

Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 17 July 2019
at Birlingham Village Hall

Councillors:

Councillor Paula Aston, Maxine Cook, Terry Griffin, Julia Luff, Michael Porter and Ian Yates

Present:

District Councillor Ron Davies and June Hiden (Clerk)

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed and congratulated Councillors' Maxine Cook and Michael Porter to their first meeting. He also welcomed all Councillors and thanked them "for being on board" and continuing in their roles.

District Councillor Ron Davies was thanked for his time in attending meetings and for his ongoing support of the Parish.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by Councillor Steven Byrne who was abroad. Apologies were given by County Councillor Adrian Hardman. Also received were apologies from the Footpath Warden, Bruce Hayward and Lengthsman, Carl Brassington.

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 (if not included on the 'term of office' Dispensation form.

All Councillors have now signed their applications for dispensation for the term of office.

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.

There was a declaration by Councillor Aston for Item 6 – Planning and items relating to the Bystander. Councillor Cook declared an interest in items relating to the Jubilee Committee.

3. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillors Cook and Porter signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 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. There was nothing to report.

5. Progress Reports

a) Footpaths. The Footpath Warden has carried out the following duties:

- i. Footpath 511 (Withy Walk) – strimmed and cut back.

The Footpath Warden reported that human excrement has been cleared from Withy Walk and that this is not the first time this has occurred.

A Councillor also reported that on two occasions a villager had witnessed an incident where a female has defecated in Church Street. It is an offence to do so and there are portable toilets in the fields for workers. Councillor Griffin said he will assist if any parishioners were challenged.

This is a serious matter and the Clerk will speak to Revills regarding the incidents in Church Street.

b) District Councillor gave his report as follows:

- i. The link road and bridge near the Keytec business site in Pershore/Pinvin has been given the go ahead by Highways. It should commence this year.
- ii. More land is to be made available by the end of the year at Pershore station for parking spaces.
- iii. The British Tour cycling is scheduled to take place on Thursday 12 September 2019. There will be time trials. Pershore and the immediate areas will be affected.
- iv. Wychavon magazine has gone out to residents.
- v. Councillors need to be aware of their Code of Conduct.

The Parish Councillors asked about the Community Legacy Grant and relating it to a cycle/walking route to Pershore. However, the boundary stopped at Tiddesley Wood and who would fund the remainder of the route? The route is used by seasonal workers and a regular walker from Eckington. It would be good to join the neighbouring parishes (including Defford and Eckington) to the town. Councillor Davis asked if there were any quotations for the works proposed. The Parish Council had not made those enquiries. The District Councillor indicated that the cost was likely to be prohibitive.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Davies for his support with the first tranche of the New Homes Bonus which was now fully allocated to projects.

c) County Councillor – not present.

d) Clerk - [Appendix 2](#)
Notes from Lengthsman included.

6. Planning

a) Current applications pending

- i. 19/01210/HP (planning application) - Hills Cottage, Upper End, Birlingham WR10 3AA
Demolition of single storey rear extensions, demolition of a single storey side extension.

New side extensions. Refurbishment and remodelling internally.
Mr Nicholas Aston is the applicant

Parish Council comments:

The Parish Council supported the initial application which had a rear extension with large glass doors and a side extension of a much more modest nature, which the Parish Council thought was in keeping with the existing house.

In the VDS July 2017, one of the guidelines says, "alterations to existing buildings should respect the original design or aim to improve its contribution to the character of the existing property". Although we feel the new proposed side extension is very different to the character of the rest of the house and is very visible to the front elevation, the Parish Council on balance support the application. Taken overall, we believe the work has a positive impact on the preservation of an historic dwelling.

However, we would like the planning and conservation officer to consider the materials used for the roof, ensuring they are in keeping with the listed element, and also the very low pitch of the roof.

- ii. 19/01211/LB (listed building) – Hills Cottage, Upper End WR10 3AA
Demolition of single storey rear extensions, demolition of a single storey side extension.
New side extensions. Refurbishment and remodelling internally.

Parish Council comments as above.

b) Current planning applications approved/refused

- i. 19/01240/CLE - The Caravan At, Gravelly Hill, Eckington Road WR10 3DB

Description of Proposal: Site of a static caravan for residential purposes in excess of 10 years

Mrs Jane Phelps

Parish Council comments:

Generally, the Parish Councillors, do not object to the application for the certificate of lawfulness. This decision is based on the facts submitted with the application being validated by the planning officer, including the formal sworn declarations, to the extent it is possible. It is also assumed by the Parish Councillors that in arriving at your decision as the planning authority, that you will consider whether the historic relocation of the caravan referred to, although within the site, is a material consideration or not.

APPROVED application and granted a Certificate of Lawfulness on 3 July 2019

Certificate states "Wychavon District Council hereby certify that on the 30 May 2019 the matter described in the First Schedule to this Certificate in respect of the land specified in the Second Schedule to this Certificate and outlined in red on the plan attached to this Certificate, was lawful within the meaning of section 191 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), for the following reason :- That the use described in the First Schedule commenced at least ten years before the date of the application for this Certificate".

ii. 19/01007/HP - Bay Tree Cottage, Church Street WR10 3AQ

Two storey extension to side of property

Applicant - Mr and Mrs Brown

APPROVED 10 July

Parish Council comments: The Parish Council would initially like to point out the property is within the conservation area.

The Parish Council has referenced this application against Birlingham Village Design Statement. We feel that the proposal is an over development of the plot. The requested 3 spaces to the front would we believe have a detrimental affect on the street scape, it's setting and it's aesthetic. We feel the proposal impinges too much on the side access to the adjoining properties; vehicles use this access route, and the larger extension could have a detrimental effect. We also feel the scale, mass and design would have a negative affect on the adjoining Tudor Cottages and other surrounding buildings. Generally, the scale and mass of the proposal is not in keeping with the village. Other extensions in the locality have been smaller in scale and nature, and a scaled down proposal may be supported by the Parish Council.

c) Enforcement

Gravelly Hill - Correspondence has been received regarding the caravan at Gravelly Hill which had been copied from the District Councillor.

Paddock Barn – use of a mobile home. As bound by Part 4 of the Town and Country Planning Order 2015 (General Permitted Development GPDO) the temporary mobile home or static caravan falls under this part of the Act and therefore doesn't need permission currently.

TREE WORKS

Hills Cottage, Upper End

Application number - 19/00181/TPOA (tree preservation order)

Removal of leylandii trees in garden to Hills Cottage

Approved - 1 February 2019

The Swan Inn

Application number – 19/00506/CAN (works in a conservation area)

To remove 3 trees as dangerous in high winds

Approved – 12 April 2019

7. Financial Matters

a) The Accounts for year end 31 March 2020 and as shown on the spreadsheet

i. Bank balance is £6,158.15 as at 28 June 2019.

ii. Receipts –

£312.00 – Worcestershire County Council (Lengthsman – March £132, April £108 and May £72)

iii. Payments: –

- ❖ £219.02 – Worcestershire CALC (Service charge per elector £199.87 includes VAT 33.31 and NALC affiliation fee £19.15) 544
- ❖ £120.00 – Birlingham Village Hall / hire of hall for 2019/2020 545
- ❖ £257.60 Zurich Insurance 546
(The cost of this policy is £257.60 (including taxes - This is made up of £230.00 for the policy and £27.60 Insurance Premium Tax (at the prevailing rate, which is levied on insurance policies))
- ❖ £132.00 - Lengthsman – March 547
- ❖ £108.00 - Lengthsman – April 548
- ❖ £50.00 - Internal Audit – Sadie Yeomans 549
NALC Good Councillors Guides (via CALC) £4.25 x 2 plus postage

c) Future payments for consideration

- ❖ £72.00 – Lengthsman May 2019
- ❖ £156.00 – Lengthsman June 2019
- ❖ £140.00 - PAYE (April, May, June)
- ❖ £560.00 - Clerks salary (April, May, June)
- ❖ £104.28 - Clerks standard expenses (April, May, June)
- ❖ Lengthsman – increase in hourly rate from £12 to £15 from September 2019.

Going forward we should state that if the Lengthsman is seeking an increase he must present it to us well before we start to prepare our budget i.e. in October with the first perhaps being October 2020 for the 2020/21 year.

Note: Certificate of insurance has been received (expires 17 May 2020)

- ❖ £50.00 – Wychavon District Council - Recharge of uncontested election costs
This has not been budgeted for however the Provisions in Elections will cover this.

– Clerk to action a transfer from the savings account to current account for transparency of how the Provisions are allocated.

- d) Provisions
Election Provision as above to be actioned.
- e) Pensions Regulator – re-enrolment and declaration of compliance. The Clerk has completed the relevant forms and returned to the Regulator.
- f) Approval of cheque signatories – three required. It was agreed that Councillor Cook would be added to the signatories and the Clerk will action a mandate variation. The removal of Stuart Allen's authorising signature from the existing list has been initiated (10/7/19).
- g) 2018/2019 External Audit
 - i. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)
 - ii. Notification of Audit on website and noticeboard

PKF Littlejohn have been informed that Birlingham Parish Council is an exempt authority and this has been published.

8. Policies

Review and agreement on the following policies:-

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

This is a stand-alone policy and will not be incorporating the Press and Media document. Councillor Aston spent a lot of time looking at the regulations and relating them to the small authority of Birlingham Parish Council. Councillor Aston will look at this again to check any recent regulations/changes and circulate before the next meeting. Clerk to do an action covering sheet and circulate for review agreement.

Planning Policy and Guidelines

The Planning Policy has been circulated to all Councillors. The Chairman said that having read through the Planning Policy again there didn't appear to be much amendment. The Village Design Statement is already mentioned on page 3 as something that should be considered when commenting on a planning application. In addition to this the results of the Village Survey could also be considered. This may be conflicting, so the Survey is purely for reference. The Wychavon District Guidelines are also for reference.

Councillor Byrne, Lead on Planning, offered to have a look at the document. Councillors believe that the Policy is good as it stands and to keep it simple.

Clerk to make minor amendment in wording but no significant changes. All agreed. Circulate Policy for final review, with header sheet, prior to approval at the September meeting.

Dealing with the press/media

This is a separate policy to the GDPR as it covers different issues. This needs to be reviewed and brought up to date. Councillor Aston and the Clerk to action.

Social Media Policy

This policy needs to be combined with the Press and Media one.

9. New Homes Bonus (NHB)

The New Homes Bonus application projects totalling £1,372.00 have been approved by the Communities and Funding Advisory Panel at Wychavon District Council, as follows:

Millennium bench (removal and relocation, refurbishment and works to green) - £872.00

War memorial – WW1 soldiers' inscription to be added - £300.00

WW2 booklets – printing of a booklet produced to mark the 75th anniversary of WW2 - £200.00

Any publicity associated with these projects will have to be partly acknowledged through the New Homes Bonus scheme.

Councillor Byrne has offered to lead on the Millennium Bench project. It must be removed, re-assembled and the ground prepared. This is a split scheme, the first involving the bench and then secondly the ground area. Councillor Aston will also get a quotation / estimate for the bench 'carpentry'.

Chris Reynard has offered to assist on the War Memorial project. It is a listed monument and quotations for the works will have to be acquired. Clerk to contact Chris Reynard.

The booklet is being produced by the Jubilee Committee and Chairman; Steve Morris will be contacted regarding this project.

10. Berwick Lane

There is still an issue in Berwick Lane with flooding. There has been no rain for three weeks and yet there is running water. Clerk to chase action from Highways.

11. Parish Council – Community Fund Provision

The Jubilee Committee has started a Memories Project Group. The aim of the Memories Project is to capture the memories of Birlingham particularly from its older residents and those who used to live in the village so that they are captured for future generations. The Group also intend to produce a WW2 booklet as part their activities. An application has been received requesting funding for recording equipment from the Parish Council Community Provision. The application gives a breakdown of estimated costs and funding already granted to the Memories Project.

The request had been received at short notice prior to the meeting so Councillors agreed to consider the application more fully and propose an amount of £250.00. This was agreed in principle.

12. Wychavon Community Legacy Grant*

A discussion on practical ideas from the Village Design Statement that might be successful in gaining funding from the Wychavon Community Legacy Grant.

Ideas already suggested include:

- A picnic area at Swan's Neck to allow residents to enjoy the river and views of Bredon Hill
- Further development of the Jubilee Wood,
- A children's play area
- A footpath/cycle route to Pershore

Other ideas for discussion have been:

A new pavilion on a playing field, village hall and new play area.

A meeting has taken place and various email exchanges circulated. The footpath/cycle route was favoured but only a small part is in the village. What about improvement to the public right of way (Footpath 500) through Rough Hill Orchard?

Another consideration was the Jubilee Wood. Councillor Cook promoted the idea of improving the woodland as an open area for the community and their wellbeing / health. Could a play area be installed? A sitting and reflections area. The Tree Warden would support the idea already put forward for trees as a memorial to loved ones.

There was much expression of interest. However, it was difficult to find the village need that justifies the Grant process. The submission for this year was 23 August. The Councillors would therefore consider a submission for the next phase and set a target date for a bid next year.

Councillors agreed to ask the villagers what they wanted within the criteria. Chairman to put a message in the Birlingham News.

13. Speed Awareness

This was still ongoing. There are different problems in various areas of the village. There has been no progress from the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator.

The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner has messaged about his fund and an allocation example given to Crowle to install pairs of white gates at entrances to the village. Does Birlingham want white gates? This has been discussed previously and with advice from Highways it was concluded that the gates were not a speed deterrent.

Workshop run by Wychavon District Council to provide practical help and advice to community groups. One of the courses is 'Tackling Speed in your Parish' on Monday 23 September 2019. The workshop, involving the Safer Roads Partnership, will consider a range of practical actions that parishes and communities can take to tackle speeding in rural areas and will include some successful local examples.

Councillor Aston has been reviewing speed awareness and will investigate the gate idea again. She will also attend the workshop in September.

Councillor Aston will report back to the November meeting.

14. New Councillors – introduction to village

The Chairman will do an article for the Bystander to introduce the new Councillors and the function of the Parish Council. All Councillors agreed on their inclusion in a future issue of the editorial.

The Chairman will draft the introduction. Councillors to draft their piece about 'themselves' and send to the Chairman to edit. At the next meeting a photograph of the members will be taken.

15. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

- Smartwater – should this be reintroduced to the village? Councillor Aston
- Councillor Luff will not attend the next meeting.

16. Closure and date of next ordinary meeting - with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.50pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Parish Council Meeting is 18 September 2019 at 7.00pm.

Signed: **Councillor Ian Yates, Chairman**

Date:

Appendix 1 - Clerk's Report

Lengthsman

Reports:

New Barn Lane

Reference number 724555 (4/7) - pothole

8/7 - Update - Thank you for the information. This has inspected and been passed to our contractor for repair

Election Notices

Election notices for uncontested and contested elections have been displayed as instructed by Wychavon District Council. An invoice has been received 'recharge for election costs' at £50. (discuss at Financial)

Flooding

Berwick Lane

April - Reference Number 663469 – Clerk reported.

Response was, "Thank you for your enquiry this has been referred to Severn Trent. Slippery road boards have been placed at locations". 8/4

Reference Number 680035 – Lengthsman reported.

Update: 23/04/19 "Thank you for your enquiry regarding a blocked gully. We inspected the site on 20/04/19 and have raised an order, number CEN/46546, to jet the gully. We will continue to monitor the drainage system as part of our routine inspection regime".

Clerk - Again 21 April - Reference Number 688156
Acknowledged 21/4

23/04/19 – "Thank you for your enquiry. The site was inspected on 20/04/19 and an order has been raised to clear a blocked gully. Whilst on site there wasn't any sign of leaking water at this location".

June - 724686. No rainfall and constant flow of water. Severn Trent Water have said not their issue. Site visit if necessary.

Message sent to owner of Gardeners Cottage (Highways reference Pender Cottage) (4 July)

Clerk contacted by Highways (8/7) - "believe this location was inspected in 2014 when one of the highway pipes was clogged with roots near the embankment".

Clerk has asked that the issue be addressed and a site visit if possible.

Reply - Gang are coming out to site and have Clerks mobile number.

Update from WCC system - MRM 8/7/19 - contacted Parish Clerk direct via email to confirm issue prior to sending DJS and possible root cutting work.

Coach House – the Avenue

Lengthsman reported :

695099 25 June 2019 - dislodged access cover in verge

Update by Highways:

We have inspected this site and confirm that no safety issues were identified. The road will continue to be monitored and action will be taken as deemed necessary.

Clerk report 714991: Drain has lifted, and storm water is flooding the highway Believe broken or blocked drain in southerly direction.

Highways update was "the CJL 14/06 Ringway jetter attended".

Today the drain has dislodged and flooded the highway. There remains an issue; some pipes must be broken or blocked below the property and I ask on behalf of the Parish Council that this is rectified satisfactorily. This fault report has attached photos.

Complaint by owner at Coach House as well as a highway issue anyway.

4 July - TMD 4/7/19 "Thank you for reporting this drainage issue, it has been added to the Jetvac programme to be investigated".

8 July – another source has confirmed that the issue is on 'the to do list'. Resident at Coach House informed of update.

Community Legacy Grant workshop: 13 June

Wychavon District Council's parish and town council event on the evening of Thursday 13 June 2019 included a workshop on how to apply for a Community Legacy Grant. The authority was answering questions and giving tips on what makes a good application. Councillor Byrne attended to find out more to assist the Parish Council 'if' submitting an expression of interest.

Police and Crime Commissioner – Community Newsletters

25 June - From the Police and Crime Commissioner:

"As part of his commitment to engaging with and reassuring local communities, the Police and Crime Commissioner is keen to provide more articles and other content for publication in local parish and community newsletters, outlining his work in the area on behalf of local communities, as well as highlighting notable local police activity, and seeking engagement from local communities.

As I'm sure you will appreciate, simply establishing all the right contacts for this work has the potential to be a very large undertaking, as we have hundreds of local parish areas across the West Mercia force area. With that in mind, I am hoping that your knowledge, contacts and generosity within the local council may be able to help us get this project started in earnest - if you would be kind enough to share it with me".

Clerk has asked Birlingham News to respond.

Police and Crime Commissioner – Have your say on Rural Crime

Have Your Say on Rural Crime - 7pm on Monday 24th June 2019.

Would you like to see more police in rural areas? What crime issues are important to you? What would make your community safer?

Rural Crime will be the focus of a live question and answer session hosted by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.

Questions were invited but only one per parish.

No reply was sent as the Questions and Answers will be on the website after the Live Chat.

The Chairman gave a thanks to Chris Reynard who had assisted in the discussion.

Fallen Trees

The Lengthsman reported fallen trees in New Barn Road. Clerk contacted the landowner.

The landowner replied and said the trees would be looked at. The update was that they are all still attached and there is no immediate danger to the highway.

The Lengthsman will monitor.

Heavy vehicles

Tractors

A complaint to the Parish Council regarding tractors and trailers traversing Church Street and Church Lane.

In recent months several residents have expressed concern at the increased number of tractors often with trailers using Church Street, some driving at quite a speed.

Redstar reply – *“some movement is difficult to restrict particularly where a driver lives in the street and uses it for personal journeys”*.

HGV

Redstar - *“With regard to lorry movements, we have no deliveries or collections booked to come to Red Star in the evening/overnight and EU lorry movements will be very minimal as into the UK season.*

However, we must reiterate that all hauliers have been provided with detailed information (which the parish council is aware of) that states the best route into Red Star and most suitable times we accept HGV vehicles on site, it is the haulage company/driver who determines his route and this is dependent on travel time, road conditions etc to ensure he remains within his legal driving hours restrictions”.

Parish Council is monitoring any haulier/company name and will get the registration if possible.

Birlingham News (extracts of relevance)

Birlingham News 187 – 12 June

This issue contains reports of last month's parish meetings and some good news about the missing cat.

In this issue:

1. Annual Parish Meeting Report
2. Parish Council Report
3. Found Cat!
4. Bystander Archives on the Village Website
5. Planning Applications

Annual Parish Meeting Report

Ian Yates writes:

The annual Parish Meeting was held at 7.00pm on 29th May. The purpose of this meeting is to give residents in Birlingham an opportunity to hear annual reports of activities and achievements for the last year from:

- The Parish Council
- Elected county and district representatives
- Other elected representatives, such as wardens and Lengthsman
- Community groups

It also provides an opportunity for residents and villagers to have their say on anything they consider important to the people of the parish. A number of reports were presented, and full details will be made available in the minutes, which will be posted on the village website.

Parish Council Report

Ian Yates writes:

The Parish Council Meeting was held at 8.00pm on 29th May.

- **Co-option of councillors.** Parish Council members are required to stand for re-election every four years and prior to the elections on 2nd May 2019, nominations to the Parish Council were invited. The list of candidates who had applied was published by Wychavon District Council on Thursday 4th April and it showed that the election would be uncontested due to an insufficient number of candidates. As a result, those who were nominated, Paula Aston, Terry Griffin and Ian Yates, were returned unopposed. Ian Yates was re-elected as Chairman and Paula Aston as Vice-Chairman. In order to fill the four vacancies, the Parish Council followed a process of co-option and received four applications prior to the cut-off date. The following were therefore co-opted to the Parish Council at the meeting: Steven Byrne, Michael Porter, Julia Luff and Maxine Cook. The Chairman welcomed the new members to the Parish Council and thanked those that had decided to stand down, Ken Fitch, Stuart Allen and Marion New, for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the village.
- **Council's scheme of delegation.** The Parish Council re-appointed the following and received progress reports:
 - Financial Support Officer – Terry Griffin
 - Footpath Warden (under the authority of WCC) – Bruce Hayward
 - Parish Lengthsman – Carl Brassington
 - Tree Warden – Karl Grimston
 - Planning Group – Steven Byrne

- **New Homes Bonus (NHB).** As previously reported in Parish Council Minutes and in Birlingham News, the Parish Council has put forward three proposals to Wychavon District Council for the remaining £1372 of NHB. These proposals are for the refurbishment of the Millennium Bench, the addition of a missing inscription on the war memorial and printing of a WW2 booklet. Progress on these proposals was discussed.
- **Flooding at Berwick Lane.** The problem of water leaking from the bank at the side of Berwick Lane is still unresolved. The Parish Council continues to chase Highways Authority and Severn Trent for a resolution.
- **Birlingham Memories Project.** As previously reported, the Jubilee Committee is launching the 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. The Jubilee Committee hope to purchase recording equipment for capturing the memories, and playback and display equipment for use at an exhibition. The Jubilee Committee has now been awarded a grant of £800 from Wychavon District Council and has submitted a proposal for a further £250 of funding from the Parish Council's Community Fund.
- **HGVs in the village.** There are still cases of HGVs not following the signed routes into the village and/or entering at night and it was agreed that a log of these incidents along with photos of the offending vehicles, where possible, will be kept so that concerns can be raised with the businesses responsible.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been received by the Parish Council:

- Hills Cottage, Upper End: Demolition of single storey rear extensions, demolition of a single storey side extension. New side extensions. Refurbishment and remodelling internally (Case No. 19/01210, Listed Building Case No. 19/01211). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 4th July.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at <https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=100021>, Listed Building application <https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=100022>.
- The Caravan, Gravelly Hill, Eckington Road. Site of a static caravan for residential purposes in excess of 10 years (Case No. 19/01240. Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 25th June.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at <https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=100051>.

Birlingham News 188 – 25 June

This week's Birlingham News is a day earlier than usual because of holidays.

In this issue:

1. Birlingham Photography Club, Tuesday 2nd July
2. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 3rd July
3. St James' Church Services – July
4. Vacancy at The Almshouses
5. Churchyard News

Birlingham News 189 – 10 July

July tends to be a quiet month but here is the round-up of recent Birlingham news.

In this issue:

1. Betty Palmer
2. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 17th July
3. Village Defibrillator
4. Mowing of Verges
5. Bystander Archives on the Village Website
6. Planning Applications

Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 17th July

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 17th July 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.

Village Defibrillator

Kelvin Hartshorne writes:

On 4th July there was a need to use the defibrillator and as a consequence some items must now be replaced. Until such time as the unit is checked and the replacements obtained, the village is without a working defibrillator.

As you all know, we have followed West Midlands Ambulance service advice and put a code on the cabinet door. We were assured that in the event of an emergency the 999 operator would give the code to the caller but that did not happen seamlessly. Given that the system did not work as anticipated we are now making the code public: the code is 1234.

Unfamiliarity with the defibrillator is an impediment to its use – which will only ever be in an emergency. There were two training sessions in November 2017 but only 11 people attended. We shall put on more training sessions but we need to secure a better level of village engagement and we hope that more people will attend

We will let you know when the defibrillator is fully working again.

Mowing of Verges

A long-running campaign encouraging councils to let neatly mown grass verges become mini meadows where wildflowers and wildlife can flourish appears to be building up a head of steam. In recent years, our verges have been mown later in the year to allow spring flowers to flower and seed.

An article on this subject can be read at www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-48772448.

Planning Applications

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

- The Caravan, Gravelly Hill, Eckington Road. Site of a static caravan for residential purposes in excess of 10 years (Case No. 19/01240). **Certified**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website.
- Bay Tree Cottage, Church Street: Two storey extension to side of property (Case No. 19/01007). **Approved**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on Wychavon website.

Birlington News 189 update – 12 July

Village Defibrillator – Available Again

The defibrillator at the Village Hall was not available for a few days because of an emergency use but it has now been tested, re-stocked with pads and associated items, and reinstated in the locked box.

The code for the defibrillator is 1234.

Appendix 2 – Wychavon Community Legacy Grant

Statement

What is the fund for?

The Community Legacy Grant scheme is a £3 million fund for innovative, ambitious, viable capital projects that meet local needs and that will create a significant community legacy. The scheme will also provide start-up funding for smaller, innovative schemes that address local need.

This fund is exclusively for parish and town councils and is a unique opportunity to make a significant and lasting difference in your communities.

How to apply

There is a two-stage competitive bidding process and you can make up to two bids in any one year. Expressions of interest must be made using our online form and be submitted to us by 23 August 2019 at the latest.

We will invite applicants whose proposals align with the overall aims of the Community Legacy Grant scheme and meet the scheme's criteria to submit a second stage, more detailed application. The deadline for full applications is 15 November 2019.

You don't need to wait until August to submit an expression of interest. To give you as much time as possible to prepare a detailed bid, we will review expressions of interest within two weeks of submission and let you know whether to proceed to the second stage of application or not.

Rules and eligibility

Please read Section 6 of the 2019 update of our New Homes Bonus Protocol (2018-2022) for the full set of criteria and rules that apply to the Community Legacy Grant scheme. We have made a few changes since the first round of bids.