Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 13 September 2021

By videoconferencing

Councillors:

Councillor Aston, Cook, Griffin, Luff and Yates.

Present:

County Councillor Hardman, District Councillor Davis and June Hiden (Clerk).

Welcome – The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by Steven Byrne, due to illness and Michael Porter, who was away and these were accepted. Apologies from the Footpath Warden, Bruce Hayward, Lengthsman, Carl Brassington and Tree Warden, Rupert Keys.

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.

Interests were declared by Councillor Maxine Cook regarding Item 10 for involvement with the Jubilee Committee and Item 5. Councillors Ian Yates and Julia Luff regarding Item 5 (Friends of St James') and Councillor Paula Aston (Parochial Church Council).

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 21 July 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. No matters arising.

4. Progress Reports

a) Footpath Warden:

i. Footpath 516 (by Swan's Neck) – fallen tree cleared from track.
ii. Footpath 520 (by Nafford House) – strimmed.
iii. Footpath 522 (between weir and lock at Nafford) – strimmed.

b) Tree Warden:

Report

Rupert Keys, Tree Warden has walked around the village and has advised there is nothing to report back to the Parish Council at this time.

Jubilee Wood tree planting

The Parish Council has been made aware of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme, which is a tree planting initiative to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. This seems an opportunity to try and improve the Jubilee Wood, which has suffered with a number of dead trees. Steve Morris from the Jubilee Committee has ordered 210 saplings and these will be delivered between 1 and 12 November 2021. Rupert Keys has been in discussion with the Jubilee Committee and will advise and assist with the planting.

A message will be put in the Birlingham News by the Jubilee Committee.

c) District Councillor:

i) Covid continues to rise. 247 per 1000,000 a 23% increase. The county as a whole is low compared to the rest of England.
ii) Wychavon District Council is losing senior staff. Phil Merrick has retired and Ian Edwards is now Director of Economy and Business. Head of Housing is Jennifer Taylor and Director of Communities and Housing is Stephen Gaybel.
iii) Planning review is out for consultation.
iv) The budget process has started. Reserves are generally good. There are no cuts in services.
v) Wychavon are holding face to face meetings but not briefings.
vi) The bridge at Wyre Piddle /Keytec is progressing. More money is needed from the stake holders. Proposed March 2022 is the schedule.

b) County Councillor:

Councillor Adrian Hardman was asked about the school buses. There had been quite some disruption to pupils at the beginning of the Autumn term. He suggested that the policies need to change.

An education review is taking place in Worcestershire; a local review of Pershore High and a primary request. Suggesting a tier system. There will be a consultation at cabinet level and a review of the catchment areas.

The speed roundels (a coloured, decorative high friction thermoplastic surface treatment of material laid over a suitable existing surface) would cost £300. There is also a possibility of repainting the red boxes. This is being review by the highways section.

Social care could bankrupt the county. Denial of 17% post covid 'care' cases. Worcestershire County Council is low compared to others. More children are going into care and adult social care is a great worry. 5-13 million back-log.

Councillor Hardman was thanked for his time with the school transportation issue. He was also thanked for his assistance and offer with the roundels.

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

5. Planning

a) Planning applications pending:-

i. 21/01956/HP - Old School House, The Avenue WR10 3AB

Demolition of existing rear single storey extension and replacement with two storey new rear extension. Refurbishment of the building envelope including roof finishes and stone windows. Internal refurbishment and alteration works (Variation of condition 5 Ref. 17/01047/HP)

Applicant - Mr Nicholas Green

Parish Council comment

"As a Parish council, we note that the issue of privacy has need raised by an adjoining property. We note that the current window can be opened at pre-set, so the issue of privacy could be said to be already compromised regardless of whether there is obscured or plane glass. Also, section 5 of the application infers that the window does not contravene planning regs. We could ask the allocated planning office to consider the original application and this one with regard to the above aspects."

ii. 21/01423/FUL and Associated Ref: 21/01894/LB - St James Church, Rectory Lane

(Full planning application and Listed Building consent)

Installation of water supply to new standpipe, and construction of disabled access ramp

Parish Council comment

"The Parish Council support the application (s)."

iii. 21/01321/HP - Old Police Station, Eckington Road WR10 3DA

First floor extension to front and rear above existing footprint, and new porch to front

Applicant - Martin & Terry Cox

Parish Council comment: awaited

b) Applications granted:-

i. 21//01048/HP - Field Cottage, The Avenue WR10 3AB

Two storey rear extension, single storey side extensions and Air Source Heat Pump

Applicant - Amy Purcell

APPROVED -

Parish Council comments:

"The existing buildings proportions and aesthetic appeal is very much appreciated by the village and the members of the Parish Council, especially with its proximity to the conservation area. The current buildings symmetrical style and shape are deemed to add to the village and the conservation area in proximity.

The Parish Council also note that two healthy trees are to be removed, which is cause of some concern. The Parish council feel that the larger rear and side extensions represent an over development of the site and is excessive.

We also note that the applicant purports that a previous planning consent extension has been commenced to sufficient degree that it is a technical and formal commencement of development and therefore has implemented the previous owner's consent. The Parish council would dispute this, in that no "adequate and

proper foundations" to take the brick line of the former consented extension, have been implemented, and that we leave it to the planning officer to assess, based on case law, whether, if this is the case, the previous consent has lapsed. If this is the case the current application is a fresh application and stands alone without the support of a partly implemented previous consent. Can the case officer also please check the distance of the proposals to the rear (wester) boundary and its implications?

However, the Parish Council would support a smaller rear extension, in the rendered style of the existing property, with no side extension fronting onto the road."

c) Enforcement – comments have been received regarding an outbuilding at Rose Cottage, Church Street.

6. Financial Matters

a) The Accounts for 2021/2022

i. Bank balance (current) is £8,287.85 as at 31 August 2021. Business saving balance is £7,790.40 as at 1 September 2021.

ii. Receipts –

i. £150.00 – Worcestershire County Council

iii. Payments: –

i. 100.00 - War memorial – scaled drawing, location plan and block plan (622)
ii. £165.00 – Lengthsman May 2021 (617)
iii. £150.00 - Lengthsman June 2021 (618)
iv. £600.00 – Clerk's pay (April, May, June) (619)
v. £104.28 – Clerk's expenses (April, May, June) (620)
vi £150.00 – PAYE (April, May, June) (621)

b) Payments for consideration –

i. £135.00 - Lengthsman July 2021
ii. £217.50 – Lengthsman August 2021
iii. £20.00 – Birlingham Village Hall (13.9.21)
iv. £150.00 – PAYE (July, August, September)
iv. £600.00 – Clerks pay (July, August, September)
v. £104.28 – Clerks expenses (July, August, September)
vi £55.00 – Poppy wreaths

7. Millennium Bench

The Millennium Bench is still progressing in the workshop but there is nothing further to add at the moment. A balance of £500.00 of the original invoice from Clarian was agreed for payment by all Councillors to assist with the costs of the refurbishment.

Councillor Cook to obtain an invoice from Clarian for £500.00 for audit purposes.

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

The Parish Council has been investigating the Government's Gigabit Voucher Scheme, which can be used to fund the provision of Full Fibre Broadband to homes as part of a community project. The Parish Council now have sixty-five households signed up for the scheme and these addresses will now be sent to Openreach so that an initial quote can be obtained. The quote will allow the Council to determine if the value of the vouchers is sufficient to cover the cost of installation. Openreach are slow to progress matters.

Airband

On a related topic the Parish Council have also been told that Airband (an Openreach competitor) is evaluating the installation, at their cost, of FTTP infrastructure in Eckington and Bredon. The Parish Council are therefore in discussion with Worcestershire County Council's Superfast Broadband Team to see if Birlingham could be added to Airband's planned installation. Airband may be another route. Councillors agreed that this route should be progressed.

9. 'Decorating' the War Memorial

Councillor Maxine Cook had previously proposed that it would be attractive to plant some flowers by the war memorial, as other villages have done and as Birlingham did to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of V.E. Day. A message has been placed in Birlingham News in case anyone has an objection to this idea. The Councillors discussed the idea of troughs but were wary of theft. It was decided that there were no objections to flowers, seeds, or bulbs for ground planting.

Councillor Cook volunteered to action.

10. Defibrillator pads/battery

The defibrillator pads and battery replacement were discussed. The Birlingham defibrillator, mounted on the side of the Village Hall, first became operational in 2018. The defibrillator's pads have a shelf life of two years and the battery four years. Both pads (adult and children's) and the battery were replaced following the defibrillator's use in 2019. As a result, the pads now need replacing as they are two years old. The cost to replace each single use set of pads is £180.00. The Parish Council previously agreed that they should support the ongoing maintenance costs of the defibrillator. The administration matters had been put in place at the time and West Midlands Ambulance Service would fully accept and include the equipment in their inventory.

Birlingham Village Hall continue to have responsibility for the care and repair of the defibrillator. Therefore the Parish Council is willing to support the future costs involved in replacing pads and batteries in line with the manufacturers recommendations which would be done via the Community Fund created for helping village organisations/activities on a matched funding basis.

All Councillors agreed to contribute 50% of the cost of replacing the out-of-date pads, with the other 50% coming from the fund that the Village Hall Committee originally raised to purchase the defibrillator. It was agreed to pay the £90.00 with the other 50% coming from the Hall funding.

Chair of Birlingham Village Hall, Ruth Keys, will be informed.

11. Telephone Kiosk – restoration

The telephone kiosk was adopted by the Parish Council under the Adoption Scheme Agreement with Wychavon District Council in 2009. BT were removing kiosks all over the country at the time and residents wished for the village one to remain. BT removed the equipment and eon disconnected the electricity supply, at some cost to the Parish.

The red telephone box has been in a sad state for some time. As previously reported, there have been discussions on its restoration. Following an appeal in Birlingham News, the Jubilee Committee has had several offers of help, as well as a couple of offers of donations. The Committee are awaiting quotations for the work and materials and will put together a plan and report back to the November Parish meeting.

12. Councillors' reports and items for next agenda

Precept

The Chairman, Vice-Chairwoman and Financial Support Officer will meet on Monday 8 November 2021 to discuss a provisional budget setting. Financial Support Officer, Councillor Terry Griffin will assist with a draft prior to the meeting.

Remembrance Services

As in previous years, the Parish Council will provide Birlingham wreaths for both the Eckington and Birlingham remembrance services. This year the wreaths will be laid in Eckington by Councillor Maxine Cook and in Birlingham by Councillor Terry Griffin. Clerk will action the wreaths.

15. Closure and date of next ordinary meeting - with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.10pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday 15 November 2021 at 7.00pm.

The meeting will continue at this time as face to face and to be held in Birlingham Village Hall. Clerk to book hall.

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

Date: ……..……..……

Appendix 1 – Clerk's Report (commencing with Lengthsman report)

Lengthsman

Reporting:

2 September - Worcestershire County Council - Winter Newsletter

Email received advising of the grit bin refilling. Lengthsman has been copied in.

UPPER END

12 September

Drainage or Flooding issue - Reference number is 1116013.
AVONSIDE COTTAGE

The sinking road at is progressing nicely and is now becoming a problem. I spoke to the householder Matt and he is quite concerned.

MARYWORTH BARN

The gully and pipework seem to be slow in clearing in heavy rain causing flooding to the carriageway. This has been reported several times.

ECKINGTON ROAD

The footway is now very overgrown by encroaching shrubbery. I have sided out a couple of times this season but the hedge is intruding and the footway is disappearing. This is not untypical for low footfall rural footways but we have had complaints in the past as people made their way to and from the nursery school.

BARNCROFT

There was flooding in the deluge on Thursday but this was caused by leaf litter blocking the grid again. Once it was cleared the water ran away quickly.

……

Lower End/Broadway Road

GRITTING

9 August – highway gritted after the resurfacing. (small section not done by Peacock Farmhouse old cider press field entrance and No 1 Lower End but manhole inspection in highway)

Circa 18 August – road sweeper has assisted with surface grit and manholes following resurfacing.

POTHOLE

Reported to Worcestershire County Council following resident and Councillor enquiry
(The hole is right on the edge of the road and may quickly become troublesome once the winter weather affects it further. The hole is more of a concern as cars regularly pull over a bit when there is oncoming traffic)

Manor House field entrance - Reference number 1110934

Reply: 3 September

> *"All enquiries are prioritised based upon the information provided. We will investigate all reported issues within twenty-eight working days."*

BERWICK LANE

The new drainage system has been completed.

There is now a leak in the same location and the Clerk has contacted Highways who have confirmed that STW have visited the site and confirmed it is fresh water and they do not know where from. Clerk to contact STW and progress.

The Platinum Jubilee - The Queen's Green Canopy

Email received from Worcestershire County Council giving information from the Lord Lieutenant regarding the Queen's Green Canopy UK-wide tree planting initiative, inviting people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee"

Copied to Steve Morris, Jubilee Committee and Tree Warden

Extracts of interest

Birlingham **News 255 – 28 July**

This issue contains a full report of last week's Parish Council meeting.

In this issue:

1. St James' Church Services – August
2. Cuppa & Chat Grand Reopening!
3. Road Closure – Berwick Lane
4. Parish Council Report
5. Planning Applications

Birlingham **News 256 – 11 August**

It's just over three weeks to the Flower & Produce Show, so time to start thinking about your entries for the 40th anniversary event.

In this issue:

1. John Shepherd Memorial Cricket Match, Friday 13th August
2. Birlingham Flower & Produce Show, Saturday 4th September
3. Cricket Club Village Celebration, Saturday 4th September
4. Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter – August 2021
5. Bystander Archives on the Village Website

4. Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter – August 2021

The August edition of the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter, 'Our News,' is available at www.birlingham.org/docs/nhw_2021_aug.pdf.

Birlingham **News 257 – 25 August**

The monthly Cuppa & Chat is back from next Wednesday, signalling a return to normality in the village. Also coming up are the Flower & Produce Show and the Harvest Festival.

In this issue:

1. Harold Searle
2. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 1st September
3. Birlingham Flower & Produce Show, Saturday 4th September
4. St James' Church Services – September
5. Body Sculpt at the Village Hall, Monday 13th September
6. Withy Walk, 15th-17th September
7. Planning Applications

7. Planning Applications

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

Old School House: Demolition of existing rear single storey extension and replacement with two storey new rear extension. Refurbishment of the building envelope including roof finishes and stone windows. Internal refurbishment and alteration works (Variation of condition 5 Ref. 17/01047/HP) (Case No. 21/01956). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 10th September.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website.

Birlingham **News 258 – 8 September**

Preparations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year are beginning with the refurbishment of the telephone box – details of how you can help below.

In this issue:

1. Harvest Festival, Sunday 19th September
2. Parish Council Meeting, Monday 13th September
3. Restoration of Telephone Kiosk
4. Mobile Police Surgeries in Pershore
5. Bystander Archives on the Village Website
6. Planning Applications

2. Parish Council Meeting, Monday 13th September

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Monday 13th 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 is available at www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2021-09-20.pdf and the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 21st July can be viewed at www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2021-07-21.pdf.

3. Restoration of Telephone Kiosk

Steve Morris writes:

With the Queen's Platinum Jubilee coming up next year, the Jubilee Committee is planning to make a start on preparations by renovating the telephone kiosk opposite the Village Hall. The phone box is desperately in need of a new coat of paint and replacement of some glass panes.

Over the past few years, the phone box has been used by the Flower & Produce Show as an information point. Now that this year's Show has been held, this is a good time to bring the kiosk back to its former glory. The intention is that when it has been refurbished it will continue to be used by the Show Committee but that it will also be used for promoting the Jubilee next year, as well as being available to other organisations in the village.

We are therefore putting together a plan to restore the phone box this autumn. If you can spare an hour or two to help with this task, please contact us at info@birlingham.org or phone 07801 368953.

The kiosk is a village-owned asset, so with your help we can make sure it is up and running for next year's Jubilee events and continues to provide an important focal point in the parish.

4. Mobile Police Surgeries in Pershore

West Mercia Police are holding drop-in surgeries with the Pershore Safer Neighbourhood Team in September at the Pershore Library, Church St, Pershore.

This is an opportunity to meet the team and discuss issues or concerns in the Pershore area. Surgeries are being held on the following dates:

Thursday 9th September at 2.00pm
Tuesday 14th September at 10.00am
Saturday 18th September at 11.00am
Tuesday 21st September at 11.00am
Saturday 25th September at 2.00pm
Thursday 30th September at 2.00pm

6. Planning Applications

St James Church: Installation of water supply to new standpipe, and construction of disabled access ramp (Planning Application Case No. 21/01423; Listed Building Consent Case No. 21/01894). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 23rd September.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website