tips in the area, including Rugby and Leamington Spa, where a household can tip a maximum of 3.25 kilo per month

and the repercussion this may have on fly tipping, with cost implications to RBC. The Clerk was asked to put the issue on the September agenda.

9. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th June 2015 and the extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on Saturday 4th July 2015 were approved and signed as a true record.

10. New Clerk.

Councillors had interviewed two candidates just before the Parish Council meeting and unanimously decided to offer the position to Rebecca Butcher, subject to references. They agreed a start date of the 1st August, overlapping with the current Clerk for one month for an efficient handover.

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

Councillor Morton reported that:

- she had attended a very useful training day. One issue that was raised at the training day was the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors agreed that the as the advice previously given was that Birdingbury is a protected village, a new Neighbourhood Plan was not necessary.
- the over-sown footpath reported last month has now been cut right back
- that the NHW had had to report of a terrible two weeks, with burglars returning to a property within a week. As a result, a villager was requesting CCTV. Councillors agreed that individuals were welcome to put up their own CCTV, but this could not be pursued on a Parish Council basis. Councillors discussed the method of NHW communications when information is shared with co-ordinators in other villages in the area and were pleased to be informed that villagers are reading the reports and putting things together. Where similar incidents are happening in several villages the information is more significant than if just in one village and the police are using the information to further their work. Councillor Morton agreed to write an article for the next edition of Birdsong.

Councillor Tipton reported that all the drains in the village had been cleaned, as had those in the surrounding area.

Councillor Preston reported that the fly-tipped rubbish reported last month had been collected.

Councillor Davy reported on the training for the fireworks event which really needs to be in August, if a date could be agreed. Councillor Turner agreed to mention it in her report for Birdsong. The Clerk reported that there would be no extra cost to insure the event through the Parish Council insurance cover, so the only extra cost to the Parish Council would be the £199 training fee.

Councillor Turner reported that the hedge to recreation field on the Main Street side had grown and was over hanging the footpath. The Clerk was asked to contact Rob Walker and request that he arrange for the hedge to be cut.

12. **Correspondence requiring action** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda).

- Councillors agreed that a property in Marton, being sold subject to a planning restriction which requires it to be advertised to purchasers with local needs for the first three months, could be advertised on the notice board and on birdingbury.org
- The annual Play Ground Inspection should take place in the next few weeks. When the date is known, the Clerk will circulate this and a member of the Parish Council will meet with the inspector.
- The house in Masters' Court, which is subject to a Section 106 restriction, has now been sold. The Clerk was asked to write to the RBC Compliance Officer and ask for confirmation that Section 106 had been adhered to.
- Residents of a house on Main Street had agreed to ensure the newly resurfaced footpath was not damaged by contractors parking. The Clerk was asked to reply to ensure that the grass verge, which was reseeded as part of the refurbishment of the footpath and has now been reduced to half its original width, was made good once the contractors had finished.

13. **Financial Issues**

13.1 **The following cheques were approved for payment:**

- Rtc safety surfaces: 000624 - £3,211.20
- MFM Grass Cutting: 000625 - £320.00
- Clerk's fees and expenses: 000626 - £172.79
- Zurich Insurance: 000627 - £534.04
- Rededication printing: 000628 - £12.80

13.2 **Financial statement.**

- The financial statement was circulated.

13.3 **Insurance**

- The Clerk reported that the quote from Zurich Insurance was lower than for the previous three years, including the firework event. Councillors agreed to stay with Zurich Insurance, committing to a three year contract, which further reduced the premium.

13.4 **Cheque signatories**

- The Clerk was reminded that Councillor Preston was to be added to the list of cheque signatories. Councillors agreed that Councillor Morton should also be added.

14. **Planning Issues.**

- R15/0235 – Honeyvine, Marton Road: approved.
- R15/0903 – Glebe Rise, Main Street: approved.
- R15/0973 – Paddocks Farm, Marton Road: approved.
- R15/0992 – Pioneer Farm, Marton Road: approved.
- R15/1186 – adjacent to Masters' Court: there had been no decision yet and the consultation has been extended until the 28th July.
- **Masters' Court:** see above
- **Potential solar farm.**
There has been no further information on the potential solar farm on Long Itchington Road.

15. **Highways.**
The Clerk had circulated the response from the Locality Officer regarding items raised during the Village Walk. The Clerk was asked to write to a resident on Long Itchington Road who had raised the question of kerbing, to keep him informed. Councillors agreed that kerbing at the corner of Long Itchington Road would save money in the long term as all the mud washed off the verges ends up clogging the drains.
16. **Newcomers to the village** There have been no newcomers to the village in the last month.
17. **Business considered urgent by the Chair** (and not elsewhere on the Agenda).
18. **Date of next meetings** The next Birdingbury Parish Council will take place on **Tuesday 15th September 2015.**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.25 pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....