# Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 15 November 2021

In Birlingham Village Hall

**Councillors:**

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

**Present:**

Tree Warden, Rupert Keys and June Hiden (Clerk).

**Welcome** – The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

## 1. Apologies for absence

Maxine Cooke tendered apologies, due to her recovery from her operation and this was accepted. Apologies were given by County Councillor Adrian Hardman who was attending another parish council /highway meeting and there was the Eckington Road closure. Apologies from the Footpath Warden, Bruce Hayward and Lengthsman, Carl Brassington.

District Councillor Ron Davis is recovering from a recent hospital admission and a get-well card was signed by all Councillors to be sent to him.

## 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 13 September 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: nothing to report.

b) Tree Warden:

Report

Rupert Keys gave his report, a summary of which is below:-

Jubilee Wood

As previously reported, 210 saplings have been ordered for planting in Jubilee Wood as part of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme. The saplings are expected to be delivered at the end of November and it is hoped they can be planted before Christmas. Some clearing and remedial work will be required before planting.

He is still waiting further updates from Steve Morris representing the Jubilee Committee who are leading the initiative. Steve Morris also needs to speak with the landowner and co-ordinate with Redstar Growers. Posts will be required near the track and rubble is needed to fill the potholes.

About fifteen residents have volunteered to assist the Jubilee Committee and Rupert Keys. Any saplings that are left over will be offered to residents for planting in gardens, but the tree/garden suitability will be checked beforehand.

Dead Trees near Glebe House

This has been reported to Worcestershire County Council.

Dead elder along New Barn Road

Councillor Porter will investigate, and the Tree Warden will keep checking on this.

Manor House Field

The Tree Warden has cleared branches on the boundary of the field adjacent to the Manor House.

Fly Tipping at Nafford

Clerk to ask Lengthsman to check.

Footpath in Upper End

The access through the hedgerow for the footpath in Upper End has grown over. Clerk to check.

c) District Councillor: none.

b) County Councillor: none.

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

## 5. Planning

a) Planning applications pending:-

i. 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)*."

13 October – was the end date of consultations
10 November – Heritage response – Archaeology received

Decision - pending

b) Applications granted:

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 been raised by an adjoining property. We note that the current window can be opened at preset, 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*."

REFUSED - 15 October 2021

ii. 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:

"*The Parish Council have no specific comments on the planning application and will reply on the allocated planning officer to ensure the scale, nature and materials being promoted are in keeping with the existing structure and its environs*."

APPROVED - 27 October 2021

iii. 21/01810/HP - Birlingham House, The Avenue. WR10 3AB

Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of two storey and single storey extensions and conversion of first floor of existing garage into annex accommodation.

Applicant: Ms R Coady

Parish Council comment:

"*The planning office is asked to consider the additional area generated by the proposals, especially with regard to the additional first floor accommodation in bedroom 2 and 3, where the previous air space of the previous conservatory is now being utilised. Also, the additional area generated by the orangery. Overall, provided the above and the appropriate materials are conditioned to be in keeping with the remaining property and the village context, the Parish Council have no specific objection*."

APPROVED - 9 November 2021

vi. 21/02329/LB - Birlingham War Memorial, The Avenue

Addition of name to Northern elevation of war memorial

Applicant: Birlingham Parish Council Comment:

"*Birlingham Parish Council are the applicant. However, this is being done for the community and therefore the Parish Council support a positive outcome of this submission.*"

Listed Building CONSENT GRANTED - 11 November 2021
Also, Planning APPROVED - 11 November 2021

c) Enforcement – Rose Cottage outbuilding was noted.

## 6. Financial Matters

a) The Accounts for 2021/2022

i. Bank balance (current) is £11,317.38 as at 21 October 2021. Business saving balance is £7,790.60 as at 9 November 2021.

ii. Receipts –

i. £3,392.00 – Wychavon District Council (£3,303.00 precept and £89.00 grant)
ii. £105.00 – Worcestershire County Council (Lengthsman September)
iii. £200.00 – Wychavon District Council (New Homes Bonus booklet)

iii. Payments: –

i. £135.00 - Lengthsman July 2021 (624)
ii. £217.50 – Lengthsman August 2021 (625)
iii. £20.00 – Birlingham Village Hall (13.9.21) (626)
iv. £150.00 – PAYE (July, August, September) (627)
v. £55.00 – Poppy wreaths (629)
vi. £600.00 – Clerks pay (July, August, September) (630)
vii. £104.28 – Clerks expenses (July, August, September) (631)
vii. £500.00 – Clarian balance of invoice for renovations
There has been no response from Clarian.

b) Payments for consideration –

i. £135. 150.00 – PAYE – (October, November, December)
ii. £200.00 – New Homes Bonus Booklet payable to Jubilee Committee on behalf of the Memories Group *(cheque number 633)*
iii. £90.00 – Birlingham Village Hall (as September for defibrillator)
iv. £20.00 – Birlingham Village Hall (hire of hall for meeting 15 November 2021)
v. £20.00 – Birlingham Village Hall (hire in January 2022)
vi. £105.00 – Lengthsman September 2021
vii. £157.50 - Lengthsman October 2021

c) Budget setting 2022/2023

It was agreed to hold a budget meeting with the Chairman, Vice-chairwoman, and Financial Support Officer to discuss a draft budget in preparation for the November meeting.

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
- ICO

- Projects
- Poppy wreaths
- SmartWater

- Provisions:

  Plane tree
  Election
  Community

  Lengthsman (Worcestershire Council Council). 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. Projects were noted.

It was agreed by all Councillors that the precept would be set as per the worksheet at £7,235.00 including the grant of £179.00, as per the circulated draft prepared by Councillor Griffin. Clerk to action the Precept application which is to be submitted to Wychavon District Council.

## 7. Millennium Bench

There has been no further contact with Clarian who are renovating the bench. Councillor Cook will visit the workshop to see the progress and to obtain the outstanding paperwork for the cheque.

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

An update was given by the Chairman, Councillors' Byrne and Porter.

The Parish Council has now received an initial quote from Openreach for the installation of full fibre broadband to the sixty-six houses that signed up for the scheme. The £60,000 cost can be fully met by the Government's Gigabit Voucher Scheme so there will be no cost to householders. Openreach excluded some six properties from the list the Parish Council submitted and so the Council have requested they look at the quote again, not only to include these properties but also any others that are on the same branch of the network. A response is awaited from the contact Chris Priestley.

As previously reported the Parish Council are also still following up interest from Airband (an Openreach competitor) who is evaluating the installation, at their cost, of FTTP infrastructure in Eckington and Bredon with potential for Birlingham to be added to that installation.

In the report for Village News the following will be added for interest:

A new survey of 294 UK estate agents, conducted by telecoms equipment manufacturer Omdia, has found that the desire for 'high-quality broadband' continues to be a significant factor for home buyers. Access to gigabit-capable 'full fibre' (FTTP) connections seems to be particularly important. Since COVID, 69% of agents have seen an increase in queries about the quality of the broadband connection at a property and 74% of these queries have been concerned with the availability of full fibre. 34% of agents stated customers were looking for houses with speeds of 300Mbps+ and 24% of agents' speeds of 1Gbps (gigabit).

## 9. Remembrance

The poppy wreaths have been laid. Councillor Terry Griffin placed the Birlingham wreath on the memorial on 11 November 2021. He said there was a good turnout. Councillor Cook was unable to attend in Eckington, so Chris Reynard represented the Parish Council and laid a wreath on the war memorial there.

The poppy wreaths were agreed as per the budget at £55.00 and the Clerk to action a cheque for the British Legion.

## 10. Dog/Litter Bins

The Parish Council has previously looked at the provision of additional bins that would allow walkers to dispose of dog bags. However, the costs at the time were prohibitive. Due to the ongoing nuisance of dog fouling, of dog bags being left on the side of footpaths or tied to fences the issue was discussed again. It was decided that provision would be made in the 2022/23 precept for the cost of acquiring three additional bins and their regular emptying. Councillor Griffin has contacted Wychavon District Council and gave a summary of the various bins and the prices.

The location for the additional bins has not been finalised as this has to be agreed with Wychavon District Council, who will empty them. However, possible sites are the junction of Broadway Road, Lower End with Grange Road (near the letterbox), the junction of Broadway Road with Sherpool Lane and the junction of Shorthill with Church Street, as these are areas popular with dog walkers.

Councillors agreed to three bins. The prices for each are:

- Litter bin £175.00 + VAT £35.00 = £210.00
- Fitting £20.47 + VAT £4.09 = £24.56
- Emptying £61.88 + VAT £12.37 = £74.25

There is also mention of a possible 20% service charge. The ordering will not take place until the new precept and therefore these prices may be subject to increase.

Posts will be needed.

Clerk to action a site visit with Wychavon District Council.

## 11. Speed Advisories

The Parish Council has discussed with Worcestershire County Council the installation of speed advisory roundels. The existing 30/40mph roundels located near the entrance to Birlingham (A4104) are completely worn away and need remarking. Due to the ongoing traffic problems and speeding in the narrow section of Upper End particularly near Court Barns, consideration is also being given to the installation of 30mph repeater roundels at each end of the narrow sections.

There was also discussion on the white line narrowing marking to assist with advising.

Clerk to contact Worcestershire County Council and Councillor Adrian Hardman.

## 12. The Avenue

New Age travellers had visited the village. Councillor Hardman advised that they do a circuit and had included Birlingham and parked on the verge in The Avenue.

Councillors discussed additional trees in the Avenue, amongst the established chestnut trees. However, Redstar had said that this made cutting the hedgerow difficult. Some vehicles had been parked in Jubilee Wood which is private land.

The situation will be monitored.

**13. Councillors' reports and items for next agenda**

Romany Gypsies
A note will be placed in the Birlingham News.

Vibrant Villages
Councillor Aston had not been able to attend the Zoom meeting. Information has been sent from Wychavon District Council since the event.

SmartWater

Councillor Aston has done an article for the Bystander and the Birlingham Newsletter telling villagers who requested SmartWater kits that they should have been allocated them and that they will be registered to them individually. Signs have been requested and the village has qualified for them. There should be three signs and they will be displayed around the village to discourage thefts.

Telephone Kiosk – restoration

The telephone box was adopted by the Parish Council a few years back and it was decided to allocate funds in the 2022/23 precept to help pay for its restoration. The Jubilee Committee has had several offers of help and quotations for replacement glass and painting are in hand.

Berwick Lane/Grange Road

Despite the Highways Project Team installing a new drain in Berwick Lane, the work did not fix the leak. The leak is coming from Severn Trent Water pipework and the Clerk is progress-chasing them for an early fix to the problem.

There is also a problem on Grange Road outside Avonside Cottage, where the surface has collapsed. Severn Trent will also look at this at the same time.

The Parish Council noted that the landowner has installed a gate near the bridge over the brook on Berwick Lane. This gate allows pedestrian and disabled access but prevents vehicles accessing the fishermen's car park and so may deter some of the previous antisocial behaviour at Nafford Lock.

**14. Closure and date of next ordinary meeting** - with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.15pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday 17 January 2022 at 7.00pm.

The meeting will continue at this time in a face to face format and will 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 report

Upper End

19 October – Reference 1139328 - gully full

10 November - Barncroft – gully full – cleared by Carl

10 November - Reference 1146413 / Old Dairy - gully full

10 November – Reference 1146414 / Parson's Pleck - gully full

2 November 2021 KgT-1215000 - fly tipping

The Avenue

31 October - 1146412 - gully full

9 November – 1152336

Rectory Lane fallen branch - 10 November

### Lower End

Berwick Lane

Severn Trent Water

Previously reported as 2005363876 19 September

Today 15 November – Waste crew out within next 24 hours – reference 2005432519

Grange Lane

Worcestershire County Council Highway Issue - Reference Number 1110934

30 September - There has been an update to the Highway issue you reported at LOWER END

Your Reported Issue was: The side of the road is breaking away and a pothole has formed

Highways Update: Thank you for your enquiry, site has been attended. A works order raised and passed to our contractor for repair

Also, with **Severn Trent Water**

### Eckington Road – emergency road closure

10 November – Birlingham News

Eckington Road Closure, 11th-26th November

The road into Eckington will be closed for up to two weeks from tomorrow (11th November).

Worcestershire County Council has had to issue an Emergency Road Closure notice for Pershore

Road, next to the Recreation Ground, starting with immediate effect (tomorrow, 11th November) up to 26th November (unless works are finished earlier).

Poor workmanship by the contractor has resulted in the road becoming unsafe. This means digging up the road completely, thereby requiring the road to be fully closed.

If you need to go to Eckington Shop you will need either to park over the bridge and walk, or go via Pershore and Great Comberton.

For travel beyond Eckington, the suggested route is via Pershore and Great Comberton.

Adrian - "*Sorry about this, but we have to do this since the failure of Healy's and Spitfire home to reinstate the road, which has failed a safety inspection, following complaints from the public".*

## War memorial

**Birlingham PC's NHB** projects - war memorial

13 September

Clerk to WDC

> *"Can I clarify that the memorial project has commenced? To be clear I have had various stonemasons out to the village to give quotations but only one, Geo Clifford and Sons are prepared to carry out the very specialist work. Their quotation is attached for reference. The initial plans have also been drawn up which will accompany the Listed Building consent".*

14 November

Clerk to WDC

> *Just to give you an update. The authority approved the Listed Building consent and the Planning application on 11 November 2021. I have therefore contacted the stonemason to ask him to commence the inscription work at his convenience.*

15 November – acknowledged

3 November

**Damage to the Green**

Resident request

> *I don't know if you have seen it but there is a large hole in the green just by the war memorial can you ask Karl if he could fill in before the service on the 11th.*

Carl has actioned and filled with soil and levelled. Due to a vehicle.

## Extracts of interest

Birlingham **News 259 – 10 November**

Tomorrow sees the first Remembrance Service in two years – details below.

In this issue:

1. Remembrance Service, Thursday 11th November
2. Bishop Martin's Pilgrimage – Afternoon Prayer in Birlingham, Thursday 11th November
3. Parish Council Meeting, Monday 15th November
4. Memorial Service for June Butler, Saturday 4th December
5. SmartWater Update
6. Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter – November 2021
7. Bystander Archives on the Village Website
8. Planning Applications

**3. Parish Council Meeting, Monday 15th November**

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on **Monday** 15th 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.

**5. SmartWater Update**

*Paula Aston writes*:

This is just a reminder regarding SmartWater kits and the registration levels our village is currently on. With the Christmas season drawing in and the evenings getting darker due to the clock changes, West Mercia Police and the We Don't Buy Crime team are pushing for as many kits to be registered as possible to deter as much crime as we can over this period. With an influx of presents including computers, phones, gaming consoles and other expensive electrical goods, this is the perfect time to have all of our SmartWater distributed and registered.

Along with this would be the signage, which acts as the next biggest deterrent of crime. As some kits are unregistered within the village we do not yet qualify for these signs.

I would like to take this time to reiterate the fact that the Parish Council has funded these kits along with the Police Commissioner and therefore is eager to find out how the scheme is positively affecting areas that have chosen to take part. The SmartWater that has been purchased for our area also has an expiry date by which it must be registered online to a resident within our area.

**8. Planning Applications**

The following planning applications have been determined by Wychavon District Council:

**Old Police Station**, Eckington Road: First floor extension to front and rear above existing footprint, and new porch to front (Case No. 21/01321). **Approved**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website

**Birlingham House**: Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of two storey and single storey extensions and conversion of first floor of existing garage into annex accommodation (Case No. 21/01810). **Approved**. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website.

Birlingham **News 260 – 29 September**

As it is the fifth Wednesday in the month, we have an extra Birlingham News for you. Please note that the News is normally distributed on the second and fourth Wednesdays and items for inclusion should be submitted by the Monday evening.

In this issue:


1. St James' Church Services – October
2. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 6th October
3. Flower & Produce Show – Thanks
4. Harvest Festival – Thanks
5. Jubilee Tree Planting
6. Good Neighbourhood Network
7. Planning Applications


**5. Jubilee Tree Planting**

*Steve Morris writes*:

What legacy will you leave Birlingham? What better way to be remembered than to plant some trees, which will be enjoyed by future generations for many years to come?

In 2012, we planted the Jubilee Wood, which after a poor start is now starting to come into its own. This November, in the run-up to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year, the Jubilee Committee will be taking delivery of 210 saplings to fill the gaps in the wood. These will be planted under the expert guidance of Rupert Keys, the parish Tree Warden.

We would like as many people as possible to be involved in this project and we will be creating a permanent record of those who take part. If you would like to help with the planting, please let us know at news@birlingham.org.

We are also planning to give you the opportunity to dedicate trees to family or friends: more details later.

Finally, we are looking for volunteers to help us prepare the planting areas over the next two months. If you can spare an hour or two to clear some of the weeds and brambles, please let us know.

**6. Good Neighbourhood Network**

*Ann Dobbins, Pershore Town Clerk writes*:

Pershore Volunteer Centre is working with Wychavon District Council and the Pershore Wellbeing Hub to try to find ways to reduce loneliness and social isolation in Pershore and the surrounding villages (the volunteer centres in Droitwich and Evesham are also involved with their own areas). They want to find a contact in each village who will work with them and be a communications link for them.

If you would be prepared to take on this small role, please contact Karon at the Volunteer Centre at ceo@pershorevolunteers.org.uk.

**7. Planning Applications**

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

**Birlingham House**: Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of two storey and single storey extensions and conversion of first floor of existing garage into annex accommodation (Case No. 21/01810). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 19th October.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website.

Birlingham **News 261 – 13 October**

We have our first mention of Christmas, with advance notice of the Swan opening times.

In this issue:

1. Swan Inn Holiday Closure, Saturday 16th – Tuesday 26th October
2. Seasonal Update from the Swan Inn
3. Romany Gypsies
4. Dog Mess
5. Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter – October 2021
6. Bystander Archives on the Village Website
7. Planning Applications

**3. Romany Gypsies**

*Ian Yates writes*:

The Romany gypsies were visited by Worcestershire County Council's gypsy liaison officer yesterday. As of this afternoon, they appear to be leaving Birlingham for their next destination. The verge has a few horse droppings and is a bit muddy but apart from that there doesn't appear to be too much mess. In discussions with Worcestershire County Council, I understand this group is well known and they tend to follow a predictable circuit, although Birlingham has not been part of it before. So unfortunately, they may decide to visit us again in the future.

**4. Dog Mess**

*Ian Yates writes*:

There have been several incidents recently of dog walkers leaving the dog muck they have picked up tied to way-marking posts and trees or simply left on the side of the footpath. Those responsible may not be village residents but we would like to remind everyone that dog bags should be taken home if they can't be disposed of in a bin.

The Parish Council has previously looked at providing additional bins but the cost of their provision and emptying was prohibitive. If you witness this behaviour and are willing to speak with the person responsible, a polite reminder to take the bags home would help to keep the village tidy. Clearly landowners who either have public rights of way across their land or who allow permissive access do not want to be left with the unpleasant task of clearing this up.

**5. Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter – October 2021**

The October edition of the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter, 'Our News', is available at www.birlingham.org/docs/nhw_2021_oct.pdf.

Among many other items, there is an article on fraud reporting trends, with details of how to report fraud.

When you receive fraudulent emails you can forward them to report@phishing.gov.uk. This helps to stop the emails being sent to others.

**7. Planning Applications**

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

**Birlingham War Memorial**: Addition of name to Northern elevation of war memorial (Case No. 21/02329/LB). Awaiting

Birlingham **News 262 – 27 October**

Details of this year's Remembrance Service are included in the church news below.

In this issue:

1. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 3rd November
2. St James' Church Services – November
3. Bishop Martin's Pilgrimage
4. Planning Applications

**4. Planning Applications**

The following planning application has been determined by Wychavon District 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). **Refused**. Full details and reasons for refusal can be viewed on website.

Birlingham **News 263 – 10 November**

Tomorrow sees the first Remembrance Service in two years – details below.

In this issue:

1. Remembrance Service, Thursday 11th November
2. Bishop Martin's Pilgrimage – Afternoon Prayer in Birlingham, Thursday 11th November
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**1. Remembrance Service, Thursday 11th November**

*Adrianne Woodward writes*:

The Remembrance Service will be held tomorrow (Thursday 11th November) at 10.50am, led by Revd Steve Dunton.

This service will be held outside, around the war memorial. If you are attending, please be in place by **10.50am**, when the service will start. Names of the fallen will be read out and a wreath laid by a representative of the Parish Council. We are hoping to serve refreshments afterwards.

I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

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The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on **Monday** 15th 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.

**5. SmartWater Update**

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This is just a reminder regarding SmartWater kits and the registration levels our village is currently on. With the Christmas season drawing in and the evenings getting darker due to the clock changes, West Mercia Police and the We Don't Buy Crime team are pushing for as many kits to be registered as possible to deter as much crime as we can over this period. With an influx of presents including computers, phones, gaming consoles and other expensive electrical goods, this is the perfect time to have all of our SmartWater distributed and registered.

Along with this would be the signage, which acts as the next biggest deterrent of crime. As some kits are unregistered within the village we do not yet qualify for these signs.

I would like to take this time to reiterate the fact that the Parish Council has funded these kits along with the Police Commissioner and therefore is eager to find out how the scheme is positively affecting areas that have chosen to take part. The SmartWater that has been purchased for our area also has an expiry date by which it must be registered online to a resident within our area.

**6. Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter – November 2021**

The November edition of the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter, 'Our News', is available at www.birlingham.org/docs/nhw_2021_nov.pdf.

**8. Planning Applications**

The following planning applications have been determined by Wychavon District Council:

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