

# Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 20 March 2019  
at Birlingham Village Hall

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## Councillors:

Councillor Aston, Byrne, Fitch, Griffin, New and Yates

## Present:

District Councillor Ron Davies, Steve Leighfield and June Hiden (Clerk).

## Welcome

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by the Footpath Warden and Lengthsman.

### 2. Declaration of Interest

- a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- d) Written requests for the Council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the Clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting.
- e) Dispensation forms to be received from all Councillors for the term of office ended May 2023\*

Note: Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) of the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items. Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may be a criminal offence.

Councillor Aston declared an interest in Item 5 Planning.

### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2019, a copy of which has been circulated to all Councillors, was agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

### Democratic Opening

The meeting was adjourned for public question time. [Appendix 1](#)

### 4. Progress Reports

- a) Footpaths: Bruce Hayward had sent a message to say he would look at the fingerpost at Hall Farm. It has been reported to the Clerk by the engineering company in Hall Barns that the fingerpost has rotted off at ground level and fallen over. The company have made a 'fix' to the post because ramblers have been attempting to climb over the gate and into the yard at Hall Barns to get to Whitehall Lane rather than use the definitive footpath. There was nothing further to report at this time.
- b) Tree Warden: Nothing to report.

c) District Councillor:

Councillor Davis reported as follows:

- i. Budget is now complete and Council Tax frozen for the third consecutive year with a band D property raising to £120.08. Wychavon District Council is in the lowest 10% of District Councils for council tax.
- ii. No cuts to Services are anticipated for the foreseeable future and our finances are sound. £58m turnover. £9.1m reserves. £1.6m cash investment.
- iii. There is a weekly report being sent to London because of Brexit.
- iv. New Homes Bonus Phase 1 has finished. Phase 2 allocations examples were given; Fladbury village hall £36,000, Hanbury pavilion £25,000, Honeybourne village hall £150,000, Kemerton refurbishment £125,000

Councillor Davies departed and said he looked forward to seeing everyone again in May.

d) County Councillor: No report

e) Clerk - See [Appendix 2](#)

Any information from the Lengthsman is included. The Lengthsman has continued to report potholes and flooding issues. There is just under £200 left in the budget which is proposed to be used on repairing verges.

## 5. Planning

a) Planning applications pending – none.

b) Applications granted

- i. 18/002445/HP - Hills Cottage, Upper End WR10 3AA  
Demolition of storey single rear extension, partial demolition of a single storey.  
Refurbishment and remodelling internally
- ii. 18/02446/L8/02446/LB (Associated Ref: 18/02445/HP) – Hills Cottage, Upper End  
Demolition of storey single rear extension, partial demolition of a single storey.  
Refurbishment and remodelling internally

Comment from the Parish Council:

*Birlingham Parish Council support both the Planning and Listed Building Application.*

*The Parish Council are of the opinion the proposals are an improvement and rationalises the existing structures and are in line with the guidance in the Village Planning to the extent it is applicable in this instance.*

Both the Listed and Planning applications were approved on 5 March 2019.

c) Enforcement – nothing reported.

## 6. Financial Matters

a) The Accounts for year end 31 March 2019

- i) Bank balance is £4,893.35 as at 15 February 2019.

ii) Receipts –

£144.00 – Worcestershire County Council  
£336.00 – Worcestershire County Council  
£192.00 – Worcestershire County Council

iii) Payments: –

- i. £132.00 – Lengthsman November 2018  
Cheque number 410
- ii. £204.00 – Lengthsman December 2018  
Cheque number 533
- iii. £532.40 – Clerk's salary (July, August, September)  
Cheque number 534
- iv. £532.40 – Clerk's salary (October, November, December)  
Cheque number 535
- v. £104.28 – Clerk's standard expenses (July, August, September)  
Cheque number 536
- vi. £104.28 – Clerk's standard expenses (October, November, December)  
Cheque number 537

b) Payments for consideration -

- i. £40.00 from the 2017 Transparency Fund is still available when required to train the Clerk and Wendy Yates on how to update and support the Parish Council page of the website.
- ii. £192.00 - Lengthsman January
- iii. £96.00 – Lengthsman February
- iv. £135.00 estimate – Clerk's PAYE January, February, March
- v. £532.40 – Clerk's salary (January, February, March)
- vi. £104.28 – Clerk's standard expenses (January, February, March)
- vii. £6.50 – Clerk's specific expenses – postage
- viii. £40.00 – Clerk's expenses Information Commissioners Office (ICO) \*\*
- ix. Birlingham Village Hall hire

c) Budget

The precept and grant for the financial year 2019-2020 has been sent to Wychavon District Council requesting £6,450.00 including the £179.00 grant.

The savings account balance is £4,785.29 as at 11 February 2019.

The savings account transfer of Provision for the next financial year to be actioned.

The Lengthsman Scheme for 2019/2020 has just been received and it is confirmed that Birlingham will continue to receive £1,780 in the next financial year.

## 7. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Councillor Aston has looked at examples of other parish councils and the work done by Stuart Allen last year in preparing a spreadsheet. Birlingham comes under the banner of a small organisation. Processes have changed since the GDPR was first introduced and it has been simplified to a certain degree. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council did not own a website but used a page on the village one managed by the Jubilee Committee. Councillor Aston sought advice from the ICO and they require two things; a policy for Data Breach (Data Protection) and a Privacy Notice Policy. Councillor Aston circulated the draft documents for

consideration. Members felt they were simple and clear. The Chairman thanked Councillor Aston for her work.

A lot of work has gone into ensuring that the Parish Council is compliant with the GDPR legislation. Members agreed to adopt the draft Policy and Notice documents. Clerk to make any necessary adjustments and bring to the May meeting for final adoption.

## **8. New Homes Bonus**

It has previously been reported in the minutes and in the Birlingham News circulation that the Parish Council is planning to submit three proposals to Wychavon District Council for New Homes Bonus funding. There is still £1,372.00 monies to draw down in the allocation for Birlingham.

The drafted applications are:

- £872.00 for the refurbishment (and repositioning) of the Millennium bench
- £300.00 for the addition of a missing inscription on the war memorial
- £200.00 to assist with the printing of a WW2 booklet.

As part of the application process and to encourage villagers' views, a survey has been actioned through the Birlingham News and website. The results of the survey were discussed. It showed that more than 91% of villagers who responded were in favour of the proposals.

Additional comments have been received regarding the location of the bench to Swans Neck and Asham. Members feel both these sites are liable to flooding and are therefore not suitable. Also, a playground in the parish in the future. Comments have previously been made through the Village Design Statement consultation regarding the views and access to the river.

## **9. Berwick Lane**

As discussed at the Democratic Opening there is an issue of water leaking from the bank at the side of Berwick Lane into the highway as well as pooling in a driveway. Attempts to resolve the matter with Worcestershire County Council and Severn Trent have not been successful and the Parish Council agreed to make enquiries. Severn Trent have responded to the Clerks enquiry, have tested the water and concluded that it is not from the mains. It was agreed to contact Highways and try to escalate the problem with Worcestershire County Council.

## **10. Litter Pick**

The Birlingham Litter Pick will be held on Saturday 23 March 2019 meeting at 10am. The date coincides with the Great British Spring Clean which runs from 22 March to 23 April 2019.

This has been 'advertised' in the Birlingham News circulation and it is hoped that villagers will volunteer their time. Clerk to action the equipment and arrange the collection of the rubbish from the Green.

## **11. Local Authority Community Grant and Parish Council Fund**

The Chairman has received an email communication from the Chairman of the Jubilee Committee which was read out. It is the intention of the Committee to launch a Birlingham Memories Project. The aim is to capture the memories of older residents (and people who used to live in the village), either in sound or on video, so that these memories are available for future generations. Currently there are twelve residents who are keen to be involved in the project.

The Jubilee Committee hope to purchase recording equipment for capturing the memories,

and playback and display equipment for the exhibitions. This would include a wide screen and a PA system.

The Jubilee Committee are requesting a small grant from the Parish Council's Community Fund.

The Jubilee Committee is also applying for a much larger Wychavon Community Grant and ask for the support of Birlingham Parish Council for this application. The members support the project and think that it is a great way of capturing memories for the benefit of future generations.

The Memories Project survey has been completed by 24% of recipients and has received 91% support.

The Parish Council discussed the project in general terms ahead of a formal application by the Jubilee Committee. Several concerns were expressed regarding the equipment as it felt that there would be very limited demand from other organisations in the village to use the equipment after the exhibition. There is already a large screen, projector and PA system available in the village hall. Will the I.T. be out of date? What about insurance, maintenance and storage?

The Parish Council Community Fund currently totals £750.00 and is budgeting to add £250.00 to this in the new financial year. However, members agreed that it was unlikely they would allocate more than £500.00 to any one project in the short term

Clerk to send the application form and guidelines for the Community Fund and members can give a formal consideration at the next meeting.

## **12. Wychavon Parish Games 2019**

Communication has been received from the Secretary of the Wychavon Parish Games (a series of fifteen events. The Games are a series of fifteen events, which are competed for by residents of the various parishes within Wychavon. Events are: Angling; Bell Boating; Bowls; Crib; Cross Country; Ladies' Darts, Men's Darts; Dominoes; Men's Five-a-Side; Petanque; Pool; Ladies' Rounders; Skittles, Junior and Senior Table Tennis. A message has been put in the Birlingham News and will be placed in the Bystander 'advertising' the team games.

The Parish Council confirmed it would provide financial support for entry fees at £6.00 per event for any team wishing to participate in the Wychavon Parish Games this year.

## **13. Elections**

The Chairman clarified the election process. There are seven members on Birlingham Parish Council. The recent members have been Stuart Allen, Ken Fitch, Marion New, Paula Aston, Steven Byrne, Terry Griffin and Ian Yates. Members are required to stand for election at the end of every four-year term.

The Chairman thanked the existing members for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the village and its residents over the last few years. Councillor Fitch was thanked for his services to the parish.

There is an existing vacancy and some members indicated that they would not be putting their names forward in the election process. The Parish Council will therefore be looking for new members to fill the vacancies. Anyone who is interested in becoming involved can contact the Clerk and / or nominations must be submitted and delivered by hand to Wychavon District Council by 3 April 2019.

The local council elections will be held on 2 May 2019. If the Parish Council have an uncontested election, then the process of co-option will take place at the May meeting.

The election notices will be posted on the noticeboard and on the website on Friday 22 March 2019.

#### **14. Annual Parish Meeting**

It was confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting (date is booked with Birlingham Village Hall – Councillor Fitch confirmed) is Wednesday 15 May 2018 at 8.00pm. Clerk to send out an invitation to groups in the parish.

#### **15. Councillors' reports and items for next agenda**

As per the New Homes Bonus survey and previously from the feedback from the Village Design Statement/Plan, consideration to be given to how a grant could be used to enhance the enjoyment of the river setting and also to provide a children's play area. Councillor Byre agreed to summarise ideas for the next meeting.

#### **16. Closure and date of next ordinary meeting** - with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.40pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Parish Council Annual Meeting is on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 7.00pm.

**Signed:** ..... **Councillor Ian Yates, Chairman**

**Date:** .....

\* Dispensation Forms - Section 33(3) of the Localism Act 2011 states that, "A dispensation under the section must specify the period for which it has effect, and the period specified may not exceed four years."

\*\* There is no requirement for 'data controllers' to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (as was necessary under the now repealed Data Protection Act 1998). However, the Digital Economy Act 2017 enables the Secretary of State to make regulations requiring data controllers to pay a charge to the ICO. These regulations are the Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/480), which came into force on 25 May 2018. For a local parish with fewer than ten members of staff the annual fee is £40.

### **Appendix 1 – Democratic Opening**

Water in Berwick Lane was discussed at the January meeting. Steve Leighfield attended to express his concerns regarding the water flowing in Berwick Lane which appears to be draining from land at Lower End Farm. Even during the dry season, the water seeped from the grass bank into the road. Mr Leighfield has contacted Severn Trent Water who inspected last year but the issue still continues. In the past there was a ditch between the properties, Lower End Farmhouse and Gardeners Cottage. Is this the cause or have land drainage pipes collapsed and this is now finding its way onto the road as it doesn't seem to be due to the water table? There appears to be a dispute between Highways

and STW over who is 'responsible' for fixing the problem. We think some repair work was done a while back but the problem has obviously worsened again. The Chairman has spoken to the landowner at Lower End Farm and he was going to make contact to see if a joint approach of residents to Severn Trent Water would be more effective.

The Clerk has contacted Severn Trent (reference AW/2004065645) 14 February.

The response (20 February) is *"I'm sorry for the delay in responding to you. I have looked into the visits we have made and no leak has been found on our assets. We have also had a water quality inspector attend and take seepage samples from the area, these have returned as negative for mains water and suggest groundwater"*.

The Clerk will contact Highways. Maybe County Councillor Hardman can also be contacted.

## Appendix 2 – Clerk's Report



### Lengthsman

Reporting:-

New Barn Road - Reference Number 625906

Worcestershire County Council - Highway update: 17/1/19 Our Contractor has now advised that these works have been completed.

"Thank you for your enquiry. We attended on the 27/12/2018 and raised a four-week orders for repairs to be made to the carriageway".

New Barn Road - Pothole Issue - Reference Number 641349

Pothole Issue - Reference Number 642620

Again - Reference Number 651608

12 February 2019

Broadway Road – Pothole - Reference Number 640373

23 January 2019

White Hall Lane – Pothole - reference number 642620.

25 January

Upper End – blocked gully

Worcestershire County Council - Highways update:

18/03/19 "Thank you for your enquiry regarding a blocked gully. We inspected the site on 16/03/19 and have raised an order, number CEN/45602, to jet the gully. We will continue to monitor the drainage system as part of our routine inspection regime".

### Barncroft, Upper End

20 February – Project Manager

Barncroft have had their garden completed by Highways following the village drainage works.

## **Berwick Lane**

Communication from STW

"Thank you for your email of 14 February 2019. I'm sorry for the delay in responding to you.

I have looked into the visits we have made, and no leak has been found on our assets. We have also had a water quality inspector attend and take seepage samples from the area, these have returned as negative for mains water and suggest groundwater.

Here's the link to our website: <https://www.stwater.co.uk/> "

Clerk's report to Highways

5/3 Highway report is 663469. Hazardous and safety issue

## **Tree in the Avenue**

6 January – from Michael Porter at Woodfield Farm

*"I will have a look at these trees this week but if as mentioned these trees are in the avenue then I believe it is "the Birlingham Porter's" responsibility.*

*If "the Birlingham Porter's" would like me to organise a tree surgeon on their behalf, I would be happy to do so?"*

22 January

*"Thank you.*

*I notice that the trees have been attended to in The Avenue which is much appreciated. The branch was only lying on another and so the tidying up seems to have resolved any issues that may have caused any trees to come down into the road.*

*Thank you again for your assistance in this matter".*

## **Cotswold AONB enewsletter Spring 2019**

28 February

The newsletter was circulated to all Councillors for information.

## **New Homes Bonus**

6 March

Clerk informed District Council Davies of the New Homes Bonus proposals for Birlingham.

Councillor Ron Davies email:

*"This is all good news and you have my full support on all three proposals. I should mention that you will not lose your NHB monies if not drawn down by 18/3/19 Wychavon only require to be informed that you have plans to spend your balance within the next 18/24 months. So please update Tracy at Wychavon on your three proposals."*

Birlingham Parish Council March 2019

The Chairman has acknowledged the email and thanked the Councillor for his support.

Clerk has informed Wychavon District Council of the pending applications.

## **Eckington Neighbourhood Plan Submitted – Regulation 16 Consultation – 15 March to 29 April**

From Reiss Sadler, Planning Officer (Policy), Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils

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*Please find attached a letter informing you of the submission of the Eckington Neighbourhood Plan to Wychavon District Council under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Under Regulation 16, Wychavon are inviting comments from individuals and organisations on the submitted Eckington Neighbourhood Plan.*

*The consultation will run from Friday 15 March to 5pm on Monday 29 April 2019.*

*It is the responsibility of Wychavon District Council to collate all responses to this consultation and pass them on to an independent examiner, who will assess them and the submitted Neighbourhood Plan documents to determine whether the Neighbourhood Plan meets the relevant legislation and should proceed to a Referendum.*

*Further information, including the submitted Eckington Neighbourhood Plan and associated documentation, can be viewed on the dedicated webpage using the following link - <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/eckington-neighbourhood-plan>.*

*Comments should be submitted using the response form (attached in both Word and PDF format), either by email to [policy.plans@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:policy.plans@wychavon.gov.uk) mail to: [policy.plans@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:policy.plans@wychavon.gov.uk) or by post to Planning Policy, Wychavon District Council, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT by no later than 5pm on Monday 29 April 2019.*

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Councillors made comment about Roman Meadow. No formal response would be sent but a request to be 'kept in the loop'. All children that attend Eckington Primary school have been sent home with a letter of information.

## Birlingham News (extracts of relevance)

Birlingham **News 176** – 23 January

There are still a few tickets left for the Burns Night Supper, which now includes live traditional Scottish music and dancing – details below.

In this issue:

1. Burns Night Supper, Saturday 26th January
2. Bulb Teas
3. St James' Church Urgently Needs You!
4. Parish Council Report
5. Bystander Archives
6. Candidates Seminars
7. Building Better Opportunities Project
8. Planning Applications

#### 4. Parish Council Report

*Ian Yates writes:*

At the Parish Council meeting on 16th January various matters were discussed:

- New Homes Bonus (NHB). This scheme was introduced by the government in 2011 and was designed to ensure the economic benefits of housing growth are returned to the communities in which the growth takes place. Birlingham has had very little housing development and so the value of our NHB is relatively small. However, it has been used in the past to fund improvements at Birlingham Village Hall, the Cricket Club and provide a new marquee for the Flower and Produce Show and other village activities. The government has now decided to replace this scheme with a new Community Legacy Grant Scheme and any unused NHB money will be lost if proposals are not submitted by 18th March 2019. So, time was spent at the meeting discussing various projects that might qualify for NHB funding (see below). However, villagers are invited to contact the Clerk if they have proposals they would like to have considered.
- Millennium Bench. This is the circular bench that surrounds the plane tree on the village green opposite the lych-gate. It has been mentioned at previous Parish Council meetings that the bench is now damaging the plane tree by cutting into the trunk and roots and having had the tree surveyed by a tree surgeon, the recommendation is that the bench be removed. As the bench is popular with villagers and walkers it is hoped that it can be reassembled and re-sited on the village green. However, due to the slope on the green, an area will need to be levelled and finished with stone. Details were discussed at the meeting and if there are no objections from villagers it was proposed that we submit an application for NHB funding as a contribution towards the cost.
- War Memorial. As mentioned in the Parish Council November minutes, a booklet has been published in commemoration of WW1 titled Birlingham in the Great War of 1914-1918 Lest We Forget. Part of the original research by Chris Reynard for a Bystander article revealed that Frederick Quarrell, a villager who died in the war, is not on the Birlingham memorial or on any other war memorial. The Parish Council fully supports the inclusion of his name on the war memorial and will ask Chris Reynard to project lead and submit an application for NHB funding as a contribution towards the cost.
- Flooding at Berwick Lane. The Clerk has received a letter from a resident who is concerned about water leaking from the bank at the side of Berwick Lane and pooling in his driveway. He has attempted to resolve the issue with the Highways Authority and Severn Trent but without success. The Parish Council agreed to make enquiries to see if the problem can be addressed.
- Drainage. The work on Phase 1 (centre) and Phase 2 (Upper End) of the drainage system to reduce flooding is now complete and the Parish Council thanked the Clerk for all her efforts in ensuring that this work was carried out with the minimum of disruption.
- Litter Pick. The annual litter pick will be held on Saturday 23rd March. Meet on the village green at 10:00am. All villagers are encouraged to come and join in for an hour and so help keep the village tidy.
- Elections. You will be pleased to hear that this has nothing to do with Brexit! There will be local council elections in May and anyone interested in serving on the Parish Council is invited to apply. Nominations must be submitted by Wednesday 3rd April. More details to follow. (See below for details of candidates' seminars.)

Full minutes of the Parish Council meeting will be available in due course.

## 6. Candidates Seminars

Wychavon District Council are holding seminars for anyone interested in standing for either the District Council or Parish Council when elections are held this May. These sessions will provide useful information and will cover the nomination process. The District Council seminar is on Tuesday 26th February and the one for Parish Councils is on Thursday 28th February. Both seminars will be held in Pershore Civic Centre, beginning at 6.15pm.

More information on the seminars can be viewed at [www.birlingham.org/docs/candidates\\_seminar\\_2019.pdf](http://www.birlingham.org/docs/candidates_seminar_2019.pdf). The timetable of proceedings for the elections is at [www.birlingham.org/docs/statutory\\_timetable\\_2019.pdf](http://www.birlingham.org/docs/statutory_timetable_2019.pdf). Anyone planning to attend either seminar should let Elaine Dicks know in advance, either by email at [elections@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:elections@wychavon.gov.uk) or by phone on 01386 565437.

## 8. Planning Applications

The following planning application has been received by the Parish Council:

- Hills Cottage, Upper End: Demolition of storey single rear extension, partial demolition of a single storey. Refurbishment and remodelling internally. (Case No. 18/02445). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 7th February.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at <https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=98547>. There is an associated Listed Building Consent application (Case No. 18/02446 – consultation period ends on 8th February), which can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at <https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=98548>.

## Birlingham **News 177** – 30 January

Here is the round-up of forthcoming events for February. If you have any other events coming up, please let us know.

In this issue:

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1. St James' Church Services – February
  2. Birlingham Photography Club, Tuesday 5th February
  3. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 6th February
  4. Bulb Teas
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## Birlingham News **178** – 13 February

Your views are requested on the re-siting of the Millennium Bench and three applications for the last of the New Homes Bonus.

In this issue:

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1. Bulb Sunday Service, 17th February
  2. New Homes Bonus Applications
  3. Millennium Bench
  4. Lost and Found Cat, and Other Short Stories
  5. St James' Church Urgently Needs You!
  6. Bystander Archives
-

## 2. New Homes Bonus Applications

*Ian Yates writes:*

The New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme was introduced by the government in 2011 and was designed to ensure the economic benefits of housing growth are returned to the communities in which the growth takes place. Birlingham has had very little housing development and so the value of our NHB is relatively small. However, it has been used in the past to fund improvements at Birlingham Village Hall, the Cricket Club and provide a new marquee for the Flower and Produce Show and other village activities. The government has now decided to replace this scheme with a new Community Legacy Grant Scheme and any unused NHB money will be lost if proposals are not submitted by 18th March 2019.

The value of Birlingham's NHB is currently £1372. The money will only be released by Wychavon District Council for proposals that meet their project criteria. There are three projects that the Parish Council is thinking of proposing for NHB funding (see below) but would like to receive any comments and feedback from residents.

- **Millennium Bench.** This is the circular bench that surrounds the plane tree on the village green opposite the lych-gate. It has been mentioned at previous Parish Council meetings that the bench is now damaging the plane tree by cutting into the trunk and roots and having had the tree surveyed by a tree surgeon, the recommendation is that the bench be removed. As the bench is popular with villagers and walkers it is hoped that it can be reassembled and re-sited on the village green. However, due to the slope on the green, an area will need to be levelled and finished with stone. Carpentry and ground work costs are estimated to be £1000. It is hoped that £872 can be funded from NHB with the balance coming from Parish Council funds.
- **War Memorial.** As mentioned in the Parish Council November minutes, a booklet has been published in commemoration of WW1 titled Birlingham in the Great War of 1914-1918 Lest We Forget. Part of the research revealed that Frederick Quarrell a villager that died in the war is not on the Birlingham memorial or on any other war memorial. The Parish Council fully supports the inclusion of his name on the war memorial and is proposing to submit an application for NHB funding as a contribution towards the stonemason's cost of £300.
- **Birlingham in the Second World War.** As mentioned above, as part of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the Jubilee Committee produced a booklet detailing the 50 men who went to war. The committee is now planning a similar booklet to mark the 75th anniversary, in 2020, of the end of the Second World War, covering the 39 men and women from Birlingham who saw active service. The booklet would provide a permanent record of the service personnel and their families, and of life in Birlingham during the war years. The production costs are estimated to be £432 and the Jubilee Committee are applying for a grant of £200 towards these costs. The remainder of the printing costs will be raised by the committee.

Residents are therefore invited to contact the Clerk at [birlingham\\_clerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk) if they have comments on any of these proposals. Due to the fact that the current NHB scheme is due to end shortly, comments must be received no later than Thursday 28th February.

## 3. Millennium Bench

*Steven Byrne writes:*

[The removal and repositioning of the Millennium Bench from around the Plane Tree on the village green, opposite the parish church](#)

The much-loved Millennium Bench, used by parishioners and visitors to the village and Church throughout the year, is showing its age and creating an issue for the tree it encircles. The Bench encompassing the mature plane tree on the village green needs to be removed and relocated, following advice from a well-respected tree surgeon. As a result of the growth of the tree root system since the bench was positioned there, the bench is now having a detrimental effect on the roots. Further, the bench is in need of repair, and we would like to undertake this at the same time.

The Parish Council are proposing to prepare a level area on the village green to place the refurbished Millennium Bench on. It is proposed the prepared surface will have Cotswolds stone, with the Millennium Bench positioned in the middle.

The Parish Council would appreciate members of the parish's views on the proposed relocation of the Bench on the village green, or indeed suggestions as to an alternative location which are fully accessible to residents.

Please send your comments to the Parish Clerk at [birlingham\\_clerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk)

Birlingham News **179** – 27 February

It's very busy in and around the church next month, with plenty of opportunities for getting involved.

In this issue:

1. St James' Church Services – March
2. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 6th March
3. Birlingham Photography Club, Tuesday 12th March
4. Vacancy at The Almshouses, closing date Friday 15th March
5. Village Litter Pick, Saturday 23rd March
6. The Friend's of St James' AGM, Tuesday 26th March
7. Annual Church Meetings, Tuesday 2nd April
8. Churchwarden and Treasurer's Assistant
9. Church Electoral Roll
10. Snowdrops for Sale

5. Village Litter Pick, Saturday 23rd March

*The Parish Clerk writes:*

The Parish Council is organising the Annual Litter Pick on Saturday 23rd March, meeting on the village green at 10.00am. Litter-picking equipment is provided.

Please save this date and join us if you can. We should be able to complete the litter pick in an hour if sufficient people turn up.

The litter pick is being timed to coincide with the Great British Spring Clean – full details at <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>.

Birlingham **News 180** – 13 March

This issue contains two brief surveys for you to complete, each of which is essential for funding of local projects. The surveys will take less than a minute each, so please take a few moments to complete them.

Birlingham Parish Council March 2019

In this issue:

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1. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 20th March
  2. Village Litter Pick, Saturday 23rd March
  3. The Friend's of St James' AGM, Tuesday 26th March
  4. New Homes Bonus Applications
  5. Second World War Booklet
  6. Birlingham Memories Project
  7. Bulb Teas
  8. Bystander Archives on the Village Website
  9. Lost Ladies' Watch
  10. Planning Applications
- 

#### 1. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 20th March

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 20th March at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. During the meeting there is an opportunity to express your views on local issues, so please come along.

#### 2. Village Litter Pick, Saturday 23rd March

*The Parish Clerk writes:*

The Annual Litter Pick takes place on Saturday 23rd March, meeting on the village green at 10.00am. Litter-picking equipment is provided.

Please join us if you can. We should be able to complete the litter pick in an hour if sufficient people turn up.

The litter pick is being timed to coincide with the Great British Spring Clean – full details at <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>.

#### 4. New Homes Bonus Applications

*Ian Yates writes:*

For New Homes Bonus applications to be successful, it is essential that we can demonstrate positive public support for the projects. Please therefore go to [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScd67a\\_4gO1wLq-PCP\\_PhALgAXQ8zaEsELiY3u8vYY3OQ6xnA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScd67a_4gO1wLq-PCP_PhALgAXQ8zaEsELiY3u8vYY3OQ6xnA/viewform?usp=sf_link) as soon as possible to complete a short survey and tell us which of the three options below you support. Alternatively, contact the Clerk at [birlingham\\_clerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk) with your views. All responses will be treated confidentially.

- **Millennium Bench.** Application for £872 towards costs of £1000. Balance from Parish Council funds.
  - **War Memorial.** Application for £300 towards the stonemason's cost of £375. Balance from fund raising.
  - **Birlingham in the Second World War.** Application for £200 towards the printing costs of £432. Balance from Jubilee Committee funds.
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Responses are requested no later than Tuesday 19th March.

#### 5. Second World War Booklet

Following the success of the Great War booklet (which has now sold out), the Jubilee Committee is hoping to produce a similar booklet for the 75th anniversary in 2020 of the end of the Second World War. The booklet would commemorate the 39 men and women from Birlingham who saw active service during the war. Although we would not have access to the census from that era, hopefully there are still people who remember that time (and maybe even some of those who went to war). There should also be more photographs available and people who would have known local families.

The aim is to produce a booklet for an occasion to be organised on or around Friday 14th August 2020 (the anniversary of V-J Day). The booklet is likely to be more substantial than the Great War publication, so an application is being made for New Homes Bonus funding to help with the costs.

The Jubilee Committee would like to involve as many people as possible, so if you would like to contribute in some way please let us know at [news@birlingham.org](mailto:news@birlingham.org).

## 6. Birlingham Memories Project

Running in parallel with the Second World War booklet, the Jubilee Committee is planning to launch a Birlingham Memories Project. The intention is to capture the memories of our older residents (and people who used to live in the village), either in sound or on video, so that these memories are available for future generations. It is hoped to interview as many people as possible about their life in Birlingham and to mount a series of exhibitions to display the results.

As part of the project the Jubilee Committee is applying for a Wychavon Community Grant for recording, playback and display equipment, which could then be used for events by other organisations in the village. As with all grants, it is important to show that there is community support for the project. Therefore, it would be appreciated if you could complete a very short survey. If you would like to be involved in the project in any way, the Jubilee Committee would be very pleased to hear from you at [news@birlingham.org](mailto:news@birlingham.org) – or give your details on the survey.

## 10. Planning Applications

The following planning application has been determined by Wychavon District Council:

- **Hills Cottage**, Upper End: Demolition of storey single rear extension, partial demolition of a single storey. Refurbishment and remodelling internally. (Case No. 18/02445). **Approved**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website.

Birlingham **News 180 update** – 20 March

## **New Homes Bonus and Memories Project – Surveys**

In the last Birlingham News we asked you to take part in two short surveys relating to grant applications in the village. The Parish Council is considering three projects for New Homes Bonus applications and the Jubilee Committee is applying for a Wychavon Community Grant for the proposed Birlingham Memories Project. For these applications to be successful, it is essential to be able to demonstrate positive public support for the projects.

If you have not yet completed these short surveys, please do so at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScd67a\\_4gO1wLq-PCP\\_PhALgAXQ8zaEsELiY3u8vYY3OQ6xnA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScd67a_4gO1wLq-PCP_PhALgAXQ8zaEsELiY3u8vYY3OQ6xnA/viewform?usp=sf_link) (NHB applications)

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdwXjBo2evqvU2--mOfLHDYirDyHw47MHtmMGaWVxjUyEBUog/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdwXjBo2evqvU2--mOfLHDYirDyHw47MHtmMGaWVxjUyEBUog/viewform?usp=sf_link) (Memories Project)

You should be able to complete both surveys in less than a minute and the Parish Council and Jubilee Committee would very much appreciate your support. All responses are anonymous.

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