Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 15 March 2021

via videoconference

Councillors:

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

Present:

County Councillor Adrian Hardman, District Councillor Ron Davies, Rupert Keys, Tree Warden and June Hiden, Clerk. No Public Attended.

Welcome

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by the Lengthsman, Carl Brassington and the Footpath Warden, Bruce Hayward.

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 2024.

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 20 January 2021, 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, however there was nothing further to report.

4. Progress Reports

a) Footpath Warden: nothing to report.

b) Tree Warden:

i. Wandered around the village yesterday.

ii. Dead elm at the top part of the Avenue and Upper End. The Warden will mark the elms. The Warden and Councillor Porter agreed to meet if necessary. It was noted that ivy has been cut from the coppice adjacent to the cricket ground which was good to see.

iii. Cars have been parking on the triangle by the Manor House where the roots from the horse chestnut grow. Properties in the vicinity will make any visitors aware not to park on the ground and that the access road to Swans Neck should not be blocked.

iv. It was noted that a low-lying branch was across the stile on the footpath (504) off Church Street. Also, that there were possibly obstructions on this public right of way. The Clerk will make enquires.

c) District Councillor:

i. Council tax for Wychavon district for the next financial year has been frozen: the annual statement has been sent to all households. The County Council increase is 2.5%.

ii. Free parking will be extended in public areas during the continuation of lockdown which is a lost revenue of £200,000 a month to the local authority.

iii. Enforcement Report lists cases in the Ward. There are no notifications in the Parish currently.

Councillor Davies was thanked for his attendance.

d) County Councillor:

County Councillor Hardman was thanked for his report. ***Appendix 1***

He made two points:

i. Covid-19
The Covid virus was not over although fatalities were coming down. Redditch has the second highest number of cases in the country, along with Wyre Forest not seeing their extra testing coming into the figures. The cases in care homes are ongoing and it is the view that they should not be opened to the public but the Secretary of State has made the decision otherwise.

ii. Roads
Broadway Road – the road had not been patched by the farm as it was too busy and this may mean a night closure. Welcome any feedback.
A4104 - appears to fill with water and lie. Wait and see what happens but it was a great improvement.

Councillor Hardman was thanked for his time and effort with the flooding and road repairs. It was much appreciated.

e) Clerk - See ***Appendix 2*** Information from the Lengthsman is included.

5. Planning

a) Planning applications pending – none
b) Applications granted – none
c) Enforcement – none

6. Financial Matters

a) The Accounts for year end 31 March 2021

i) Bank balance is £7,639.69 as at 26 February 2021 for Treasurers account. Balance is £6,790.04 for Business Instant account as at 9 February 2021.

ii) Receipts –

£390.00 – Worcestershire County Council
(Lengthsman - £135 October and £355 November 2020)

£210.00 – Worcestershire County Council
(Lengthsman December)

iii) Payments: –

i. £255.00 – Lengthsman November 603
ii. £210.00 – Lengthsman December 604
iii. £500.00 – Bench refurbishment deposit 602
iv. BVH charges for Ordinary meeting dates (7pm to 9pm) (Annual Parish tba) from May onwards?
v. £40.00 estimate – ICO 607
vi. £104.28 – Clerk's expenses (October, November, December) 605
vii. £580.00 – Clerk's pay (October, November, December) 606 (paid as £586 correction at 6bv 610)

b) Future payments for consideration

i. £180.00 – Lengthsman January
ii. £120.00 – Lengthsman February
iii. £140.00 approx. - Clerk's PAYE
iv. £104.28 – Clerk's expenses (January, February, March)
v. £574.00 – Clerk's pay (January, February, March)
vi. £55.00 – Internal Audit

Provisions

Each year the Parish Council has been making provisions (liability set aside for uncertain times and events) from budget to cover possible future costs in three areas. These are:

- For the plane tree on the village green, which due to its size may require works at some point in the future;
- To cover costs that the Parish Council are charged to run an election;
- To build a community fund to support village projects.

The plane tree provision has now reached £4000 and, as this is considered sufficient for likely tree surgery costs, it was decided that in future the provisions that would have been allocated to the plane tree will now go to the community fund. Councillor Griffin and Clerk will action the change.

£1,000.00 provision to be transferred from current account to savings. This was agreed by all members.

c) VAT update – Councillor Griffin has been asked for validation of the Parish Council's bank account. A copy of the bank statement has been sent by recorded delivery and a reply was still awaited from HM Revenue & Customs.

7. Millennium Bench

Councillor Cook confirmed that the bench has been removed to the workshop and that work on restoring the seat has started. It is expected to be completed in April. The next step in the restoration is to start on an area on the village green that can be levelled and prepared for the bench reinstatement. Rupert Keys has kindly offered use of his mini digger to level the area and install the bench. The bench may require 'feet' to level and rectify the ground issue. Councillor Cook will meet with Rupert Keys to see what the best way is going forward.

Councillor Cook and Rupert Keys were thanked for their time.

8. Flooding

A4014

Flooding across the A road causing multiple incidents at the top of Tiddesley Bank on the bend near Lower Farm. The hedges and ditches have been cleared and the drains and gullies jetted. The crew that was on site gave an explanation to the Clerk of the maintenance works and this has been passed on to the Lengthsman for information.

Upper End – Hills Cottage area

The blocked drains have been cleared but further work is required due to soil runoff from the adjacent fields.

The owners of Hills Cottage have put a small soil bund around part of the garden edge due to the gradient in the garden to prevent run off from the fields and drains.

Lower End - the Manor House and the Moors

Severn Trent Water are still in attendance to investigate the blocked drain in the Manor paddock and the leak in the road. The hole has not been filled and there is still a query on the camera investigations towards the Moors. The two missing manhole covers in the lower field have been replaced.

Coach House

There is no water problem currently.

9. Roads

The Parish Council has been dealing with many road and flooding issues in the village but good progress has been made.

New Barn Lane including Rectory Lane and Church Lane.

New Barn Lane was patched and substantial repairs were also carried out in Church Lane (north side of the church) and Rectory Lane (west side of church).

Broadway Road

Lower End and Broadway Road have now been patched ahead of resurfacing, which will take place later in the spring. The section of road from Redstar to the junction of Church Street could not be done as access to the farm had to remain open. This work will be rescheduled and it is likely that this section will be patched overnight.

Whitehall Lane

The large pothole reported to the Parish Council by a resident has been filled.

Grange Lane

The road is 'sinking' outside Avonside Cottage. Clerk will report this to Worcestershire County Council.

The Parish Council thanked Worcestershire County Councillor Adrian Hardman, Councillor Julia Luff and the Clerk for their assistance in getting this work done.

10. Full Fibre Broadband (Fibre to the Premises – FTTP)

Councillor Byrne has been investigating the Government's Gigabit Voucher Scheme that can be used to fund the provision of Full Fibre Broadband to homes as part of a community project. Full Fibre Broadband (also known as FTTP) replaces the copper telephone cable that runs between the telephone cabinet and house with a fibre optic cable. The benefit is higher speeds (up to 1Gb/s) and a more reliable service. Councillor Yates has recently led a community project to bring Full Fibre to houses connected along the A4104 between Birlingham and Pershore. Councillor Byrne has been in contact with the Superfast Broadband Team at Worcester County Council and has made some progress regarding the voucher scheme. The existing Gigabit Voucher Scheme ends on 31st March but the government plans to replace it with a new scheme, details of which should be available shortly. Once it is clear that Birlingham qualifies for the new scheme a community project can be considered. Things to be evaluated are: a) an indication of costs b) do villagers want full fibre c) getting the best deal. Councillor Byrne asked for other members to assist him as the task is too much for one person involving the whole village and the work necessary. Councillor Porter would assist with Upper End.

11. Annual Parish Meeting in May

As reported last time, a Parish Meeting (as distinct from a Parish Council Meeting) rules that a meeting is held between 1 March and the 1 June. It is an opportunity for the Parish Council to review with residents' activities over the previous 12 months and get feedback on plans for the future. In 2016, village clubs and societies were invited to present their activities at the Parish Meeting which was held at the Cricket Club. It was hoped that a similar event could be arranged this year for Friday 21 May 2021 and Councillor Porter has been in touch with village clubs and societies to gauge their interest. There was enthusiasm but now that the Government has published its 'roadmap' out of 'lockdown' it is clear unfortunately that an event in May cannot be held and meet the required restrictions. CALC have also published their guidelines which state videoconferencing. As the meeting must be held before the end of May, it will be held via Zoom.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday 19 May 2021, which is the same day as the Parish Council Meeting. A separate gathering for village clubs and societies will be considered for later in the year when all restrictions have been lifted. This may be a platform for the Parochial Church Council or the Friends of St James'.

Clerk to notify Birlingham Village Hall that the premises will not be used on 19 May 2021.

12. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

SmartWater

Councillor Aston reported that there are nine SmartWater kits still available free of charge. These need to be allocated before the signage can be obtained. Councillor Aston will put a reminder in the Birlingham News.

13. **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 19 May 2021 at 7.00pm which is proposed to be held by video conferencing as no public facility is available.

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

Date: .....

Appendix 1 – County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Adrian Hardman, Worcestershire County Council (10/3/2021)

A slightly shorter and more positive report this month because the vaccine rollout and the continuing lockdown is having a considerable effect on the pandemic. The numbers in our hospital have declined to 80 and the numbers in intensive care are down to eight and in the last seven days we have only had six admissions for COVID. The really good news is that in the last seven days we have had no reported case of COVID-19 in the four wards that make up Bredon Hill, which meant that the return to school had the fairest of winds.

The district rate remains quite high at 47 but this is down 26% and comparable to the England rate. The good news is that the vaccine roll-out is now starting to be given to the over 55s but the bad news is that we will have to go to the Three Counties Showground for it. The take-up rate in the over-70s is a staggering 99.7% and we have now managed to vaccinate 52% of the district population. I have some concerns about the reopening of care homes to visitors while we are still seeing in 27 care homes infections of more than two residents but since they had been vaccinated the outcomes are no longer a fatal one.

The County Council set its budget in the middle of February which I'm afraid means a 2.5% rise in Council tax but it does mean a considerable boost to adult social care and mental health spending as well as more money directed at mitigating flooding on the highway and improving public rights of way. The lockdown has caused rights of way around the county to be used more than ever and this has led to a big increase in reports of defects.

As part of the County Council's commitment to protect the environment, we have officially signed the Tree Charter, a campaign led by the Woodland Trust which helps people understand the value of trees and what they can do to help them. The Tree Charter launched in November 2017 and, since then, Woodland Trust have partnered up with other organisations and community groups to help demonstrate the important roles that trees play in society.

By signing up to the Tree Charter, we're agreeing to carry out certain environmental commitments for the county, such as promoting public accessibility to woodlands, protecting irreplaceable trees, planning greener landscapes, helping to sustain wildlife and planting more trees. In recent years, we have carried out all of these commitments and continue to reinforce this by pledging to plant 150,000 trees over the next five years. In December 2020, we teamed up with the Woodland Trust to kickstart our tree-planting pledge by creating a new woodland area and plant 3,000 trees.

The Natural Networks Programme is still available to organisations and businesses across the county. The team are there to support those who want to use their land to create a welcoming haven for wildlife and visitors. The team's ultimate goal is to create a network of nature across Worcestershire.

Advice and financial support will be available at a webinar which will guide organisations and businesses with their wildlife next step. If you know of any landowners who may be able to benefit from applying to the scheme, please encourage them to follow this link to register for more information: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-webinar-creating-a-welcoming-space-for-humans-and-wildlife-tickets-139845103469.

As we headed into the end of the financial and municipal year I was delighted to see the amount of work that the Highways Department has done in the parish when I came out and had a look last Friday. This is stage one and we will be back to surface-dress the roads I think in May. I would be grateful for any feedback and realise that we have not yet done the work down by the farm since it appears, looking at the road markings, that we are intending to resurface the whole of the road, which might mean a night closure. Now we've had a bit of rain I do hope the main road dealt with it after all that work.

Appendix 2 – Clerk's Report

Lengthsman

Reporting:

Upper End

Reference Number 974970 – blocked gully

Update - Thank you for your enquiry, the whole system was cleared as part of the work that was carried out in August, when the water pipe burst, however I will ask our contractor to investigate this gully. Due to the high demand for jetting, this can take up to 4 weeks to be completed.

Reference Number 977963 – blocked gully
26/02/21 Thank you for your enquiry we have inspected the site and have raised a four-week order

Reference Number 1000206 - Pothole
Reference Number 1000207 - Pothole
Reference Number 1000209 - Drainage issue

Whitehall Lane

Reference Number 978001 - 28 January

There has been an update to the Highway issue you reported at WHITEHALL LANE (Next to drain in road and already has caused vehicles to veer off)

Highway Update: 27/01/21 Thank you for your enquiry we have inspected the site and have raised a four-week order

Housing Needs Survey – we are keen to hear your views

16 February – from Wychavon District Council and circulated to all Councillors

"Dear Parish/Town Clerks and District Councillors

Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils shared housing service is responsible for carrying out housing needs surveys to identify local housing need.

We want to engage parish councils, elected members, registered providers, and other relevant stakeholders in setting our survey programme for 2021/22. We also want to improve awareness and understanding of the benefits of housing needs surveys.

We are currently able to carry out up to 6 surveys per year, so it is important that these are carried out in the most appropriate parishes.

When considering survey areas, the following rationales can be considered:

** Where there are neighbourhood plans being developed*
** Where there is a pipeline of affordable housing planned*
** Where the housing service is receiving housing needs evidence and advice requests from*
** Where a community led housing group is keen on developing to meet local needs*
** Parishes that are keen to bring forward affordable housing in their area*
** Parishes that haven't had a survey carried out for some time*
** Categories of villages*

We are keen to hear your views! To complete the survey (by the 14 March 2021), please follow this link: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HNSProgramme/

We will be publishing our Housing Needs Survey Plan for 2021-22 during April 2021.

The Chairman has completed the survey and said Birlingham are not in need and are not interested in a housing survey.

Winter Grants Fund

3 March update from the Grant Manager, Pershore Volunteer Centre

"Thank you so much for your support for the Winter Grants Fund project. All of the funding I was allocated has now been spent, and unfortunately, I'm unable to accept any more applications, so please destroy any spare forms you may be holding.

It has been a difficult project to administer. I was under no illusion about the existence of need within our community, but it has been a challenging experience to witness it at first hand and to see the impact that Covid has had on households which were previously coping as well as those who were already struggling. Whilst I'm pleased that in a few short weeks we've been able to help 21 households comprising 37 adults and 32 children, I'm saddened that such an intervention was necessary for so many families, many of whom are already using the Foodbank and Pershore Community Cupboard.

Although this project is now closed, I'd like to thank all the members of our community – in schools, in churches and in charities, as well as neighbours and volunteers - who continue to provide support on a regular basis to families who need a bit of help. Your commitment is sincerely appreciated."

Flooding Issues on the A4104

Clerk chases County Councillor

30 January

"Thank you for your reply. As you say it's some rain but really shouldn't overwhelm an A road. Our Lengthsman keeps a good eye on matters so the signage is helping. There is no house flooding at the moment here and the A4104 doesn't affect property. Just pointing out, as you are aware, the danger on the 2 bends and corners especially in the dark.

We remain hopeful that once there is a dry period the situation can be remedied.

Grateful for your assistance and quite understand that you can't visit as the Avon is very high."

Reply from Capital Projects at Highways

"I will chase up where we are with getting the ditching works done 'without prejudice'. Road space needs booking with normally with a 2-week lead but I am going to push this as an emergency application as soon as we get a date from the contractor."

1 February follow up:

"Further to my last email we are gearing up for our contractor to go to site on Monday 8th February. We have allowed a week under 2-way temp lights to clear the ditch, muck away and jet the culvert. I won't know until Monday morning if we have the road space as its being submitted as an emergency, but fingers crossed everything will go to plan and we can get this addressed once and for all."

2 February to the County Councillor from County Highways Liaison Officer

"The issue regarding flooding at A4104 was discussed in a meeting yesterday. The danger that this road could flood and be closed while other roads in the locality had also been closed is of great concern. In view of this Mark Morris is applying for an emergency permit using traffic lights for 08-FEB to carry out gully and ditch clearance and inspect and clear any other defects. This is dependent on weather and the permit.

June. This is in response to your e mail dated 19-JAN and I apologise for the late response."





Birling



11 February

Clerk to County Councillor

"The works on the A4104 at Tiddlesley have been progressing since Monday. Excellent job so far in cutting the hedge right back and digging out the watercourses. The one on the left side going towards Pershore has exposed the pipe as that's visible as you drive along. I haven't managed to see the hedge side as I was travelling, and the team were still working on it yesterday. The traffic lights are on a quick turnaround so not much queuing. I'll update later.

Anyway, great job so far.

Again, thank you for your input and assistance."

Chairman to County Councillor

"Agreed. I walked up my drive to take a look and the team appear to be doing a very comprehensive job. It will, of course, be important to ensure that the exposed pipe is clear so it can drain the water that collects in the ditch.

Thanks again for your assistance in dealing with this."

Highways:

"Thank you for the positive feedback which I will pass on to the contractor. The jetter will visit late today / tomorrow to give the culverts and gullys a blast through

Hopefully this will address the matter for a good few years. If any improvements need to be made, we have a working highway / ditch system with an outfall that can connected to as required."

4 March

Clerk chased to ensure the jetting has been actioned.

5 March reply:

"I will double check but as far as I am aware it was – I know the jetter turned up on the wrong day as it were because the contractor was working on front of the culvert at the time so they couldn't get any jetting done. They were going to get back to it next day. I know speaking to Contractor the culvert was clear – as in you could see through it once the ditching works was done.

I'll get on to 'jetting'.

8 March

"I've had the confirmation that the culvert was definitely cleansed on completion of the ditching works".

Paddock – Manor House and the Moors

5 February – landowner

"They came today and agreed to replace the two covers they mashed in the next week or two. But nothing yet re putting a camera up towards the moors from the hole they dug, or filling in the hole they dug"

10 February – update from Severn Trent Water

"Having to dig further down the line than first anticipated to be able to repair the issue. They will be repairing the collapse whilst doing this and from there will be able to unblock sufficiently. There is no given time frame on the job (I asked for one)
we are carrying out underground risk assessments etc which have to be done for the work to be signed off for repair to go ahead, we also require assess from the landowner, once these have been done and given, we can give the date for this."

Broadway Road

25 February

Update by Councillor Luff

"The work started early this morning. They are going to patch over the next few days, let it settle for a few months and come back and surface dress in the late spring/early summer."

Resident reported concerns to highways regarding the 'mud' surface.

Reply - *The existing surface has just been removed to show there are no foundations to the road and all that is left is soft wet mud. Is this what is going to have the new surface applied to?*

Redstar

"We contacted the various contractors who told us that access to the farm would be permitted at all times and there would be someone stationed at the road closed signs letting vehicles through– which yesterday there was.

On the evening before the works, they called in and told us they had decided that due to Health and Safety they were unable to complete the works in front of the farm during busy times. Their comment was they would have to complete either at weekend afternoons or night.

We don't know anything further than that – but we see they have left some of the kit in front of the farm."

2 March

Clerk to Broadway Road residents

"Following your concerns about the ongoing state of Broadway Road last year and the works that were carried out last week.

I have received some further communications from you regarding the 'patching' that has been done. I think we can agree that it is a considerable improvement in the road condition however there are some areas - particularly in front of October House and around to Red Star that appear to have been missed. The area outside Redstar still has to be completed when access is more assessable, and the farm have been in communication about this. A resident also witnessed the drain coverings being taken up before the road was finished and the clippings being swept into the drains. I will try to address this separately in a report to Worcestershire County Council to have them cleared.

I have received this communication from County Councillor Hardman:-

1 March 2021 - "If I could say the idea of this work is to stabilise the road structures so we can surface dress the surface in May time. This is a stage in a process."

I am sure Councillor Hardman will push again for the remaining 'unfinished' areas / potholes to be dealt with before the highway is 'tar sprayed' later. We can thank him for the progress and his assistance in this matter so far."

Chairman to County Councillor

"I'd like to add my thanks to you for getting this initial patching work done so quickly and we look forward to the resurfacing later in the year."

Verges in Upper End

Message to resident from Chairman

…….It's an ongoing problem that the Parish Council is aware of. The road is too narrow for two large vehicles to pass and when neither will give way and reverse, they end up driving on the verge.

If you can take photos of the vehicles involved, we can take it up with Red Star as we have done in the past.

Clerk was contacted by another resident asking for the boulders in Upper End to be removed.

Birlingham News (extracts of relevance)

Birlingham **News 240 – 27 January**

This edition contains information about several road issues in the village, along with an update on coronavirus in the county.

In this issue:

1. Gwen Hill
2. John Holland
3. Birlingham Snowdrop Teas
4. Road Closures – New Barn Lane and Broadway Road
5. Parish Council Report
6. Parish Council Report – Birlingham Roads and Flooding Issues
7. COVID Update from Adrian Hardman, Worcestershire County Council, Wednesday 20th January
8. Winter Grants Fund
9. Worcestershire Libraries Reset. Restart Programme

8. Winter Grants Fund

Ian Yates writes:

The Pershore Volunteer Centre has access to a relatively small pot of money from the government's Winter Grants Fund to support vulnerable families in Pershore and surrounding villages facing difficulties during the lockdown. The support is targeted at two key areas of need:

1. Households which were already struggling but the pandemic has forced them into greater hardship
2. Households which were previously coping but the pandemic has plunged them into hardship for the first time

The aim is to complement the support available via Pershore Foodbank and other local initiatives in the town or villages, and funding is available for food, for essential goods including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, white goods including freezers, ovens etc. or for boiler servicing /repairs.

If you are in need or if you know of someone who is in need in Birlingham then please contact birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk for an application form.

9. Worcestershire Libraries Reset.Restart Programme

Worcestershire Libraries have a new scheme to help local small businesses adapt and recover from COVID-19 with the Reset.Restart programme.

Full details are available at www.birlingham.org/docs/worcs_libraries_2021.pdf.

Birlingham **News 240 update – 28 January**

Cricket Club Tractor Stolen

Birlingham **News 242 – 25 February**

This edition includes an initiative from Pershore Abbey to provide NHS staff with gift bags.

In this issue:

1. Pam Robinson
2. Road Closures – Update
3. Pershore Benefice Gift Bag Initiative for NHS Staff
4. Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter
5. Bystander Archives on the Village Website

2. Road Closures – Update

A short length of Broadway Road beyond the Clock House will be closed for two days from tomorrow (Thursday 11th February) for telecoms work by Openreach.

As a result of the need to dig up Broadway Road for this work, the resurfacing work in Broadway Road and New Barn Lane has been postponed, probably until the end of the month.

We have also been informed that the road into Eckington next to the recreation ground will be closed for four days from next Monday, 15th February.

4. Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

The Safer Neighbourhood Team have sent us the latest Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter. Among other articles, this includes a useful piece on COVID-19 scams.

The newsletter can be read at www.birlingham.org/docs/nhw_2021_feb.pdf.

Birlingham **News 242 – 25 February**

This issue contains an update on the NHS Gift Bag initiative and information on Birlingham Bystander donations for 2021.

In this issue:

1. NHS Gift Bag Initiative – Thanks
2. Birlingham Bystander Donations

Birlingham **News 243 – 10 March**

The March Parish Council meeting is being held next Monday, rather than the normal Wednesday.

In this issue:

1. Parish Council Meeting, Monday 15th March
2. Cuppa & Chat
3. Bystander Photo Competition
4. NHS Gift Bag Initiative – Thanks
5. Bystander Archives on the Village Website

1. Parish Council Meeting, Monday 15th March

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on **Monday** 15th March at 7.00pm (two days earlier than usual). Due to the current restrictions, this will be a virtual meeting, held using videoconferencing. Parishioners are invited to attend (but should contact the Clerk at birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk in advance for an invitation).

Items for discussion during the Democratic Opening should be submitted to the Clerk in advance of the meeting. Note that any member of the public can ask for an issue to be debated, even if they are unable to attend the videoconference.