NOTICE

Birlingham Parish Council

June Hiden, Lamorna, Broadway Road, Birlingham
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To Members of Birlingham Parish Council

You are duly summoned to attend the next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council
to be held at

7.00pm

On

Wednesday 18 March 2026

In Birlingham Village Hall

Agenda

Welcome

Present

1) **Apologies** To receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence.

2) **Declarations of Interest** *Appendix a*

   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.

3) **Minutes of the previous meeting**

   To consider the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2026. (Attached)

   For transparency. Correction to the November 2025 minutes Clerk's pay and expenses are not reading correctly. The quarter reads as October, November, December but is July, August, September.

   Democratic Opening

   The meeting is adjourned for Public Question Time. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. This is also a time where Councillors can raise items for future agendas.

4) **A Few Thank-you's**

5) **Notification of Vacancies for Co-option of 6th and 7th Councillor**

   Michael Porter has given his resignation. Thanks to Michael.
   2 vacancies for Councillors.

6) **Government Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation in Worcestershire**

Presentation by District Councillor Paul Middlebrough.

A letter from Councillor Richard Morris, Leader of the Council has been circulated and published in the Birlingham News.

There are two options for reorganisation in Worcestershire:

The first option is One Worcestershire, which would create a single unitary council running all services across the county and is backed by Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council.

The second option is Transforming Worcestershire. This would create a North Worcestershire Council and a South Worcestershire Council to run services in their respective parts of the county, with collaboration between the two when beneficial. This option is backed by Bromsgrove District, Malvern Hills District, Redditch Borough, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils.

Under both options, the county council and the six borough, city and district councils will be abolished by 1 April 2028.

An understanding to the arguments for and against One Worcestershire versus Transforming Worcestershire.

7) **Progress Reports**:

For information

a. Footpath Warden
b. Tree Warden
c. Lengthsman
    - Update on new Lengthsman
d. District Councillor (if not present request written report)
e. County Councillor (if not present request written report)
f. Clerk

8) **Planning**

a. Report on outstanding planning applications
    - Support from District Councillor Middlebrough for the applications at Woodfield Farm and land off Eckington Road following his contact with Ciaran Power, Carl Brace and Ian Macleod
b. Applications granted/refused
c. Enforcement

9) **Financial Matters**

a. The Accounts for 2025/2026

i) Bank balances

ii) Receipts

i. £250.00 – Worcestershire County Council Grant
ii. £160.00 – Worcestershire County Council Lengthsman

iii) Payments agreed: –

i. £22.00 – Village Hall hire for January 2026
ii. £120.00 – Lengthsman for November 2025
iii. £160.00 – Lengthsman for December 2025
iv. £690.10 - Clerk's pay October, November, December
v. £112.50 - Clerk's expenses October, November, December
vi. £4.25 – bank charges November
vii. £4.25 – bank charges December
viii. £350.00 - Litter bins annual charge (budget £300)
ix. £250.00 – Councillor Hardman Divisional Fund – Grant for Cuppa & Chat
x. £250.00 – Councillor Hardman Divisional Fund – Grant for IW

Note:

Bench maintenance - An invoice was due from Clarian for the bench maintenance for £250.00. Ian from Clarian has said there will be no charge for 2025. Ian said "*During 2025 I inspected the bench on a regular basis when passing Birlingham and touched up the treatment where needed (a few minutes here and there), so there is no charge for 2025. This coming May/June I will be spending a couple of days sanding and applying treatment (top & bottom) so there will be an invoice @£250, I also have the brass plaque for polishing which I'll re-attach after the maintenance is complete*."

Clerk has sent a message of thanks.

Royal British Legion - Waiting bank details for £70.00 – Royal British Legion poppy wreaths. Clerk has communicated with local contact.

b. Future payments for consideration

ii. £22.00 – Village Hall hire March 2026
iii. £22.00 – Village Hall hire May 2026
iv. £690.10 – Clerk's pay January, February, March
v. £112.50 – Clerk's expenses January, February, March
vi. £172.40 - Clerk's PAYE
vii. £104.80 – Clerk's specific expenses (breakdown to be signed by Chairman)
viii. £4.25 – bank charges January
ix. £4.25 – bank charges February
x. £4.25 – bank charges March
xi. £300.00 - County Councillor's Divisional Grant (Art Group)

Note:

Direct debit of £47.00 – ICO (Annual Renewal - fee amount is £52.00, minus £5 fee reduction for paying by direct debit). A receipt has been received 5 March 2026 giving an expiry date of 9 March 2027.

c. Explanation of the next financial years tax base due to the increase of 2.3% has been given by WDC:-

"The tax base for Birlingham Parish Council in 2025/26 was 172.58, and in 2026/27 it has fallen slightly to 168.68.

A reduction in the tax base can occur for several reasons. Additional exemptions—such as single person discounts, other exempt categories, or an increase in empty properties—will reduce the overall tax base. Conversely, the tax base will increase if more chargeable properties are added to the area or if fewer exemptions are applied.

When exemptions rise, the tax base becomes smaller. A lower tax base means your precept is spread across fewer Band D equivalent properties. As a result, even if the total precept stays the same, the amount each property must contribute increases in order to fund that unchanged precept.

The Band D Levy in 2025/26 was £41.29 and if you follow the calculation in the tax base figure (I've completed one for you below), the Band D Levy in 2026/27 will be £42.24 which is an increase of 2.3%."

a	Budget requirement		£7,304
b	Less Grant		- £179.00
c	= Precept	c = a-b	= £7,125
d	Divide by tax base 26-27		/ 168.68
e	BAND D LEVY 2026-27	e = c/d	= £42.24
f	Band D levy 2025-26		£41.29
g	Percentage increase	(e-f)/f x 100	2.3

10) **Email Address for Parish Council**

The new practitioners guide has set out that there will be a new assertion on the AGAR for the financial year (2025/26). This is around Digital and Data Compliance. One of the requirements for this is: "*Every authority must have a generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain, for example clerk@abcparishcouncil.gov.uk or clerk@abcparishcouncil.org.uk rather than abcparishclerk@gmail.com*"

New email domain registered. New email address.

Policy agreement.

11) **Discuss actions from previous meeting**

Community Project Funding (CIL) and Consultation on Community Infrastructure Projects and Community Initiatives

CIL funding available is £1,543.91 deposited in April 2024 and available for 5 years.
Progress and update.

Highway Issues

Speed/signage/other

- Upper End

  Update.

- New Barn Road

  Changing the speed limit at New Barn Road

  Upgrading Signage

  Update.

Public Rights of Way

- Response from *Jon Sansome, farm manager addressing his points on footpath 510C (from The Avenue to Withy Walk) and footpath 506C (from The Avenue/memorial below The Old Rectory. Any update -To discuss.*

12) **Councillors' reports and items for future agenda**

Any other items.

13) **Date of next ordinary meeting**

To confirm the date of the next ordinary meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday 20 May 2026.

Confirmation of the Annual Parish meeting date.

Members of the public and press are cordially invited to be observe the above meeting but any questions to be sent to the clerk in writing (birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk)

Signed

June Hiden

June Hiden
Clerk to Birlingham Parish Council

Date: 11 March 2026

Appendix a

Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) 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.