# Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 18 September 2019

at Birlingham Village Hall

**Councillors:**

Councillor Aston, Byrne, Cook, Griffin, Porter and Yates

**Present:**

District Councillor Davis and June Hiden (Clerk).

**Welcome**

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by Councillor Luff who was on holiday and these were accepted. Apologies were also given by the Footpath Warden, the Tree Warden and the 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 have been 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.

## 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on17 July 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 were no questions.

## 4. Progress Reports

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

i. Footpath 511 (Withy Walk) – strimmed and cut back.
ii. Footpath 512 (near Gravelly Hill Cottages) – finger post checked following report of damage.
iii. Footpath 522 (path between lock and weir) – mown by third party.

b) Tree Warden. Nothing to report. As it's the Autumn it would be good to make contact.

c) District Councillor:

i) Question regarding Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the feasibility of creating a cycle path/pavement to Pershore. What is the mechanism to put in a proposal to access CIL? The development in Pershore/Tiddlesley area? Suggested contacting Wychavon District Council Tracey Grubb or Jem Teale. Or alternatively as its highway land to contact County Councillor Hardman. Councillor Davies believes this is worth pursuing. There is a health and well-being aspect.
ii) There were no further communications from residents at Gravelly Hill.
iii) The bridge near Keytec 7 - this is supposed to be this year. The petrol station on the Wyre Piddle site (near by-pass) has been approved.
iv) Budget timetable begins now with the final decision at full Council in February 2020. The finances are in good shape. Councillor Davies' recommendation is for a zero-council tax increase again for Wychavon. The Executive Board are recommending some minor refurbishment to the Civic Centre to the tune of £330K. The Centre was first opened in 1991.

d) County Councillor: none.

e) Clerk - See ***Appendix 1*** Information from the Lengthsman included.

## 5. Planning

a) Current planning applications pending – none.

b) Applications granted

i. 19/01210/HP (Planning application - Associated with Ref:19/01211/LB) - 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.

Approved 23 July 2019

ii. 19/01211/LB (Listed consent) – 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.

Approved 23 July 2019

c) Enforcement – nothing officially reported.

d) Trees in a Conservation area:

A dead elm in The Avenue below the war memorial adjacent to the Old Coach House has been given permission by Wychavon District Council to be removed. The homeowner has been instructed to action.

i. 19/01659 – The Row, Lower End WR10 3AD
Fell five leylandii – growth out of control

Approved 1 August 2019

ii. 19/01791 - Peacock Barn, Lower End WR10 3AD

1 robina (T1) – dead and needs felling for close trees to flourish

1 copper beech (T2) – reducing by up to 30% to create light for heavily shaded garden, to improve shape of tree.

Pending decision

iii. 19/01935 - the Old Rectory, New Barn Road WR10 3AB
All tree works as detailed in schedule accompanied the notification

Approved 23 August

## 6. Financial Matters

a) The Accounts for year end 31 March 2020

i) Bank balance is £5,345.87 as at 30 August 2019.

ii) Receipts –

£156.00 – Worcestershire County Council (Lengthsman June)

iii) Payments agreed: –

i. £50.00 – Wychavon District Council recharge of uncontested election costs
ii. £72.00 – Lengthsman May 2019
iii. £156.00 – Lengthsman June 2019
iv. £140.00 - PAYE (April, May, June)
v. £560.00 - Clerks salary (April, May, June)
vi. £104.28 - Clerks standard expenses (April, May, June)

b) Payments for consideration

i. £114.00 – Lengthsman July
ii. £120.00 – Lengthsman August

c) Provisions

£50.00 transfer from Election Provision (Business account) to current account. £250.00 to be transferred as Item 9.

Clerk has been to Lloyds Bank, but the transfer requires permission from signatories.

d) Budget setting at the November meeting. Consideration to be given to the following:

- Projects - £800 has been put towards projects but nothing has been spent in 2 years.
- Clerks salary
- Various as per the spreadsheet.

Any thoughts to be sent to the Clerk.

It was agreed to have a pre-budget meeting on 15 November 2019 with the Chair, Vice-chair and Financial Support Officer to discuss the precept and look at projects.

e) Bank signatory

The current signatories are Ian Yates and Paula Aston. The Mandate is currently being amended to add Maxine Cook. Clerk is actioning.

## 7. Policies

The following policies have been reviewed and adopted:

- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- Planning Policy and Guidelines

The version / cover sheet for the GDPR needs to be dated.
The Planning Policy control sheet is confusing. Councillor Aston will amend for clarity.

The Press/Media/Social media Policy still requires action. Councillor Aston and Clerk to deal.

Complaints procedure needs to be circulated.

## 8. Wychavon Community Legacy Grant

There appears to be no good case / ideas for the success in gaining funding from the Wychavon Community Legacy Grant. The Cycle Path has a major cost implication and the route is mainly in Pershore. Are there alternative options on funding for the cycle/foot path option for example CIL. Can a case be put forward that is credible? Councillor Byrne will investigate this.

Councillor Aston is attending a Speed Watch course on 6 October 2019.

Councillor Yates is looking at the Community Broadband engagement.

## 9. Parish Council – Community Fund Provision

Councillors have viewed the application from the Jubilee Committee for the Community Fund Provision. The Jubilee Committee have formed a group called the Memories Project with the aim to capture either in sound or on video, the memories of Birlingham's older residents and of people who used to live in the village. They have been successful in gaining financial support from Wychavon District Council and the Bystander group to put towards research with a view to completing the Second World War aspects in time for the 75th anniversary of VE Day next year. This Fund request will enable the Memories Project to interview people about their lives in the village and to mount a series of exhibitions to display. It will be about community engagement and village history both past and present.

It was agreed to give £250.00 to the Project for recording equipment.

## 10. New Councillors – Introduction to village

An article will go in the Bystander to introduce newly elected Councillors and the function of the Parish Council. The Chairman will draft the 'function' and all Councillors will send their introductions about themselves to the Chairman. Clerk has asked that a Councillor 'selfie' been sent to the Bystander. A group photograph was taken at the meeting.

## 11. New Homes Bonus

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

There have been previous quotations for the bench refurbishment works. The ideal is three. A skilled operator is required for the ground works. Councillor Byrne is willing to assist with the

ground works. Can the capsule be relocated to enable the bench to be suitably resited? Does a section of the bench need to be removed? The bench must be away from the tree and major roots. The gravel area must be reinstated.

Councillor Cook will act as the co-ordinator for the project.

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

Chris Reynard has agreed to act as co-ordinator of this project.
WW2 Booklets – printing of a booklet produced to mark the 75th anniversary of WW2 - £200.00 agreed.

The Jubilee Committee have thanked the Parish Council for their previous support of the New Homes Bonus application for the WW2 booklet. The booklet will be bigger and therefore more costly than the WW1 booklet that was produced. It is hoped the booklet will be of interest to villagers and a useful document for future historians. This is progressing.

Steve Morris has agreed to co-ordinate this on behalf of the Jubilee Committee.

## 12. SmartWater

SmartWater is estimated to be £25 per house and has come to the Parish Councils attention through an 'advert' of "We don't buy Crime". SmartWater is a traceable liquid and forensic asset marking system (taggant) that is applied to items of value to identify thieves and deter theft. The liquid leaves a long lasting and unique identifier, whose presence is invisible except under an ultraviolet black light. Should the Parish Council support this initiative? What are the costs? Will it assist with insurance? Is it sourced through the police?

75% of residents need to sign up for the incentive. Councillors need to get an idea of who is interested and willing to buy into it.

It was agreed that Councillor Aston would do a leaflet to homeowners. A notice will be placed in the Bystander.

## 13. Remembrance

Poppy wreathes – the wreathes have been ordered and thanks to Chris Reynard for his continued support after his retirement. Clerk to action further.

Chris Reynard was thanked for his service as Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) for the Royal British Legion and for assisting Birlingham in the past 10 years.

Representatives – A wreath is to be laid at the Eckington Memorial service on Remembrance Sunday. Chairman will attend.

A service organised by the Parochial Church Council will take place 11 November 2019 at the Birlingham memorial. Councillor Porter will attend and lay the wreath. The Parish Councils insurance will cover the safety indemnity of the parishioners attending.

## 14. Councillors' reports and items for next agenda

- Swdp briefing – Councillor Byrne will attend the meeting at Worcester on 6 November 2019 at 6pm.

**15. Closure and date of next ordinary meeting** - with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.45pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7.00pm.

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

**Date:** .....

## *Appendix 1 – Clerk's Report*

### Lengthsman

Reporting:

Upper End
1. Reference Number 714469 : gully full
2. WCC Update: Inspected on 09/08/19. An order has been raised to fix the problem.
3. Reference Number 714470 : gully full (not a duplicate)
4. WCC Update: Inspected on 09/08/19. An order has been raised to fix the problem.

Lower End
Reference Number 761767 : flooding

Reference Number 763632 (17/9) : Pothole

Church Lane
Reference number 763633 (17/9) - pothole

New Barn Lane
Update - reference number 756766
17/09/19 reply - We have raised a one-week order for the pothole to be tarmacked.

### Workshop

Wychavon District Council workshops - a programme of workshops designed to provide practical help and advice to community groups, parish and town councils across Wychavon. The workshops are free but advance booking is essential. Paula Aston to attend the 'Tackling Speeding in your Parish' in September (confirmed). Ian Yates has asked to attend Applying for Funding workshop (4/2/20).

### Drainage issues

Berwick Lane
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*

20 July
*Lengthsman*

*"I saw the Jetting gang yesterday. They have inspected and jetted Berwick lane but there is a root incursion so they will be returning with a root cutter and bigger jetter."*

Lengthsman reporting - Reference Number 761765
13 September 2019
Thank you for informing us of a Highways, Drainage or Flooding issue at BERWICK LANE.

18 September 2019
Clerk site meeting with Highways. To look at the possibility of removing the willow trees. The gullies at the lower part of the lane to be cleared and the connecting drainage to be completed cleared to the ditch outfall.
Coach House – the Avenue
Lengthsman – "*I saw the Jetting gang yesterday. The pipe is silted up and they are jetting down towards the sewage works for about 300m where it goes into a much larger pipe."*

19 July - property owner to Clerk
"*The jetters came today. I gave them some background to the issues. They carried out a check and reported that the pipe from "our" drain down 300m is blocked with silt & roots. Thereafter it goes into a much bigger pipe which is clear.*
*They will arrange for another truck to come. The pipe will be cleared of roots & silt which should cure the problem. It's hoped this will happen in approx. 2 weeks.*
*Hopefully a long overdue cure.*

*Thank you for your help with this, much appreciated."*

## Road Closures

Eckington Road B4080
Reason for restriction: Carriageway Resurfacing**.** There is a need to close the highway in the following terms:-

1. The effect of this Notice is that no vehicle shall proceed along that part of the highway from its junction with A4104 Defford Road to its junction with C2271 New Barn Lane.

2. This provision shall continue in force for a maximum of 5 days; however, it is anticipated that it will remain in force for 2 days commencing 27 August 2019.

3. Alternative routes: - A4104 Defford Road, A4104 Three Springs Road, B4084 Worcester Road, B4084 High Street, B4084 Bridge Street, C2007 Pensham Hill, C2007 Goodleigh Hill, C2008 Pershore Road, C2008 Back Lane to Pershore Road, C2008 Hollands Road, B4080 Tewkesbury Road, B4080 Church Street, B4080 Pershore Road and vice versa.

Eckington Road - Questions asked:

*Looking at the map, New Barn Lane is going to remain open. This suggests two questions:*
*1. I presume we will be telling people in Birlingham News that the obvious way to get between Eckington Road and Upper End is via New Barn Lane, rather than the vast official diversion?*
*2. What are the Parish Council doing to mitigate the effects of large amounts of traffic using this route? It will obviously be used by anyone with any local knowledge, which will mean a large amount of vehicles passing in narrow places and potential damage to verges and ditches. In particular, what measures will be taken to enforce the ban on lorries? And how are you going to deal with the inevitable uproar from the houses behind the church, who will see a massive increase in traffic?*
The Chairman contacted Worcestershire County Council

*I have just finished a call with Nadira Tarafder. I recommended that for traffic coming from Pershore or Defford on the A4104 there is a 'road closed/access only' sign on the entrance to Upper End. For traffic coming from Bredon there should be a similar sign on the B4080 at the point where the diversion turns right towards Great Comberton etc. She said she would speak with the person responsible for the project.*

There was some disruption on the day with traffic coming through the village. Only the junction (Defford Road/Eckington Road) was resurfaced not the total length of the road between closures.

15 August 2019

"*County Councillor Hardman sent a message saying, "After we have done the main rd., we are going to have an attack on the village!!"*

Church Street
Reason for restriction: Carriageway Patching. There is a need to close the highway in the following terms:-
The effect of this Notice is that no vehicle shall proceed along that part of the highway from its junction with C2271 Broadway Road to its junction with U46414 The Avenue.

This provision shall continue in force for a maximum of 5 days; however, it is anticipated that it will remain in force for 5 days commencing 13 September 2019.

Alternative routes: - U46414 The Avenue, C2271 Broadway Road and vice versa.

The gang came on Monday 16 September and completed works from Elm View to the junction with Short Hill.

**Tour of Britain – Pershore Time Trial**

9 August 2019
Message received from Wychavon District Council, as follows:-

> *"Dear Clerks*
> *I just wanted to make you aware of this exciting sporting opportunity coming to Worcestershire.*
> *Wychavon District Council, supported by Worcestershire County Council, have been lucky enough to secure Stage 6 of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain on Thursday 12 September 2019, which is a massive opportunity for the locations involved. The Tour of Britain, the nation's biggest professional bike race, will be showcasing 120 of the world's best cyclists across eight challenges stages and best of all it is free for spectators to attend.*
> *On Thursday 12 Sept the Worcestershire's Vale and Spa stage will host the key time trial stage, with riders racing one at a time against the clock over a 14.5km / 9-mile route that starts and finishes in Pershore Town Centre. To accommodate all the Tour infrastructure, team vehicles and for riders/spectator's safety roads will be closed under a Section 16A (Sporting Events on the Highway) order."*

Road Closure letter and maps.

Message placed in Birlingham News.

**Notification of Exempt Status – pkf littlejohn**

24 July 2019
Communication from *SBA Team, for and on behalf of PKF Littlejohn LLP*

Quotes

*"WO0018: Receipt of documents – notification of exempt status, 2019*
*This is an automated message to notify you that we have received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 March 2019 submitted to us for Birlingham Parish Council. By notifying us that Birlingham Parish Council has claimed exemption there is no review to be performed and consequently no auditor certificate and report, or any other closure documentation, will be issued by us for this reporting year.*
*If you did not submit your notification of exemption by the specified submission deadline and were sent chasing letter(s), you will receive an invoice for those chaser charges calculated in accordance with the fee scales set by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited which are available to view at http://www.localaudits.co.uk/fees.html.*
*Unless we receive any correspondence from local electors during the period for the exercise for public rights that requires us to contact you, you will not hear from us again, except to chase any outstanding fees, until the planning for the 2019/20 review year gets underway."*

## Birlingham Village Hall

Copy of Primary Care invoice from Birlingham Village Hall with reference to the defibrillator has been put on file. There was no correspondence with the copy.

## Dog fouling

Resident request:

"*I just wondered if a 'polite' message could go in the Birlingham news about dog poop. Our garden is being used as a dog toilet as clearly someone doesn't have their dog on a lead when they walk by and is clearly letting them do it and not clearing it up*".
Actioned.

## We Don't Buy Crime

The Parish is signed up to "We Don't Buy Crime" which is offered by West Mercia Police. West Mercia have launched their 'On the Beat – South Worcestershire' newsletter.

## New West Mercia Website

Message from PCSO Julie Pardoe, Pershore Rural North and South, Safer Neighbourhood Team
18 September
*"We now have a new website which I wanted to make you aware of. It has lots of helpful information for councils and residents alike.*
*This is the link to the Advice and Information page https://www. westmercia.police.uk/advice/ advice - and -information*".

Birlingham News (extracts of relevance)

Birlingham **News 190 – 24 July**

Do you have memories of the village that you'd like to leave for future generations? If so, the members of the Birlingham Memories Project team would like to hear from you.

In this issue:

1. Changes in Services at St James' Church
2. Parish Council Report
3. Birlingham Memories Project
4. Broadband Update

2. Parish Council Report

*Ian Yates writes*:

The Parish Council meeting was held at 7.00pm on 17th July.

- New Homes Bonus (NHB). We are pleased to report that the three proposals put forward by the Parish Council to Wychavon District Council for the remaining £1372 of NHB have been approved. These proposals are for the repositioning and refurbishment of the Millennium Bench, the addition of a missing inscription on the war memorial and printing of a WW2 commemorative booklet.
- Birlingham Memories Project. The Parish Council agreed at the meeting to provide £250 of funding to the Jubilee Committee from the Parish Council's Community Fund. The Bystander Editorial Team and the Jubilee Committee are providing £848 and in addition have already been awarded a grant of £800 from Wychavon District Council so the £250 from the Community Fund completes all the funding that is required for 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 will purchase recording equipment for capturing the memories, and playback and display equipment for use at an exhibition.
- Wychavon Community Legacy Grant – YOUR IDEAS NEEDED. This scheme, launched in 2018, replaces the previous New Homes Bonus Scheme by creating a Wychavon wide fund (rather than one specifically to Birlingham as before). For every new home built and occupied in Wychavon and every long-term empty home brought back into use, the government gives a non-ring-fenced New Homes Bonus grant. It is a £3m fund available over 3 years open to any organisation (such as a Parish Council), charity or club that serves their local community within Wychavon. Proposals should be for tangible assets rather than day to day running costs although major repair items may be considered. Individual grants will range from £10,000 to £100,000. The Parish Council has been discussing this grant to see if there are viable schemes that would benefit our village. We would therefore like to receive ideas from Birlingham residents that could be developed into a proposal for a project that would benefit our community. Guidelines and details of the scheme rules are available from birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk.
- Flooding at Berwick Lane. The problem of water leaking from the bank at the side of Berwick Lane is still on-going. The Parish Council have now been in contact with the Highways Authority and they have agreed to meet with us on-site within 30 days to investigate the problem as during their previous visit they were unable to find the leak.
- Completion of link at Pershore Keytec Business Park. District Councillor Ron Davis attended our meeting and announced that funding had finally been approved for the link road between the island at the end of the A44 Wyre Piddle bypass and the Wyre road island by Keytec Business Park. This link requires a bridge to be built over the railway line but when completed

will ease traffic on Station Road at Pinvin Crossroads and reduce traffic on the B4083 using the cut through Wyre Piddle. He hoped work would be completed in approximately six months.

Full minutes of the Parish Council meeting will be posted on the village website shortly.

3. Birlingham Memories Project

*Steve Morris writes*:

The Birlingham Memories Project is now under way. Those keen to take part in the project have met twice in recent weeks and the first interviews will be happening shortly. It is very exciting to see the enthusiasm of this band of volunteers.

The Jubilee Committee are extremely grateful to Wychavon District Council and Birlingham Parish Council for their financial support. This will enable us to buy suitable recording equipment, as well as exhibition equipment, which will also be available for use by other village organisations.

Although in the first instance we are concentrating on memories of the war years, we are keen to hear the reminiscences of anyone who lives – or has lived – in the village, regardless of how long they have spent in the village or what period the memories cover.

We hope to organise our first event in the autumn but in the meantime if you would like to be involved, have memories to share or know someone who does, please contact us at memories@birlingham.org or phone 07801 368953.

4. Broadband Update

At a recent parish and town councils' event, officers from Worcestershire County Council gave an update on plans for extending superfast broadband, 4G and 5G. A summary of their responses to questions can be found atwww.birlingham.org/docs/broadband_update_june_2019.pdf.

Birlingham **News 191 – 31 July**

Sad news over the last week, as we have lost two of our best-known residents.

In this issue:

1. Stuart Crowther
2. Des Hollier
3. St James' Church Services – August
4. Birlingham Photography Club, Tuesday 6th August
5. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 7th August
6. Worcestershire Open Studios 2019, Saturday 24th – Monday 26th August
7. Road Closure at Eckington Road, Tuesday 27th – Wednesday 28th August
8. Farm Theft
9. Poppy Appeal Organiser
10. Dog Fouling
11. Worcestershire Passenger Transport Strategy, closing date Friday 13th September
12. Planning Applications

7. Road Closure at Eckington Road, Tuesday 27th – Wednesday 28th August

Eckington Road (B4080) will be closed between the junctions with Defford Road (A4104) and New Barn Lane for two days from Tuesday 27th to Wednesday 28th August. This is to allow for resurfacing of the carriageway.

8. Farm Theft

Between last Saturday 27th evening and Sunday 28th morning items were stolen from the farm at Gravelly Hill, Eckington Road. The thieves took things they could carry but also tried to take parts off a digger and attempted to get into a locked shed. All internal gates were left open so ponies got into the hay and lids were left off feed bins so ponies were eating feed – luckily only theirs but it could have been dangerous for them.

The police were informed and came round and gave advice. If you noticed anything suspicious in the area last weekend, please call West Mercia Police on 101, quoting Incident Reference Number 22-69324-19 PHELPS.

9. Poppy Appeal Organiser

*Chris Reynard writes*:

From the end of this month (July 2019) after 10 years I'm relinquishing my post as the local Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) for the Royal British Legion.

At the present time a replacement has not been found for me and additionally Pershore is also looking for a replacement PAO for the area that they cover.

If there are any volunteers for these posts, please contact me on 01386 751122.

10. Dog Fouling

One of our residents is suffering from their garden being fouled by an uncontrolled dog. This is particularly worrying as the garden is used by children. If you take your dog out in the village please either keep it on a lead or make sure it does not stray into private gardens. If you see a dog running loose in the village, please let us know.

11. Worcestershire Passenger Transport Strategy, closing date Friday 13th September

Worcestershire County Council have developed the Worcestershire Passenger Transport Strategy to support Worcestershire's Local Transport Plan 4. The Strategy sets out how Worcestershire County Council, working with its partners, aims to make passenger transport improvements for the benefit of all residents.

If you would like to have your say on the Strategy, which covers local bus services and connections with railway stations, please print and complete the survey at www.birlingham.org /docs/ worcestershire_pts_survey.pdf and return it to Pershore Library, the Tourist Information Centre or directly to the County Council at County Hall.

Full details of the Strategy can be found at www.birlingham.org/docs/worcestershire_pts.pdf, with a summary at www.birlingham.org/docs/worcestershire_pts_summary.pdf. Contact details are at www.birlingham.org/docs/worcestershire_pts_contact.pdf.

12. Planning Applications

The following planning application has been determined by Wychavon District 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). Approved. Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website.

Birlingham **News 192 – 14 August**

We have Worcestershire Open Studios and the Village Garden Party coming up and another Sixties Night to look forward to, with a selection of road closures thrown in for good measure.

In this issue:

1. Worcestershire Open Studios 2019, Saturday 24th – Monday 26th August
2. Road Closure at Eckington Road, Tuesday 27th – Wednesday 28th August
3. Village Garden Party, Sunday 1st September
4. Swan Inn Holiday, Monday 2nd – Tuesday 17th September
5. Tour of Britain Road Closures, Thursday 12th September
6. Sixties Night, Saturday 12th October
7. Birlingham Village Defibrillator
8. Bystander Archives on the Village Website

2. Road Closure at Eckington Road, Tuesday 27th – Wednesday 28th August

Eckington Road (B4080) will be closed between the junctions with Defford Road (A4104) and New Barn Lane for a minimum of two days from Tuesday 27th to Wednesday 28th August. This is to allow for resurfacing of the carriageway.

The official diversion (to travel between Eckington Road and Defford Road) is via Eckington, Great Comberton and Pershore. The map of the diversion can be viewed at www.birlingham.org /docs/road_closure_2019_map.pdf. Birlingham Parish Council is using its best efforts to ensure Worcestershire County Council signpost the diversion so that the village is not used as a shortcut by heavy traffic. The notice of closure (which allows for a maximum closure of five days) can be found at www.birlingham.org/docs/road_closure_2019.pdf.

5. Tour of Britain Road Closures, Thursday 12th September

A time trial stage of this year's Tour of Britain takes place on Thursday 12th September. The trial is staged over a nine-mile route, starting and ending in Pershore.

The centre of Pershore, including High Street, Bridge Street and Broad Street, will be closed to traffic for most of the day. The High Street access to the Asda car park will be closed, along with about 40 parking places. Abbey Park Car Park will also be closed. Full details are in a letter from Wychavon District Council at www.birlingham.org/docs/tour_of_britain_2019_closure_letter.pdf.

Outside Pershore, the B4084 towards Evesham will be closed, along with roads through Great Comberton, Little Comberton and Bricklehampton. Maps of the closure can be viewed at www.birlingham.org/docs/tour_of_britain_2019_closure_map.pdf.

The advice is to avoid Pershore on 12th September unless you are interested in cycling!

7. Birlingham Village Defibrillator

Birlingham Village Hall Committee has circulated a letter to all residents regarding use of the village defibrillator at the Village Hall. Following recent use, parts have been replaced and the unit is ready for use again.

In the event of a medical emergency you should immediately call 999. If the operator thinks using the defibrillator is appropriate, you will be told to do so. The code to open the Defibrillator cabinet is C1234 and the cabinet contains further simple instructions for using the machine.

The full letter is available at www.birlingham.org/docs/defibrillator_2019.pdf. For more information about the defibrillator and its use, contact Kelvin Hartshorne (01386 750547), Ken Fitch (01386 751682 or 07778 799823) or Alan Bradley (01386 751365 or 07764 293294).

Birlingham **News 193 – 28 August**

It's a busy couple of weeks, with the Garden Party, Flower & Produce Show and Harvest Festival, as well as the usual Cuppa & Chat and Photography Club events.

In this issue:

1. Village Garden Party, Sunday 1st September
2. St James' Church Services – September
3. Swan Inn Holiday, Monday 2nd – Tuesday 17th September
4. Birlingham Photography Club, Tuesday 3rd September
5. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 4th September
6. Birlingham Flower & Produce Show, Saturday 7th September
7. Road Closure at Church Street, Friday 13th – Tuesday 17th September
8. Coffee Morning Thanks

7. Road Closure at Church Street, Friday 13th – Tuesday 17th September

Church Street will be closed for five days from Friday 13th to Tuesday 17th September. This is to allow for carriageway patching.

The notice of closure can be viewed at www.birlingham.org/docs/road_closure_2019_2.pdf.

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Birlingham **News 194 – 11 September**

If you enjoyed the Sixties Night at the Village Hall last year or were sorry to have missed it, then it's time to book your tickets for this year's event.

In this issue:

1. Road Closure at Church Street, Friday 13th – Tuesday 17th September
2. Harvest Festival, Sunday 15th September
3. Swan Inn Re-opening, Tuesday 17th September
4. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 18th September
5. Sixties Night, Saturday 12th October
6. Village Garden Party Thanks
7. Flower & Produce Show Thanks
8. Bystander Archives on the Village Website

1. Road Closure at Church Street, Friday 13th – Tuesday 17th September

Church Street will be closed for five days from Friday 13th to Tuesday 17th September. This is to allow for carriageway patching.

2. Harvest Festival, Sunday 15th September

The Harvest Festival, led by Peter Stansbie, takes place at St James' Church this Sunday (15th September) at 10.30am. The service will be followed by a simple Ploughman's Lunch in the Village Hall.

Gifts of fresh produce and tinned foodstuffs can be brought to the church at the Harvest Service or left in the church this week.

Everyone is welcome to both the service and the Ploughman's Lunch.

3. Swan Inn Re-opening, Tuesday 17th September

The Swan Inn re-opens at 6.00pm on Tuesday 17th September, shortly after Church Street is re-opened.

4. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 18th September

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 18th September 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.

The agenda for the meeting will shortly be available at www.birlingham.org/pc