Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 20 July 2022

In Birlingham Village Hall

Councillors:

Councillors Byrne, Cook, Griffin, Porter and Yates.

In attendance:

District Councillor Ron Davies and Clerk, June Hiden.

Welcome – The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by Councillor Paula Aston who was away and Councillor Julia Luff who has Covid. The apologies were accepted. County Councillor Adrian Hardman gave his apologies as he was attending a meeting at Wychavon District Council. Apologies from Footpath Warden Bruce Hayward, Lengthsman Carl Brassington and Tree Warden Rupert Keys.

2. Declaration of Office

Councillor Yates signed the Declaration of Office for Chairman.

3. 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 Cook regarding item 19 with reference to the Jubilee Committee.

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.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2022, a copy of which has been circulated to all Councillors, was agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

Democratic Opening

The meeting was adjourned for public question time. There was nothing to report.

5. Progress Reports

a) Footpath Warden:

i. Footpath 500 (behind Birlingham Nurseries) - strimmed and hedges cut-back
ii. Footpath 511 (Withy Walk) - strimmed and hedge trimmed
iii. Footpath 516 (by Swan's Neck) - fallen tree cleared from track
iv. Footpath 518 (Asham Lane)- track cleared by Worcestershire Council Council contractors. (Unfortunately, the County are not able to specify to the contractors when any path is cut – this has been requested in June).
v. Footpath 520 (by Nafford House) strimmed
vi. Footpath 521 (Asham Meadow) kissing gate cleared
vii. Footpath 522 (Nafford Lock) pedestrian bridge safety concerns raised with WCC. The County Council will be working with the Avon Navigational Trust on suitable repairs. This may be a few weeks as the Trust have other priorities.

b) Tree Warden:

i. No apparent issues with trees.

c) Lengthsman – see ***Appendix 1***

Carl Brassington's certificate of insurance copy, dated until 17 May 2023, has been received.

d) District Councillor:

i. Covid infections are down (250) on last week to 7,903 in the Wychavon area.
ii. Boundary Commission review date has been deferred.
iii. SWDP is delayed. The known strategic sites are Worcester Parkway, Throckmorton, Rushwick and Mitton.

e) County Councillor:

County Councillor Hardman was thanked for his report received in his absence.

i. The County Council budget out-turn was satisfactory from my point of view but we did fail to deliver some £5.3 million worth of savings target, which we are rolling into this year, because I think it is reasonable that due to COVID-19 some of these projects never got going.
ii. I continue to be concerned by COVID-19 and the new variants and as I write this, we have over 100 people with the virus in our hospital but mercifully only two in intensive care. I do not think that this problem has gone away.
iii. Highways maintenance continues to be affected by the high cost of oil since oil is about 40% of the cost of tarmac; in effect this means that our budget has been reduced considerably as we experience above 100 dollars a barrel of oil prices but I suspect we are seeing at this price level some demand destruction and we will see some price reduction to a lower level by the end of the summer.
iv. We are in the process of introducing the new social care reforms and this is turning out to be a big challenge because I think that the government will need to put considerably more money into the system in due course and I hope that the new team down in Whitehall is aware of this.
v. There seems to be some confusion over 20mph speed limits. Just to be clear, the position of the County Council is unchanged. We are willing to consider 20mph in areas of high accident rates, outside schools and in areas where we do not have to undertake considerable road engineering to get compliance.
vii. I continue to try and work with the Department of Education over moving the Pershore pyramid from three to two tiers. I am trying to get the Department to inject some £4M in Pershore. I am not expecting to get a decision on the capital funding from the department until late September now, which is very unhelpful since it means that the implementation will be delayed another year. This of course influences Defford school.

f) Clerk - See ***Appendix 2***

6. Planning

a) Planning applications pending: -

i. W/22/01002/HP – 5 Brook Cottage, Eckington Road WR10 3DA
Change of front garden to driveway
Consultation end date 7 July 2022

Parish Council comments: Birlingham Parish Council have no objection to the proposals; however, they wish to ensure the Planning Officer, in recording his decision, specifies that the drain system implemented is of sufficient capacity to ensure surface water from the new hard standing can be safely addressed to ensure it does not flow onto the public highway.

b) Applications granted: - none

c) Enforcement: - none

7. Financial Matters

a) The Accounts for 2021/2022

The Accounts for 2021/2022 for resolution (as per the financial year end), including the provisions (agreed spreadsheet May 2022) and as per the audited financial year end.

The resolution of the Audit is below.

b) Internal Audit – completed on 27 May 2022
Annual Internal Audit Report – **page 4** - 2021/22 of the Annual Return
Signature of Sadie Yeomans noted.

Internal Auditor's findings – actioned by Chairman and noted by Councillors, as below:

Minutes page 162 - Clerk's pay £574.00 cheque number 610.
Minutes page 162 - Clerk's expenses £104.28 cheque number 611.
Minutes page 161 – PAYE - £150.00 cheque number 612.
Minutes page 161 – Internal Audit £55.99 cheque number 615.

All had been 'considered' in March minutes but not then 'recorded as paid' in the May minutes.

Minutes page 189 – November 2021 – Payments for consideration
PAYE should read £150.00 not £135.00. Typing error corrected.

Minutes page 195 – Payments:
iv. Should be cheque number 634
v. Should be cheque number 644 (to replace cheque number 643).

c) Certificate of Exemption **page 3** – the date for the completion of the external audit has been notified as the 1 July 2022 by PKF Littlejohn. Clerk has informed Littlejohn's of the need for an extension to this date. This has been acknowledged and the return date is now end of July.

Copies of the Annual Return (plus variances greater than 15% this financial year and bank reconciliation; further discussion under e) sent to all Councillors.

d) Approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Part 2:

Section 1: The Annual Governance Statement **page 5** 2021-2022

e) Approval of the Annual Return:

Section 2: The Accounting Statements **page 6**.

A discussion took place on the 2021/2022 accounts.

Funds level over double the precept - Over the last three years, we have been building reserves to cover the cost/potential cost of an election, remedial work on the giant Plane tree and also a fund for community issues - assessed in total at approximately £9,000. This will be achieved by 31 March 2023. Further, the Parish Council needed to build funds for two projects, the refurbishment of the Millennium bench and the telephone box - approximately cost £2000. These projects are well advanced.

Assets

Clerk informed members that the mower and strimmer which were listed as assets, were no longer in use. It was agreed that they should be written off.

The Councillors were all in agreement with the Annual Return for the external auditor.

Clerk to return the agreed and completed 2021/22 Annual Return Certificate of Exemption Notice.

Clerk to display the completed Certificate of Exemption (page 3), Annual Return (pages 4, 5 and 6), variances and bank reconciliation after this meeting on the village website.

f) The Accounts for 2022/2023

i) Bank balances (current) is £11,444.82 as at 15 June 2022. Business saving balance is £7,791.05 as at 9 June 2022.

ii) Receipts

i. £1975.00 – Worcestershire County Council
Reference Divisional Fund £200.00 (AIH 007) and £1,775.00 (kiosk)
ii. £165.00 – Worcestershire County Council
iii. £180.00 – Worcestershire County Council
iv. £100.00 – Wychavon District Council

iii) Payments agreed: –

i. £20.00 - Birlingham Village Hall meeting 18 May 2022 (656)
ii. £165.00 - Lengthsman March 2022 (657)
iii. £180.00 - Lengthsman April 2022 (658)
iv. £235.09 - Worcestershire CALC (Calc service charge per elector £178.18 plus VAT and Nalc affiliation fee £21.27) (655)
v. £257.60 - Zurich Insurance (654)
vi. £200.00 - Cuppa & Chat for Jubilee celebrations (653)
viii.£200.00 - Tuesday Art Group (cheque 652) for clarification

Further discussion took place regarding insurance for assets should the need arise for the cost of replacing the renovated bench and the refurbished phone box. It was unlikely both could be done for less than £10,000. Clerk to ask broker under the current premium.

g) Future payments for consideration

i. £135.00 - Lengthsman May 2022 (BACS received)
ii. £210.00 – Lengthsman June 2022
iii. £55.00 - Internal Audit
iv. £100.00 - Wychavon District Council Jubilee Funding to Jubilee Committee

h) Savings account – update. Transfer of £500.00 from current account to savings actioned.

8. Code of Conduct

In 2019 the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) into Local Government Ethical Standards produced a report based on their review of standards in local government. The CSPL concluded that high standards of conduct in local government are needed to protect the integrity of decision-making, maintain public confidence, and safeguard local democracy. They made twenty-six recommendations for central government many of which will require changes to primary legislation and 15 best practice recommendations for local authorities to consider as a benchmark of good ethical practice. Last year, the Local Government Association (LGA) pursuant to the CSPL's work produced a model code of conduct and encouraged all local authorities to consider adoption of the model code with or without alteration.

In view of this report the Monitoring Officers from the Worcestershire District Councils and the County Council met to review the report and consider what changes/ updates were needed to our existing code to bring it in line with the model code.

Councillors noted that the Code advises on training for members.

Birlingham Parish Council agreed to adopt the model code in the revised version as a whole. Clerk to inform the Monitoring Officer at Wychavon District Council.

9. Millennium Bench

Councillor Maxine Cook updated on the installation of the Millennium Bench. The restoration work on the bench is now complete. Rupert Keys has kindly volunteered to carry out the groundworks so it can be installed around the time capsule. This work will hopefully be carried out over the coming weeks, however Rupert is busy at present. He has asked for continued patience.

Councillor Cook was thanked for her time.

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

The Parish Council have been in contact with Airband and the rollout of full fibre (FTTP) for Birlingham will be combined with Defford. Airband are conducting a high-level survey at the present time.

Airband have a three-phase process:

- High Level study of existing network topology,
- Low Level study of requirements for any additional poles and ducting,
- Detailed job pack that can be costed and installed.

Funding is underwritten by Airband. Once costs are available the voucher process will be finalised to cover the build costs. Airband will also hold a meeting in the Village Hall which will be an opportunity for residents to ask questions and understand the benefits of full fibre.

Councillor Steven Byrne will chase again.

11. War Memorial

The missing inscription on the war memorial for Frederick Quarrell has now been added to the monument by the stonemason.

Clerk will ask Wychavon District Council to now send the New Homes Bonus funding (£300 including £100 costs for planning application plans) and will email a picture of the stone mason at work.

An invoice from the stone mason has been received at £200.00 plus VAT.

The Clerk was thanked for her work.

12. Telephone Kiosk

The telephone box was taken away at the end of April for restoration by a company in Lincolnshire. This is now well in hand. The frame has been stripped back to bare metal in preparation for repainting and re-glazing. Photographs of the restoration have been sent to Councillor Cook who is progressing this project.

The Jubilee Committee and the Bystander have both promised £250.00 towards the funding of the restoration of the kiosk.

As stated above, Item 6, the Clerk will enquire about the cost of increasing the value of the restored kiosk on the Parish Council insurance policy.

13. Defibrillator Registration

An email enquiry was received some time ago regarding the registration of the defibrillator and this had been queried by a Councillor. Clerk informed members that there was originally a Central Database enquiry from Heartsafe in 2018.

The Chairman of the Hall at the time sent out a letter to all residents with information about the defibrillator, its use and training that was being offered.

No further action. However, should the Chairman or Clerk find more information, members will be informed.

14. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Parish Council thanked Steve Morris, the Jubilee Committee and all the volunteers that made the village celebrations such a great success.

A report from Steve Morris is appended. See ***Appendix 3***

Councillor Cook gave her review as part of the volunteering team on the weekend and said that a large group of villagers had taken part and that it was a lot of effort with preparations over the days beforehand.

15. Dog Bins

The Parish Council has included funding for three additional litter bins in its 2022/23 precept. The bins have been ordered and the Parish Council are waiting for Wychavon District Council to supply and install them.

The Clerk has chased for an update.

There is also a need to include the bins as assets.

16. Councillors' reports and items for next agenda

20's Plenty – campaign for reducing speed in villages. Councillor Paula Aston to update at next meeting.

Tipping - Moorsfield. Can the owner be contacted? Who is putting the hedge trimmings on the verge?

Gate at Swans Neck – the Estates Manager has informed that a gate will be put up on the track towards Swans Neck.

Drainage

Upper End – a new gully drain has been installed.

Berwick Lane – this is now the works programme for this financial year and will be actioned shortly.

Jubilee Wood – the gate post has been removed and the metal gate is not closing.

17. Closure and date of next ordinary meeting - with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.25pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 7.00pm.

The meeting will be held in Birlingham Village Hall. Clerk to book hall.

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

Date: ……

Appendix 1 – Lengthsman's Report

LOWER END
Berwick Lane
1 June 2022
Reference Number 1260364 – gully full

Our Update:

CJK 01/06/22 Update: "*Gullys have been cleaned and surveyed and now working although some remedial works have been identified and will be added to the relevant works programme for future minor works*."

Lengthsman

> *"I happened to catch the camera crew in the village earlier in the week. They were outside The Grange checking a gully. They said that when they jetted it, they could hear the water near the rainwater down pipe from Avon Cottage which reinforces our thoughts that there was at one time a gully on that side of the road.*
>
> *The drain appears clear to the manhole outside Lower Farm and the old pipe that needs to be capped off is a 9" one. I'd be happy to get one and cap off the drain if you want."*

UPPER END
The Old Dairy
14 June
Reference Number 1292047 – gully full
23 June
Update: Order raised for gully to be cleaned out

7 July
Reference Number 1272754 – gullies both sides of the road full

Update: Gullys in reported area have been cleaned and are now working

FLY TIPPING
19 July 2022 - Ref: XGH-5642120
Pull off on Defford Road

Reply from Community and Environmental Protection Team, Wychavon District Council
Thank you for submitting your fly tipping report.
An officer will respond to your report within 2 working days.

TREES

Nothing out of the ordinary but in case the Tree Warden doesn't mention it, there are 3 dead trees in Rectory Road. I don't think that there is any danger but they will need to come down.

Appendix 2 – Clerk's Report

Flooding / drainage and other highway issues

Berwick Lane

Update by Clerk who chased highways.

18 July

It's on our list for our small works gang to attend to but admittedly has slipped back in the programme due to various resource issues. Following your email, I may actually see is this is something that Drainjet could attend to. We had a PEM stating there were still issues with blocked gullys on this area.

Clerk has informed the nearby resident of the current situation.

Upper End

20 July

Clerk to Highways copied to Adrian Hardman and Barry Barnes

> *"A gang were in the village this morning (8.30am) and had already put in a replacement gully. They informed me that it was lower, closer to the field side and larger. Hopefully that will help with the runoff. They also said the drain across the road was clear but the jetting crew had advised them that the drain running down from Hills Cottage towards Barncroft was broken. They have raised this issue.*
>
> *"Once these things have been addressed perhaps we can then get the roundels repainted (as per email exchanges below) and if the road needs any 'rut' levelled this can also be done."*

Reply

> "Thanks for the feedback June. Regarding the drainage issues I'll ask one of my colleagues to add the broken pipe to our Small Work for 2022-23 programme."

Footway on Bakers Hill

July 2022

The footway all down Bakers Hill has been scrapped back. Some parts of the path have been marked where it's 'subsided/ uneven' but do not what is planned.

15 July - Lengthsman reply

> "I saw them doing that. They have also done one on the way to Drakes Broughton but it stops at the top of the bank at Pershore end. I read in some parish minutes or another that they had X millions to spend on upgrading footways."

Nafford – sluice debris

5 May 2022 – Clerk reported to Environment Agency.

> Reply: "*Thank you for your recent communication regarding problems you have encountered on the above public right of way. The details have been recorded on our system as PR-23-44817.*"

22/23 May 2022 – councillors informed that the sluice has been cleared of debris.



The Avenue – Moorsfield area



Picture taken Tuesday 12 July

Clerk has asked for advice from Worcestershire County Council. Message sent to Birlingham News regarding verge maintenance.

War Memorial



Photo taken 7 July 2022

19 July – Wychavon District Council have confirmed that the New Homes Bonus monies will now be paid.

Jubilee Celebrations – Cuppa & Chat

Sue Hermon, Cuppa & Chat writes to County Councillor Hardman

20 May 2022

> *"Thank you so much for your very kind donation to Cuppa & Chat. This has meant that we can make our Jubilee celebration a very special event with a selection of sandwiches, mini sausage rolls, scones with jam and clotted cream and cakes, tea and coffee plus a glass of bubbly for the loyal toast! If you are able to come along on Wednesday afternoon 1st June between 3-4.30 you and your partner would be most welcome. We will also be able to keep funds in hand towards the inevitable increase in costs, so that our future monthly get togethers are secure. The whole of the Cuppa & Chat team are extremely grateful for your support."*

Campaign to reduce speed to 20mph

25 June

Dear Worcestershire Councils

Martin Ball has asked me to contact you to offer for you to join 20's Plenty for Us
This is free
You will get a free starting a campaign pack by post if you
Agree to campaign for 20mph where people live, work, shop, play and learn as the default with signs and public engagement
Agree to be listed on our website as a branch leader for your place.
https://www.20splenty.org/setupacampaign

Jubilee Wood

Steve Morris, Jubilee Committee message to Rupert Keys:-

> *"I haven't had a chance to get to look at the new trees for a couple of weeks. Are they doing all right? The last time I looked they seemed to be thriving and showing good growth, so hopefully they are well enough established to cope with the heat wave.*
>
> *Do we need to get our volunteers to clean around them? The immediate undergrowth might be keeping the ground cooler at the moment but presumably we don't want them to have to compete too much with the grass and weeds.*
>
> *Finally, I wondered if it would be worth getting hold of a pack of numbered tags, so that we could allocate batches of trees for people to look after and perhaps to help us monitor the trees' progress in the future. Just a thought".*

Rupert replies:-

> *"I think clearing around each tree would be beneficial however time consuming. The easiest way to do this is to use a non biological/ biodegradable spray. It is a systemic weed control that is not harmful to wildlife once it is in contact with the ground."*

Extracts of interest

Birlingham **News 277 – 25 May**

Wed, 25 May at 13:59

There is just one week to go until the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations – details of events are given below.

The online edition of this email is available at www.birlingham.org/village/bn/bn277.pdf, which includes reports from individuals and organisations presented at last week's Annual Parish Meeting. The online edition also contains detailed information about Wychavon District Council's Upskilling Project for apprentices and trainees.

In this issue:

1. Cuppa & Chat – Fully Booked, Wednesday 1st June
2. St James' Church Services – June
3. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Programme, Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th June
4. Road Closures, Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th June
5. Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting
6. Roadside Verge Maintenance
7. Wychavon and Malvern Hills Upskilling Project

1. Cuppa & Chat – Fully Booked, Wednesday 1st June

Sue Hermon writes:

A special Jubilee Cuppa & Chat is being held on Wednesday 1st June. This event is already fully booked by our lovely regulars, who have received written confirmation of their reserved place. If you are unable to attend I ask that you let me know.

3. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Programme, Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th June

Steve Morris writes:

The final preparations are now being made for next week's celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee. More than 30 volunteers are involved in the various events (but, of course, we could always do with more!)

Programmes have been distributed to every home in the village and it would help with planning if you could complete the enclosed form, even if you are not able to join us at the celebrations. Forms can be returned to the church porch, by post or online.

The events begin with a Jubilee Quiz on Friday 3rd June in the village marquee, which will be erected in Whitehall Lane. The main event is the Street Party on the Saturday afternoon, which will take place between the Village Hall and the Church. During this event, the children's Pudding Fit for a Queen entries will be judged. There will also be a toast to the Queen and we will be taking a village photograph of everyone who is there.

On Sunday 5th, the Celebratory Church Service will be followed by the traditional Pram Race. The weekend is rounded off by a Treasure Hunt around the village.

Jubilee mugs are available, personalised for Birlingham: a permanent reminder of this extraordinary occasion.

During the weekend there will be a Jubilee raffle, with some amazing prizes donated by Eckington Stores and Revills Farm Shop.

We hope that many of you will decorate your houses and brighten up the village for the weekend. Ideas for colouring in your own bunting can be found in the online edition of this email at www.birlingham.org/village/bn/bn277.pdf.

Thank you to all those who have worked so hard making the preparations. The weather forecast is currently looking good so we hope this will be a memorable and fun weekend.

4. Road Closures, Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th June

The following roads will be temporarily closed during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations:

8. The roads from Church Street to Whitehall Lane (including the road in front of the church) will be closed on Saturday 4th June from 1.00pm until 6.00pm to allow for the Street Party. Access to Church Street and Whitehall Lane will not be affected.
9. All roads around the church will be closed on Sunday 5th June between 11.30am and 1.00pm for the Pram Race. The closure will only take effect during the race itself.

Parking will be available on both these days at the cricket ground. It would be appreciated if people did not park on the roads around the church, on the pound opposite the Village Hall, or in front of the Village Hall and the School House on either of these days.

5. Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting

Paula Aston writes:

The Birlingham Annual Parish Meeting took place last Wednesday, 18th May, and was followed by the normal Parish Council meeting.

In the absence of the chairperson the meeting was chaired by Paula Aston.

The Annual Parish Meeting included the following:

10. The Chairman's annual report
11. Annual reports from County Councillor Adrian Hardman and District Councillor Ron Davis
12. Annual reports from the Footpath Warden and Lengthsman
13. Annual report from the Jubilee Committee

All these reports can be viewed in full in the online edition of this email at www.birlingham.org /village/bn/bn277.pdf.

As the Parish Council meeting was following the Annual Parish Meeting, elections needed to take place.

Ian Yates was duly elected as the chairperson for 2022/23 and Paula Aston was elected as Vice Chair for the same time period.

14. Millennium Bench: Councillor Cook advised that work on the bench is nearing completion and the base for the bench will be installed hopefully over the next few weeks and then the bench can be brought back to the village and placed on the village green.

15. Full fibre broadband: Councillor Byrne advised that the closing date for applications for fibre broadband via Air Band to the village has passed and the required interest reached at the 11th hour so we will now await further information on how we move forward and an installation date.
16. Telephone kiosk: Councillor Cook advised that noticeably the telephone box had been removed from the village and taken to be restored to its former glory. It will be returned to the village over the next couple of months and will look as new. Suggestions on how the telephone kiosk can be used moving forward would be welcomed by the Parish Council.
17. Queens Platinum Jubilee events: Update was given by Councillor Cook and the Jubilee Committee. There are several events happening over the bank holiday weekend in the village and leaflets and invitations have gone out to households to inform everybody of these.

Minutes of the meeting will be produced and issued in due course.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 20th July at 7.00pm.

6. Roadside Verge Maintenance

The Parish Clerk writes:

The following advice on roadside verge maintenance has been received from Worcestershire County Council:

18. Verges will be cut where necessary for safety reasons (e.g. splays at road junctions). However, for environmental reasons, where there are no safety issues, WCC will either leave the verges uncut or only cut 1m back from the carriageway edge. Similarly residents, for environmental reasons, are encouraged not to cut the verges by their house unless it is absolutely necessary for safety.

7. Wychavon and Malvern Hills Upskilling Project

As part of the Wychavon and Malvern Hills Upskilling Project, both councils are offering an incentive to promote apprenticeships and trainee programmes, which help many people to take their first steps in the world of work or embark on new careers.

The deadline for new apprentices to apply for a £500 incentive payment has been extended until the end of September. To qualify, apprentices and trainees must live or work in the Wychavon or Malvern Hills District areas, earn less than £15,000 a year, have completed at least the first month of their course, and claim the payment themselves.

There is also a separate support payment of £1,000 available for new apprentices and trainees, which can help them to cover the cost of travel, equipment, clothing and other associated expenses.

More details about the support available, including full terms and conditions, and how to apply, can be found online at www.wychavon.gov.uk/business.

The full press release, containing additional information, is included in the online edition of this email at www.birlingham.org/village/bn/bn277.pdf.

Birlingham **News 278 – 3 June**

The bunting is up, the marquee has been erected and the first raffle tickets have been sold. It's time to decorate your houses in red, white and blue! This special edition of Birlingham News gives you everything you need to know about this weekend's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Birlingham.

If you haven't yet booked a place for the Street Party, or have any queries not covered by this email, please call 07801 368953 or email news@birlingham.org.

In this issue:

1. Jubilee Quiz, Friday 3rd June
2. Street Party, Saturday 4th June
3. A Pudding Fit for a Queen, Saturday 4th June
4. Celebratory Church Service, Sunday 5th June
5. Pram Race, Sunday 5th June
6. Treasure Hunt, Sunday 5th June
7. Jubilee Raffle
8. Jubilee Mugs

Birlingham **News 279 – 16 June**

The Jubilee weekend is over but it is not too late to order a special Birlingham Jubilee mug to remember the occasion.

The online edition of this email is available at www.birlingham.org/village/bn/bn279.pdf.

In this issue:

1. Church News
2. Platinum Jubilee Thanks
3. Jubilee Mugs
4. Jubilee Photos
5. RHS Chelsea Silver Medal
6. Bystander Archives on the Village Website
7. Planning Applications

7. Planning Applications

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

5 Brook Cottages, Eckington Road: Change front garden to driveway (Case No. 22/01002/HP). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 6th July.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website.

Birlingham **News 280 – 29 June**

It looks like we are all going to be having a well-earned rest in July, after all the excitement of the Jubilee. Here is this week's roundup.

The online edition of this email is available at www.birlingham.org/village/bn/bn280.pdf.

In this issue:

1. Alison Clode
2. St James' Church Services – July
3. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 6th July
4. Jubilee Photos

Birlingham **News 281 – 14 July**

The bi-monthly Parish Council meeting takes place next week in the Village Hall – go along and have your say on village matters.

The online edition of this email is available at www.birlingham.org/village/bn/bn281.pdf.

In this issue:

1. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 20th July
2. President's Day
3. False Widow Spiders
4. Bystander Archives on the Village Website

Appendix 3 – Platinum Jubilee Steve Morris report

Platinum Jubilee, 1st-5th June 2022

Between February and May this year, the Jubilee Committee arranged a series of four open meetings to decide what celebrations the village would like for the Platinum Jubilee and to make the necessary arrangements.

The first Jubilee-themed event in the village was Cuppa & Chat, on Wednesday 1st June, independently arranged by the regular Cuppa & Chat team and sold-out weeks in advance.

For the main celebrations, a number of volunteers helped make the preparations. A large group erected the village marquee on Mike and Liz Rodwell's lawn. Others, organised by Tony Hawgood, put up bunting in the marquee, in the Village Hall, in front of the church and elsewhere around the village. June Hiden arranged road closures for the Saturday and Sunday. Chris and Sue Hermon organised a team of leaflet deliverers.

The first event took place on Friday 3rd June in the village marquee, a Jubilee quiz organised by Brian Chinneck. The marquee was packed to the edges with 50 keen quizzers, who stayed late into the evening.

The main event took place on the Saturday: the Street Party in front of the Village Hall. This event, organised by Maxine Cook with help from Katie Parsons, attracted 130 villagers, friends and relatives. Although a little breezy, the rain held off and everyone enjoyed the occasion. Basil Barke proposed a toast to the Queen and Mark Yeomans provided a display of classic cars. Meanwhile in the Village Hall, the children's 'Fit for a Queen' competition took place; this was organised by Paula Aston and Becca Garle.

The church was full on the Sunday morning for Churchwarden Adrianne Woodward's carefully choreographed Celebratory Service; the bells were rung beforehand.

Immediately after the service, a good crowd came to watch the thrills and spills of the Pram Race, another Maxine Cook production and another big success. The Treasure Hunt that afternoon, painstakingly put together by Paul Burton, was also well supported. The weekend concluded with the drawing of the Jubilee raffle in the Village Hall.

Most importantly, everyone seems to have had a good time over the weekend. Of course, some took the opportunity of the four-day weekend to go away and others were involved in events elsewhere but even so it has been estimated that over half the village population took part in one or other of the events.

Our thanks go to the 40 villagers who helped set up and run the events; the half dozen local businesses that supported the celebrations with raffle prizes and sponsorship; and the Village Hall Committee, who gave us free use of the hall for the meetings and again over the whole Jubilee Weekend.

It was great to see the community coming together so successfully on such a historic occasion.