

June 2013

Birdham Parish Council Newsletter

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Fond Farewells

In the past few months two of Birdham's longest serving and hardest working councillors have stepped down from the parish council. Both Roger Tilbury and Angela Parks served as chairman during their long tenures on the council and both will be greatly missed. Roger's planning knowledge was invaluable and, as founder of the Birdham History Society, his appreciation of the village, its history and its special qualities made Roger a great advocate for Birdham. Angela's warmth and wise counsel will also be a loss to us – along with her unsurpassed egg sandwiches. Our appreciation and thanks to both.

The Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire will be out to you in the next few weeks. **Make sure you have your say!**

Warm Welcomes

We are very pleased to welcome not one, not two, but three new councillors onto Birdham Parish Council. They are Daniel Ayton, Elizabeth Hamilton and Gordon Churchill (returning) and we look forward to working with them. We now number seven of nine, having two new vacancies. If you are interested in becoming a councillor please contact the parish clerk.

Community Resilience

Several initiatives are underway to build our resilience as a community, including the development of our emergency plan and also flood prevention (see page 2). A network of volunteers is beginning to build up across the village – if you can offer specialist skills please let us know.

In the same vein the Village Hall Trustees have agreed to the installation of a defibrillator at the Village Hall. Once this is in place we will provide you with more information on its purpose and use.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Parish was held on Saturday 18th May in Birdham Village Hall. There was an excellent turn out with a range of interesting local speakers, including the new Rector, Reverend Swindells. Among a range of topics we heard about the Birdham History group and the work of the Community resilience team and enjoyed refreshments laid on by parish councillors.

Birdham and Earnley Flood Prevention Group

A flood action group for Birdham and Earnley has been set up to help improve our surface water drainage problems. Representatives include Clive Barrington for the water catchment north of the A286, Ian Lockwood for Bell Lane and Andries Devaal for Sidlesham Lane and Almodington. If any residents would like to help map out ditch networks or have particular problems to report please contact Councillor Carolyn Cobbold or the parish clerk.

If you wish to make a small donation to help fund running costs, that would be very welcome - contact robertjamescarey@aol.com

Quiz Night

April saw another great quiz night in the village hall with more than ten teams competing for the honour of being the Brains of the Village. Drinks were available from the social club and teams brought their own snacks. Roger Tilbury was an excellent quiz master and the questions were set by Maria Geary. Keep an eye out on the notice board for the next Village Hall event. The next one is to be held on Saturday 29th June. Enter teams of up to 6, with entry only £1 per person. Look out for posters round the village and get those thinking caps on.

Affordable Housing

An application for 15 homes for local people has been made at a site off Crooked Lane, opposite the school. If planning permission is granted, these homes will be rented out by Martlet Homes only to people connected to the village. Connections can include having been a resident in the village, having close family in the village or being employed in the village. The housing will be available only for local people in perpetuity. Full details of the application can be found on CDC's website.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Work is progressing on the Neighbourhood Plan for the village. After eight months at the helm Terry Cloughton stepped down as chairman last month. Terry worked very hard to drive the project forward and must be congratulated on his enormous input and ability to mediate his way through the process.

The Steering Group is keen to recruit more members and would welcome residents to help with the plan in whatever capacity and sparing whatever time they can. If you would like to take part please contact the parish clerk.

We will soon be sending out a questionnaire that we hope all residents will take the time to fill in. It is important that we receive your views about the future of Birdham Parish for inclusion into the Neighbourhood Plan.

Planning applications

Rowan Nursery delayed

An application for 27 new homes at Rowan Nursery caravan site off Bell Lane has been delayed while Chichester District Council seeks confirmation from Southern Water that it can handle the extra sewage from the development. Council officers have approved the application but District Councillors decided to seek reassurance from Southern Water after hearing from Birdham Parish council and Pipers Mead residents about the drainage problems in the area. If any Birdham residents have regular problems with foul waste or toilets backing up we recommend you contact Southern Water, Ofwat and Chichester District Council Environmental Health and ask them to log the report.

Birdham Pool

An application has been made to redevelop Birdham Pool by conversion of the office/workshop building to 4 dwellings; replacement of the large workshop with a more architecturally sympathetic building; replacing the crane with a more modern one; rearrangement of berths in the pool and of the boatyard; and relocation of the office to the existing converted barn. If you find yourself overwhelmed by the number of documents in this application the one to start on is the Design and Access Statement. This application will be considered on 17th June by the Parish Council.

Birdham Tea Party

Held every four weeks in Birdham Village Hall between 3 and 4pm the tea party is open to everyone. It is a great opportunity to have a cup of tea, some fabulous home-made cake and a chat. Meet new people and probably see some familiar faces too. Everyone who comes along has a good time and the ladies who organise the tea party only ask for a donation of £1.50 to cover costs, so why not give it a try! Date for your calendar: Tuesdays **18th June, 16th July and 13th August.**

Birdham History Group

The History Group met on Monday 3rd June and had a talk from James Kenny, the Chichester District Council Archaeology Officer. The next meeting is on the **22nd July**. The group has been invited to by the new owner to visit Birdham Tide Mill, at Birdham Pool, meeting at the Mill for a 7.30pm start. There is no formal membership and anyone is welcome with an interest in the history of Birdham especially those who can widen our knowledge and understanding.

Who do I contact?

Parish Councillors:

Jane Finch (Chair) jane Finch1@talktalk.net
Carolyn Cobbold (Vice-Chair) trcobbold@msn.com
Marion Barker marion.barker@talk21.com
Andy Grafham andy.grafham@gmail.com
Daniel Ayton daniel.ayton@aytonlee.com
Elizabeth Hamilton eabhamilton@yahoo.com
Gordon Churchill gchurchill@intelynx.net
Or write to or email the Parish Clerk (David Siggs)
 clerk@birdhamparishcouncil.org.uk
 28 Langdale Avenue, Chichester, PO19 8JQ

The Neighbourhood Specialist Police Team responsible for Birdham is:
PCSO Rose Bainbridge **07881 754535**
rosemary.bainbridge@sussex.pnn.police.uk and
If a crime is being committed dial 999.
If you have information about a crime or an incident which is no longer happening dial **101**. Or you can call Crime Stoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**

Birdham Village Choir

Birdham Village Choir follow up on last year's very successful Jubilee Concert with a Coronation Concert in Birdham Village Hall on **15th June**. Free entry with all donations split between the Church extension and the Village Hall Fund. The evening promises to be an entertaining one with plenty of music and humour. The fun starts at 7.30pm.

What else is coming up?

Carpet Bowls (Monday and Wednesday) have vacancies. Check the Village hall noticeboard for contact details.

The next parish council meeting is **Monday 17th June 2013** at 7pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome and we would love to see you.

(Meetings are every 3rd Monday in the month except August)