AGENDA

Birlingham Parish Council

June Hiden, Lamorna, Broadway Road, Birlingham
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To Members of Birlingham Parish Council
You are duly required to attend the next meeting to be held on
Wednesday 20 November 2013
Village Hall
7.45pm

Welcome

1) Present

2) Apologies for absence

3) Declarations 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.

(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)
Note: idiots guide has been given to Councillors

4) Minutes of the previous meeting.
   To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2013 and minutes to be approved.

5) Democratic Opening

6) Progress Reports
   a. Footpath Warden
   b. District Councillor (if not present request written report)
   c. County Councillor (if not present request written report)
   d. Clerk

7) <u>Planning</u>
   a. Report on outstanding planning applications
   b. Applications granted/refused
   c. Neighbourhood Planning Seminar – WDC 22 October update by Councillor Comins. Further discussion. (Note below)
   d. Separate speaking slot for Parish Councils – representation other than Clerk or Chairman requirement form

8) <u>Financial Matters</u>
   a. Bank balance

b. The Accounts for 2013/2014

c. Receipts

£460.00 – Wychavon District Council
£180.00 – Worcestershire County Council – Lengthsman
£2,500.00 - Precept

Payments –
£460.00 NHB for BVH - cheque number 289
£180.00 Lengthsman (£100.00 July and £80.00 August) – cheque number 287
£482.95 – Clerks pay July/August/September – cheque number 286
£120.80 – PAYE – cheque number 285
£25.00 – Clerks expenses – cheque number 288
£5.00 – Clerks Networking Event CALC – cheque number 290

d. Future payments

£482 – Clerks pay October/November/December
£120 – HM Revenues & Customs PAYE due end of December
£25.00 – Clerks expenses
£48.63 – Poppy wreaths (£46 last year) Can we give to Chris on behalf of British Legion?
£60.00 – Lengthsman – September
£110.00 – Lengthsman - October

e. Budget for 2014-2015 discussion and resolutions

- CALC subscription – to increase by 2.5% (as per issue 41) due in May

- Tree survey commissioned on the oak tree – contribution to Councillor Comins?

- Plane tree - Build up precept for 'remedial' care. Agreement on the meaning of 'remedial' care.

NOTE FROM LAST YEAR: To commence with discussion on level of balances it is appropriate for the Council to hold. For instance should it be equal to one year's expenditure? The bank balance is not equal to the tree and litter pick balances. Do we feel that we should have a bank balance equal to those and some more? Question - Increase by 5% – as previously resolved January 2011? It was noted that the village hall contribution had been a 15% increase?

Included discussion–

- *Charities*
- *Clerks pay, PAYE and expenses – quarterly payments as per financial year and in line with RTI*
- *Village hall contribution*
- *Annual Tree Forum – Tree Warden Budget*
- *Website annual invoice*
- *Car allowance – 40 pence per mile (Adoption of Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (previously discussed on Scrutiny Panel) consider increases*
- *Insurance due in May*
- *mower*

Discussion took place on the budgeted grit bins at £400. It was the grit that was needed rather than the bins. Councillor Aston has some bins. Clerk to let the Lengthsman know.

The Clerk left the room during a discussion on the budget for next year concerning her pay. Clerks pay was resolved at an increase of £100 which was in line with inflation.

f. Precept – discussion and resolution
October – WDC write with 2014/2015 Council Tax precept forms which continues to pass on Grant but phase out over next 4 years
November – PC's decision
December – 2014/2015 tax base calculated and then informally available
January – PC's decision – end of month precept application deadline (normally mid Jan)

9) Website
Update

10) Bench at Birlingham Quay
Bench on Common Land?

11) Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

12) Closure and next meeting on 15 January 2014 at 7.45pm

Clerk
November 2013

Wychavon D C

A meeting to discuss Neighbourhood Plans held on 22nd of October.

Wychavon provided a most interesting introduction to the planning and execution of Neighbourhood Plans. Speakers from several parishes within and outside the county described their experiences.

From these examples a number of conclusions can be drawn:

1. Neighbourhood Plans have legal status and as such they must be respected by planners and developers.
2. Parish Plans are in effect now superseded.
3. There are considerable restrictions on what can be included in the plans, i.e.: they must conform to the Local Plan of the district and to the principles in the National Planning Policy Framework
4. Once a Plan has been accepted, the parish can benefit from a 25% share in the Community Infrastructure Levy.
5. The work involved in producing a plan is extremely arduous for small communities and will take a minimum of 4 to 5 years to complete.
6. There is a small amount of grant aid to support each plan, initially £7000
7. Several small parishes or town areas can cooperate in producing plans
8. Essentially, Plans allow the local community to set out their views on the location, design and dispersion of new housing. They cannot override the numbers allocated in the Local Plan. They can also influence plans for new infrastructure, green space etc
9. Wychavon can provide support and guidance but not the manual help needed to complete plans.
10. The work involves frequent public meetings, gathering of views by means of questionnaires, statistical analysis and computer programming, testing of conclusions against public opinion and for conformance to relevant legislation such as Health and Safety, Equality, Race and European law. Most communities find it necessary to employ consultants. Completed plans are subject to examination before a public audience before acceptance by the local authority.

So far only 3 Plans have been accepted in the England and Wales although over 550 are in progress. The smallest parish working on a Plan has 400 inhabitants. In Wychavon, North Claines is the furthest advanced.

I see Neighbourhood Plans as a useful exercise giving some control over the implementation of housing policy and allowing communities to have a direct influence over aspects of their social environment.

The work involved is formidable.

John Comins

24.10.13.