Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 20 November 2019

at Birlingham Village Hall

Councillors:

Councillor Aston, Byrne, Cook, Porter and Yates

Present:

June Hiden (Clerk)

Welcome

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by Councillor Julia Luff (husband's retirement event in London) and Councillor Terry Griffin (attending a surprise celebration) and these were accepted. The District Councillor was unable to attend due to an Executive Board meeting at the Civic Centre. Also, apologies were given by the Footpath Warden.

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 2019,

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 on 18 September 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. Nothing to report.

4. Progress Reports

a) Footpaths: Bruce Hayward had sent a message to say there was nothing to report at the moment. Clerk has asked the Warden to investigate a kissing gate in Whitehall Lane near the barns. The 5-bar gate is difficult to open and dog walkers are unable to access the footpath (number 509). Residents are walking through the transport yard instead.

b) Tree Warden: No report. Clerk to ask if assistance is needed.

c) District Councillor: No report

d) County Councillor: No report

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

5. Planning

a) Planning applications pending –

i. 19/02272/CU – Merrivew, Upper End WR10 3AA

Change of use of piece of land from agricultural use to domestic use

The Parish Council note that the inclusion of this c150sqm piece of land as domestic use will increase the plot size by about 50%. The resulting plot to property ratio however does appear to be in keeping with the adjoining properties and their plot sizes.

We note and agree with the conservation architects observations. We believe the additional c150 sqm is unlikely to be visible from the road.

The parish council support the application

b) Applications granted – none.

c) Enforcement – nothing officially reported.

6. Financial Matters

a) The Accounts for year end 31 March 2020

i) Bank balance is £8,640.40 as at 23 October 2019.

ii) Receipts –

£3,224.00 – Wychavon District Council (precept £3,135 and grant £89)
£120.00 – Worcestershire County Council
£195.00 – Worcestershire County Council

iii) Payments: –

i. £114.00 – Lengthsman July (cheque number 557)
ii £120.00 – Lengthsman August (cheque number 558)

b) Payments for consideration –

i. £195.00 – Lengthsman September
ii £120.00 – Lengthsman October
iii. £560.00 - Clerks pay – July, August, September
iv. £140.00 - Clerks PAYE – July, August, September
v. £104.28 - Clerks expenses – July, August, September
vi. £55.00 - poppy wreath
Many thanks to Chris Reynard for his assistance. Chris has relinquished his position as the local Poppy Appeal Organiser for the Royal British Legion after 10 years in the post.
vii. £250.00 – Jubilee Committee

c) Transfer of provisions to Savings – still to action.

d) Budget setting. A pre-budget meeting has taken place with the Chairman, Vice-chairwoman and Financial Officer.

Included in the discussion for consideration –

- Clerks pay, PAYE and expenses
- Car allowance – 40 pence per mile (Adoption of Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003
- Insurance due in May
- Village Hall charges
- Training
- ICI
- Projects
- Poppy wreaths
- SmartWater

- Provisions:

Plane tree
Election
Community

Lengthsman (WCC). The budget for the next financial year has been set by the County Council and the scheme will continue. Reminder to Carl Brassington that any changes to his charges are to be submitted in the previous financial year.

Discussion took place on the Precept request. Councillor Griffin circulated a worksheet. The SmartWater initiative and Projects (the VE Day celebrations) were noted.

It was agreed that the precept would be set as per the worksheet at £6650.00 including the grant of £179.00, as per the circulated draft prepared by Councillor Griffin. Clerk to action the application to be submitted to Wychavon District Council.

e. Mandate – notification from Lloyds Bank that the signatory access has been changed on the account to include Maxine Cook.

7. Policies

Review outstanding

- Dealing with the press/media / Social Media Policy – Councillor Aston and Clerk to action.
- Circulation of front sheet (version controls) for GDPR and Planning

The Front sheets require further changes recommending a single list of changes.

8. Litter Pick

A discussion took place on a date for a litter pick avoiding the school holiday/Easter period. It was agreed as Saturday 21 March at 10am meeting on the village green. A backup date of Saturday 28 March was also accepted. Clerk to action further.

9. Dog Fouling - signage

The Clerk has received several complaints regarding dog fouling. A resident has sent an example of signage used in Wick village as an example of the message they use "Dogs are welcome here along with their well-behaved owners but please clean up after your dog". Members thought the signage was a good idea but not something they would favour in a conservation area. The signs should not create 'pollution'/cluttering. The owners are responsible for their dogs. The culprits are not always known. The dog fouling issue needs to be addressed. Councillor Byrne showed an example of another picture of signs more in-keeping with the countryside.

10. VE Day Celebrations

CALC information regarding VE day celebrations suggests Parish Councils take part in VE Day 75th anniversary (8 – 10 May 2020) commemorations. The Councillors agreed that it was a day of international celebration of peace and would support the occasion and come together on behalf of the residents. The Jubilee Committee had contacted the Chairman and would take the lead on a meeting in January seeking support from villagers and asking them what they wanted to do to be involved in organising something. The Jubilee Committee are putting together the WW2 booklet and the Memories Group may put on an exhibition. Councillor Aston would ask Claire Lording about the church's involvement.

The Parish Council were happy to support the activities. The Community Fund or Project (budget) was also available.

11. Councillors' reports and items for next agenda

Updates on:

SWDP Review

Councillor Byrne attended a review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan on the 6 November and provided the Parish Council with a summary of the meeting. This was part of the Worcester, Malvern and Wychavon authorities' six-week consultation which is a pre-requisite for getting the next five year plan approved and adopted by 2021. He obtained a better understanding on how and where they propose to allocate 14,000 new homes in South Worcestershire by 2041 but found that the consultation process did not make it easy to comment on their proposals.

There are three major sites for residential development in Wychavon:

- Worcestershire Parkway, 5,000 units by 2041 (further 5,000 later)
- Throckmorton airfield, c2,000 units by 2041
- Rushwick, 1,000 units by 2041

Note:

- Pershore to take 669 units. The proposal for 450 of these units at Orchard Farm near Tiddesley Wood has yet to be decided.
- Evesham 200 units
- Malvern 780 units
- Upton upon Severn 0 units
- 1260 windfall units between now and 2041

Employment Land:

- 295 ha by 2041 of which 195ha is in Wychavon

New Homes Bonus – the Millennium bench
Councillor Cook is still investigating quotations and has that in hand. The bench needs to dry out. Phase 1 is to take it away and store it. Phase 2 is to level the ground.

SmartWater
Councillor Aston has placed the advertisement and message in the Autumn Bystander. This will gauge interest. County Councillor Hardman can then be contacted.

Wychavon Community Legacy Grant e.g. Speed Watch course
Councillor Aston attended the course run by the Safety Roads Partnership. In summary there is not a lot that can be done in Birlingham. The research was good and informative. However, the 30mph signs are not effective. Eckington have now put down 'dragon teeth' style marking which may be an idea for Birlingham. What about white lines? The lanes are narrow and the vehicles are larger.

Remembrance
There was a good attendance at Eckington for the Remembrance service. The Chairman has taken part in the wreath laying and the parade. The Birlingham service was very good and thanks to Councillor Porter for his help with laying the wreath and the music.

Defib - Birlingham Village Hall communication. See Clerks Report.

12. Closure and date of next ordinary meeting - with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.35pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Wednesday 15 January 2020 at 7.00pm.

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

Date: ……..……..……..……

Appendix 1 – Clerk's Report

Lengthsman
Reporting:

Lower End
Reference Number 763632
24/09/19 Highways – "*We inspected the site and have raised a one-week order to repair/make safe. The road will continue to be monitored as part of our routine inspection regime*."

Reference Number 761767 – gully
02/10/19 Highways - "*We inspected the site and have raised a four-week order to repair/make safe. The road will continue to be monitored as part of our routine inspection regime*."

Signage

"Hi June

In their super-efficient way Highways have collected the 'Road Closed' signs that they placed at Lower End. Unfortunately, they took away my 'Flood' signs (which were probably theirs anyway) but now I have no warning signs should we need them again. It never rains but it pours."

Church Lane
Reference Number 763633
24/09/19 Highways - "*We inspected the site and an order has already been raised for repair. The road will continue to be monitored as part of our routine inspection regime*."

Berwick Lane

Reference Number 761765 – gully
02/10/19 Highways – "*We inspected the site and have raised a four-week order to repair/make safe. The road will continue to be monitored as part of our routine inspection regime*."

New Barn Road

Reference Number 772538 – damage to Flood Sign
15/10/19 Highways – "*We have raised an advisory on a new flood diversion sign to be replaced/repaired."*

Reference Number 791374 - pothole
12/11/19

Broadway Road

Reference Number 791379 - pothole
12/11/19

Flooding

Upper End

28 October

From Project Engineer, Highways to Clerk

"Ringway had a complaint from the Freeth's on Saturday about flooding outside their property with photos. Just wondered what your thoughts were on the matter? I am hoping this is either debris blocking gully gratings or debris on the system with possible some backing up of the ditch by The Bothy. Anyway, I will be sending DJS to site either today or tomorrow to give the system a check and blast through."

Clerk replied saying "spoil off field".

Response from Highways - *"DJS checked our system and it was indeed debris on the gully gratings rather than anything un-towards with the new system. Is this something the Parish Lengthsman can keep a check on? Might also be something the Wychavon could address with regular road sweeping?"*

Carl Brassington to Clerk - 29 October

"I attended to the flooding outside Bancroft on Saturday which was caused by the sand washing off the fields and dragging the leaves down the gutter until the drain grids were blocked. Once I dug them out the water drained away really well so the system is working.

There is still some flooding just past The Old Coach house.

Apart from the bottom road everything else seemed to go ok.

There was however quite a bit of flooding on the A4104 just outside the village. The ditches were overflowing and there seemed to be no outlet for the water on the road to get into the lower ditch to drain away."

Lower End

12/11/19
Lengthsman – "*I managed to get some flood signs from another parish, so I have put those out at the bottom*."

General

From: Barry Barnes, County Highways Liaison Officer, Worcestershire County Council

Copied to County Councillors

29 October 2019

> *Hello all*
>
> *We are currently making a review of all of the incidents and issues regarding the recent floods. As you would expect numerous gully, culvert and drainage ditch requests have been made which we are sifting through and dealing with as quickly as possible. Could I ask you to let me know of any issues that have been raised with you so that we can check our records against what we are aware of just to make sure we cover and deal with as many of the issues caused by these floods. Some issues have already been sent to me. As you will be aware there are various road closures in place. I have checked the latest Environment Agency update and throughout Wychavon (14.30hrs) all of the flood warnings had been downscaled to amber or green. Please note that all along the River Severn are red warnings which could in turn affect the river Avon and other waterways in Wychavon over the next few days.*

Clerk has responded and asked for action on the A4104.

Reply 29 October

> *We are currently making a review of all of the incidents and issues regarding the recent floods. As you would expect numerous gully, culvert and drainage ditch requests have been made which we are sifting through and dealing with as quickly as possible. Could I ask you to let me know of any issues that have been raised with you so that we can check our records against what we are aware of just to make sure we cover and deal with as many of the issues caused by these floods. Some issues have already been sent to me. As you will be aware there are various road closures in place. I have checked the latest Environment Agency update and throughout Wychavon (14.30hrs) all of the flood warnings had been downscaled to amber or green. Please note that all along the River Severn are red warnings which could in turn affect the river Avon and other waterways in Wychavon over the next few days.*

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review – Briefing for Parish and Town Councils

Wednesday 6 November 2019, Guildhall, Worcester

The Government has recently made changes to the regulations relating to local plans, including the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP).

This means that the SWDP, adopted in February 2016, has to be reviewed and a revised version adopted by the three South Worcestershire Councils, i.e. Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council, (SWCs) during 2021.

The SWCs formally agreed to work together on the SWDP review. A timetable for the review has been published as part of the Local Development Scheme for each authority and is available at http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=8789.

We are nearing the second stage of public consultation which is known as the Preferred Options consultation. Subject to approval by each of the SWCs, this will commence on Monday 4th November 2019 and will set out the preferred options for policies and site allocations. We want to involve as many people as possible in shaping the plan review including Town and Parish Councils.

We will be holding two briefing sessions for Parish and Town Councils on Wednesday 6th November at Worcester's Guildhall and the programme will be as follows:

2.00pm – Arrival and registration - tea/coffee will be provided.
2.30pm – Presentation: An overview of the SWDP process and the Preferred Options consultation and a general Q&A
4:00pm – Close
6.00pm – Arrival and registration - tea/coffee will be provided.
6.30pm – Presentation: An overview of the SWDP process and the Preferred Options consultation and a general Q&A
8:00pm – Close

Councillor Byrne is attending. Report Item 11.

South Worcestershire Development Plan: New event available

1 November 2019

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review – Preferred Options Paper public consultation from Monday 4th November to Monday 16th December 2019 and a revised version of the Local Development Framework

The South Worcestershire Councils (SWCs) (Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District) have commenced a review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). The SWDP was adopted in February 2016 and the SWCs are required, by the 2017 Regulations to complete a review every five years. The SWDP Review will cover the period to 2041.

The SWDP Review will allocate further land for houses, jobs and retail. It will also set out planning policies for making decisions on new development proposals up to the year 2041.

This 'Preferred Options' consultation follows last year's Issues and Options consultation document and it sets out the Councils' draft policies and identifies the sites which the three Councils think should be developed for housing, employment and mixed uses. We want your views on the preferred options.

We have also published a map of those sites that have been submitted to us via the summer 2018 'call for sites' which will be assessed for housing and employment development potential. This can also be viewed on our website http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=14121

The consultation runs from 9am on 4th November 2019 to 5pm on Monday 16th December 2019, and you can get involved in the following ways:

- View the documents and make comments on-line at https://swdp-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/swdp_review_preferred_options
- Visit us at a staffed exhibition.
- Visit a library or Customer Contact Centre to view printed copies of the documents and complete a printed response form.

Representations can be made in the following ways:

- On-line: by following the links from https://swdp-consult. objective.co.uk /portal/swdp_ review_ preferred_ options
- By Email: contact@swdevelopmentplan.org
- By Post: South Worcestershire Development Plan, Wychavon Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1PT

All comments need to be submitted by 5pm on Monday 16th December 2019.

Revised Local Development Schemes

Each of the SWCs has also adopted revised Local Development Schemes. These documents set out the schedule of planning policy work for the next three years. The Local Development Schemes for each council can be viewed at http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=8789

If you have any queries you can contact us by phone 01386 565000 or email contact@swdevelopmentplan.org.

Maria Dunn, Planning Policy Team Leader, Worcester City Council and Fred Davies, Planning Policy Manager, Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council

Message put in Birlingham News

Dog Fouling

Resident request for another reminder about dog fouling. Sent to Birlingham News. On agenda.

BVH defib

From Chairman of BVH, Alan Bradley to Clerk

5 October 2019

My apologies for writing to you June, but a question came up @ the last BVH meeting on the Thursday 26th September which you may be able to help with?

1. *It is in relation to a request for a contribution form the Parish Council's community fund for replacement parts for the Birlingham Village Defibrillator of £365.43.*
2. *I explained to the meeting that I had dropped of a request letter and accompanying Invoices at the beginning of August to your home address.*
3. *I understand that the Parish Council had previously agreed to make a 50% contribution to the overall cost of replacement parts, so my question was to ask you if that had been agreed.*

4. *If it has been agreed the payment to the BVH accounts will be when it will be and not before, I point I made to the BVH committee members.*
5. *The reason for me asking the question is we are embarking on much needed maintenance of the hall and wanted to include the £365.43 in our potential income stream.*
6. *June, my sincere apologies for troubling you with this question.*

Look forward to hearing from you when you have the time to do so. Wishing you a wonderful weekend and great week ahead. Best wishes and thank you. Regards
Alan Bradley Chairman BVH.

Clerk reply

5 October 2019

I am in receipt of the invoices which the Parish Council noted at the last meeting. I saw a committee member and on passing queried why they had been sent to me but they didn't know. There was no covering correspondence.

The Parish Council have no agreement in place with the village hall.

Chairman to BVH

Following receipt of the invoice from you for replacement parts for the defibrillator and June's reply (below), I just wanted to clarify exactly what the Parish Council had previously agreed to fund.

From the Parish Council minutes of the 17th Jan 2018:

There will not be a provision made by the Parish Council to the Village Hall for the maintenance of the defibrillator. The Parish Council have a Community Fund created a few years ago precisely for organisations in the village requiring assistance. This means, under the current Community Fund provision agreement, the Village Hall would have to fund 50% but overall this is a 'better deal'.

The Parish Council are pleased that the Village Hall are guardians. To conclude: The Parish Council will support the future costs involved in replacing pads and batteries in line with the manufacturers recommendations. This will only be done under the terms of the Community Fund provision on a matched funding basis. This approach was more beneficial for BHV as it will allow the funds earmarked for this purpose by BVH to last longer, and so ensure the equipment is available.

And in reply on 22 Jan 2018, BVH said:

"Very good news and thank you John, and your Parish Council colleagues, for supporting the future ongoing defibrillator maintenance costs. I have spoken to Ken and he tells me that in practice that when replacements costs are required the Village Hall will obtain the items and we will then issue an invoice to the Parish Council who will pay 50% of the total cost, an excellent solution. The emerging evidence on the defibrillator use seems to suggest that the call on the device is likely to be minimal and therefore the costs for replacements and renewals should be quite modest. If this view is correct, our present surplus from the village donations plus the grant, will on its own cover first 4/5 years of anticipated costs and with your suggested way forward, there should be no concern for the next 8/10 years, by which time who knows what a defibrillator will look like".

In summary.

The PC only agreed to pay via the community fund 50% of the cost of replacements 'in line with manufacturers recommendations'. I recall from the discussions at the time that there was a shelf life to pads and batteries even if the defibrillator wasn't used. The PC agreed to part fund the cost of items when they had reached the end of their shelf life. We did not agree to part fund items that had

to be replaced due to the defibrillators use because it was difficult to forecast that cost. This is why in BVH's reply above you said that we (the PC) would only be required to part fund after 4/5 years (because this was the typical shelf life of parts).

Birlingham News on 12th July 2019 referred to the fact that the defibrillator had been used on the 4th July and some parts would now need replacing. So, I assume that the invoice you've sent us is to replace the used parts in which case these should be funded by BVH from the surplus of village donations/grant. The PC will be happy to match fund parts when they reach their end of life as per the manufacturers recommendations.

I apologise for the fact that we couldn't do more than this but it was necessary to restrict the funding that the Parish Council Community Fund would provide due to a very limited budget. Incidentally have you considered asking the family whose member benefitted from the defibrillator to make a donation towards the cost of the replacement parts? – just a thought.

Please come back to me if you have any questions.

A further communication received 20 November 2019 prior to the meeting. Some Councillors recall the conversation particularly where the previous Chairman, John Hill, who had instigated the Community Fund, gave note to village funds that had been donated and not used.

A Community Fund application would be considered.

Community Infrastructure Levy

3 November 2019 – Clerk to Andrew Ford, Policy

How would the Parish of Birlingham 'apply'/start the process for any CiL or S106 contributions from potential development in Pershore. The parish wish to get a cycle / walking route established between Pershore and the village to then link onto Defford which already has footways. Walkers use the grass verge (and road in places) between the village and the town and Councillors wondered if there was a way to establish any funding towards this aim.

Reply - 5 November 2019

In terms of CIL monies it depends if the parish has had any permissions for residential development and a start made since CIL was introduced in June 2017. If so then a neighbourhood proportion would have been paid to the parish council totalling 15%. Steve Smith in finance deals with this and can advise if Birlingham has had any monies.

Likewise, s106 will only have been payable on new development to provide for infrastructure that is necessary and justifiable and can only be spent on infrastructure that is directly related to the development. A cycle route from the village to Pershore is unlikely to be eligible I'm afraid. But Heather Peachey can advise if there are any potential sources of money.

Finally, from next April 2020 we will be receiving bids for infrastructure projects for funding from the main SW CIL pot and it is likely highway related infrastructure will figure large in these. The PC could discuss this with your county councillor and see if Worcestershire CC would consider putting together something, but I expect it might be quite a bit down any list.

Sorry I can't be more positive, and I will forward your email to Steve and Heather to respond.

Birlingham News (extracts of relevance)

Birlingham **News 195– 25 September**

We have the first mention of Christmas! Details of events between now and December below.

In this issue:

1. Birlingham Photography Club, Tuesday 1st October
2. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 2nd October
3. St James' Church Services – October
4. Wychavon District Council Residents' Survey, closing date Sunday 6th October
5. Christmas Wreath-Making Courses, Sunday 1st December
6. Parish Council Report
7. New West Mercia Police Website

4. Wychavon District Council Residents' Survey, closing date Sunday 6th October

Wychavon District Council are running their 2019 Residents' Survey. More than 500 people have so far told them what they think about the local area and Wychavon services by completing the Residents' Survey.

If you haven't done so yet then now is your chance to tell Wychavon what really matters to you. This is your opportunity to influence their decision-making and the promises they will include in their new strategic plan for the next four years.

The survey, which should take no more than 15 minutes, can be completed at https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WRS2019/. The closing date for the survey is Sunday 6th October.

6. Parish Council Report

Ian Yates writes:

The Parish Council meeting was held at 7.00pm on 18th September.

- **New Homes Bonus (NHB)**. As reported at the last meeting, the three proposals put forward by the Parish Council to Wychavon District Council for the remaining £1372 of NHB have been approved. Councillor Maxine Cook has agreed to lead the work on the repositioning and refurbishment of the Millennium Bench, Chris Reynard is arranging for the addition of a missing inscription on the war memorial and Steve Morris the printing of a WW2 commemorative booklet by the Jubilee Committee.

- **Birlingham Memories Project.** The intention of this project 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. The Parish Council formally approved £250 of funding to the Jubilee Committee from the Parish Council's Community Fund which will be added to the £1648 of funding already raised by the Jubilee Committee for the Birlingham Memories Project.

- **Wychavon Community Legacy Grant**. The Parish Council has been discussing this grant to see if there are viable schemes that would benefit our village. We are still looking for ideas from residents that could be developed into a proposal that would benefit our community. This scheme, launched in 2018, replaces the previous New Homes Bonus Scheme by creating a

Wychavon-wide fund (rather than one specific to parishes such as 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. The Legacy Grant is a £3m fund available over three 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. One idea put forward was the development of a footpath/cycle path from Birlingham to Pershore. As this would be expensive and some of it would fall outside the parish boundary, funding becomes more difficult so the Parish Council has also decided to investigate the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) via Wychavon District Council.

- **Flooding at Berwick Lane**. The problem of water leaking from the bank at the side of Berwick Lane has now been resolved after the Highways Department at Worcestershire County Council flushed the drain.

- **Smart Water**. Councillor Paula Aston has agreed to look at the 'We Don't Buy Crime' scheme which can provide discounted prices for Smart Water marking, provided 75% of residents sign up to the scheme. This scheme has been successful in reducing burglaries in other local villages. Further details in Birlingham News will follow.

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

7. New West Mercia Police Website

West Mercia Police have recently launched a new website. The site includes some help and advice sheets covering a range of topics, such as neighbour disputes, burglary, fly tipping, cyber bullying and parking.

The advice sheets can be viewed at https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information.

Birlingham **News 196 – 9 October**

Later this month there will be a new addition to the Church calendar, a Service in the Vineyard.

In this issue:

1. Sixties Night – Cancelled, Saturday 12th October
2. Service in the Vineyard, Sunday 27th October
3. Memories Project Evening, Saturday 16th November
4. Dog Fouling
5. Bystander Archives on the Village Website

3. Memories Project Evening, Saturday 16th November

The Birlingham Memories Project will be holding its first event on Saturday 16th November in Birlingham Village Hall.

The details of this social event are yet to be finalised but this will be an opportunity to find out more about the project, see some of the material collected so far and share memories of Birlingham, so please save the date.

Refreshments will be available. Full details will be included in the next edition of Birlingham News.

4. Dog Fouling

The Parish Clerk writes:

There is a continuing problem with dog mess in Birlingham. Not only does this create an unhealthy and unclean environment, it is also an offence and dog owners can be fined up to £1,000 if they do not clean up after their dogs. Full details are available at http://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk/dog-service/dog-fouling.aspx.

We would like to keep our roads and public rights of way clean and pleasant to walk on, so if you see anyone's dog making a mess, please remind their owners to clean it up. There are waste bins in the village that can be used, and these are emptied regularly.

Keep your community clean:

- Remember to always carry a poo bag with you.
- Don't discard your used poo bags for someone else to pick up.
- Dog faeces may contain worms that can be a threat to human health.

Dog services (including the dog warden), pest control, pollution control, trading standards and other services in the county are operated by a single body, Worcestershire Regulatory Services. For more information, go to http://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk.

Birlingham **News 197 – 23 October**

This Sunday sees the Service in the Vineyard at the Clock House – an unusual event and one not to be missed.

In this issue:

1. Service in the Vineyard, Sunday 27th October
2. Christmas Wreath-Making Courses, Sunday 1st December
3. Protect Your Business, Protect Your Staff Event, Thursday 28th November

3. Protect Your Business, Protect Your Staff Event, Thursday 28th November

Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Council have arranged a free joint event called 'Protect Your Business, Protect Your Staff', which is taking place at Sixways Stadium, Worcester on Thursday 28th November, 4.00pm – 7.00pm.

All members of the business community are invited to the marketplace event, where they will have the opportunity to ask any questions and receive advice from key organisations on a number of issues, including:

- Business Crime
- Cyber Security
- Modern Slavery

The audience will also have the chance to ask the experts with the live Q&A session. There will be more information to follow.

Birlingham **News 198 – 30 October**

This issue includes details of the first Birlingham Memories Evening.

In this issue:

1. St James' Church Services – November
2. Christopher Griffin
3. Birlingham Photography Club, Tuesday 5th November
4. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 6th November
5. Birlingham Memories Evening, Saturday 16th November
6. Village Bookshop in St James' Church
7. Planning Applications

7. Planning Applications

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

- Merriview, Upper End: Change of use of piece of land from agricultural use to domestic use (Case No. 19/02272). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 21st November.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website.

Birlingham **News 199 – 9 November**

This special Birlingham News contains a reminder about the Remembrance Day Service on Monday and a review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan, including proposals for new development adjacent to Tiddesley Wood.

In this issue:

1. Remembrance Service, Monday 11th November
2. South Worcestershire Development Plan Review & Tiddesley Wood Proposals

2. South Worcestershire Development Plan Review & Tiddesley Wood Proposals

The South Worcestershire Councils (Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District) have commenced a review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). The SWDP was adopted in February 2016 and the SWCs are required, by the 2017 Regulations to complete a review every five years. The SWDP Review will cover the period to 2041.

The SWDP Review will allocate further land for houses, jobs and retail. It will also set out planning policies for making decisions on new development proposals up to the year 2041.

The consultation runs from Monday 4th November to Monday 16th December. Local events include Wednesday 13th November 2.00pm-8.00pm in Pershore Town Hall and Tuesday 19th November 2.00pm-8.00pm in Upton-upon-Severn Memorial Hall.

Details of the consultation can be viewed at www.birlingham.org/docs/swdp_review_2019.pdf.

Among the proposals is a plan to build 450 houses on land bordering Tiddesley Wood. Further details are available

www.birlingham.org/docs/tiddesley_wood_2019_1.pdf and www.birlingham.org/docs/tiddesley_wood_2019_2.pdf.

Birlingham **News 200 – 13 November**

Welcome to the 200th edition of Birlingham News. We would like to thank all our regular contributors and those who help to keep us up to date with village events. Most especially, thank you to all those of you who take the trouble to read our emails. We hope you continue to find Birlingham News a useful means of keeping up with village events.

In this issue:

1. South Worcestershire Development Plan Review, Wednesday 13th November
2. Birlingham Memories Evening, Saturday 16th November
3. Holy Communion, Sunday 17th November
4. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 20th November
5. Burns Night Supper, Saturday 25th January
6. Bystander Archives on the Village Website
7. Home Security Review

1. South Worcestershire Development Plan Review, Wednesday 13th November

The consultation on the review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan runs from Monday 4th November to Monday 16th December. Local events include today (Wednesday 13th November) until 8.00pm in Pershore Town Hall and Tuesday 19th November 2.00pm-8.00pm in Upton-upon-Severn Memorial Hall.

Details of the consultation can be viewed at www.birlingham.org/docs/swdp_review_2019.pdf.

Although none of the changes affects Birlingham directly, among the proposals is a plan to build 450 houses on land bordering Tiddesley Wood. Further details are available at www.birlingham.org/docs/tiddesley_wood_2019_1.pdf and www.birlingham.org/docs/tiddesley_wood_2019_2.pdf.

2. Birlingham Memories Evening, Saturday 16th November

A reminder that the first Birlingham Memories Evening will be held on Saturday 16th November at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. The evening is hosted by Birlingham Jubilee Committee and the Birlingham Memories Project.

The evening will include:

- Cine films from 1940s and 1980s
- Exhibition of old photos
- An opportunity to share memories
- Refreshments (wine, soft drinks and nibbles)

We would love to see your old photos and memorabilia, particularly from the Second World War and post-war years. Please bring them along!

Entry is free. Lifts to and from the Hall can be provided – phone 07801 368953 or email memories@birlingham.org.

4. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 20th November

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 20th November 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.

7. Home Security Review

West Mercia Police writes:

As the darker nights are already upon us, now is a good time to review your home security.

- Use timer switches to turn on lights when you are out and make sure your home is well lit.
- Lock windows and doors and keep side entrances and gates locked and secured.
- If you have a burglar alarm, make sure it is set when you go out and before you go to bed.
- Don't leave car keys or valuables near to windows, doors or letterboxes where burglars could reach through to get them.
- Invest in external lighting.

This is just a few suggestions on how to improve your home security and lower the chance of your home being burgled. For further security advice, please visit our website https://www.westmercia.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/.