



Birdham Parish Council
Imogen Whitaker - Clerk & RFO to the Council
2 McAdam Close, Hambrook, PO18 8FG
T: 01243 575094/E: clerk@birdham.org.uk/www.birdham.org.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 20th January 2020 at 7pm
Birdham Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Firmston (Chairman), Hamilton (Vice chair) Pocock, Churchill, Campbell, Richardson
Apologies: Cllr Glover, Cllr Bush and Cllr Barrett (CDC)
In attendance:
The Clerk WSCC Pieter Montyn
CDC – Cllr Susan Taylor 10 members of the Public

Before starting the meeting the Chairman advised that an item concerning the mobile recycling unit would be discussed under 5i and a decision taken.

1. Declarations of interest

- i. There were no declarations of interest for matters on the agenda
- ii. There were no dispensation requests

2. Minutes – to agree and sign the minutes 16th December 2019 meeting

The minutes were unanimously agreed to be a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Public Question time from residents of Birdham in accordance with Standing Orders 1d – 1l

- i. A member of the public who has been badly affected by the recent flooding asked the council what its policy was for maintaining ditches and rifes in the area.
She showed a map which noted the direction of the water flows (map attached).

The route that particularly concerned the member of the public was that which ran beside her property, (Ellscott Parks) but she said there were also big issues concerning the other routes, and asked Cllr Hamilton to discuss those.

Cllr Hamilton said that Sidlesham Lane was flooded and was all but impassable except for very large vehicles over this period, the worst being on Sunday 22nd December. Residents from Oakdene parked cars in the road with their hazard lights on to alert traffic. The bow-wave from lorries filled their drive and splashed onto their windows.

The ditches on both sides of the road were full and gardens at Ellscott Park, Woodhorn Farmhouse and Appletree Cottage were full of water, it reaching the back step at Woodhorn and Ellscott. At Woodhorn farmhouse the septic tank backfilled so the toilets could not be flushed.

The resident continued her explanation. The ditch from Ellscott Parks goes through and over Farmer Pict's land, then in two directions. It is the Almodington route that concerned the speaker. It passes through Hillands Farm and between numbers 97 and 98a First Avenue before joining Grange Rife. It is these ditches that need attention. There is not a lot of flow to the sea so keeping these ditches clear is essential. At 5 metres above sea level any blockage causes back-up.

She said that Grange Rife also needed attention and that she had contacted the Environment Agency who was in the process of checking it.

Cllr Firmston summed up by saying that they needed to know which authority was responsible for the ditches and rifes, and which riparian owners.

Cllr Montyn had been in touch with Kevin MacKnay Flood Engineer of WSCC and he had confirmed that varying people had varying responsibility, however, in Mr MacKnay's opinion the council was eligible for Operation Watershed money and that Birdham should apply.

It was AGREED that Birdham PC will write to WSCC with evidence and to include correspondence from residents who have been affected.

Action – Clerk

At least three properties in total had been affected. A member of the public said that this was a fact of life of living in Birdham and that the water levels in Church Lane were as deep as had ever been seen in Birdham. Children were unable to walk to their Christmas Church service and the venue had had to be changed at the last minute.

Ray Drabble and Kevin MacKnay had both been out and the issue with Church Lane is to do with the sluice, pipes and culverts at Birdham Pool. Birdham Pool management has been asked previously to keep this in good working order. There was a big discharge of water into Triangle Copse pond and the village pond – both of which helped to diffuse a little of the water which was unable to get out fast enough.

Another member of the public who had also been adversely affected (within 2 inches of his property being flooded) was surprised at the speed with which the water drained away the following day (unusually). Something had happened for it to drain so quickly. He felt that Birdham could not deal with this in isolation and that Sidlesham needed to be contacted to make sure that they were also doing what was necessary. The waste-water level in ground floor toilets rose which meant that sewage would leak.

Cllr Montyn said that in the case of combined heavy rainfall and surface water the excess water was finding its way into the pumping station at Pinks Lane, Birdham causing sewage overflow. He has written to Southern Water about this.

Cllr Firmston confirmed that any money received from Watershed money would be for improvements not maintenance.

- ii. Another member of the public said that we are now in a climate emergency but that he saw little evidence of reducing the carbon footprint in new developments; no solar panels, no electric charging points for example. He said that there should be an obligation at the Local Plan Level. Cllr Hamilton said that it had been discussed at the Planning meetings and that CDC had taken advice from the Environment Agency.

Cllr Taylor (CDC) said that the current developments had been granted permission under the current Local Plan and in some cases the permission had been granted some time ago (several years). She said that although some policies were included in the Local Plan review most of the items the resident mentioned would come under Building Regulations. The Government has produced a white paper on carbon reduction in Building Regulations and CDC had responded to that consultation. CDC is of the opinion that these should be covered under Building Regulations and not local councils so that compliance becomes National and therefore on an economy of scale will be cheaper to implement. The new Local plan does have a policy concerning solar panels.

The resident felt that that was a false argument and that on a development of 1000 houses the economies of scale were clearly present.

- iii. Another resident asked about the cost-effectiveness of employing a full-time member of staff at the Westhampnett Waste facility. It was explained that the member of staff not only deals with making sure that only West Sussex residents are using the site but also oversees and controls illegal dumping.
- iv. A resident asked Cllr Montyn whether WSCC, following all the negative reporting in the press, was a council fit for purpose. Cllr Montyn said that much was being worked on and that WSCC was not failing. The specific issues mentioned (Child Services and the Fire and Rescue Service) were being addressed. Measures were now being taken and proper oversight instigated from another authority. It is not the case that WSCC is not fit for purpose.
Cllr Montyn will be attending the Performance and Finance Select Committee on Wednesday – which is open to the public through the council's webcam service if any resident would like to "tune in" or attend. He reminded the meeting that the support that the council had received from government in the last 7 years had been cut by 50%.

4. Planning matters including appeals, applications and CDC delegated decisions.

- i. Notifications of new Planning Enforcement Notices – there were none received
- ii. Notifications of Planning Appeals – there were none received
- iii. Updates on Planning Enforcements – there were none received
- iv. Planning applications to be decided:

Planning application number	Address	Details	Comment
BI/03050/FUL	Wheelhouse, 16 Greenacres, Birdham	Demolition of one dwelling house/garage and erection of one dwelling house/garage/pool	NO OBJECTION

v. Delegated decisions to be noted

Planning application number	Address	Details	Decision
BI/10/02512/LBC	Fir Trees, Shipton Green, W Itchenor	Restoration of balusters	PERMIT

5. Clerk's report

- i. WSCC Reports, highways matters and correspondence.

Consultation for the Mobile Recycling Service.

The consultation had been widely advertised and was open from 14th November until 13th December. Cllr Richardson reported that 1472 responses had been received. 74% of those were willing to pay £5 - £7 per annum for a band D property to maintain the service; 14% didn't want to pay at all; 11% didn't know.

41 residents responded from Birdham – 37 of whom (90%) said they would pay. (Out of a total of 763 households in Birdham).

At the meeting attended by all 7 councils concerned by the proposal 3 councils were in favour, 2 were supportive, and 2 were undecided (including Birdham).

The annual cost of the unit would be £4200 to Birdham Parish Council if all the councils contribute.

The contract would be for three years. Sidlesham had previously been unsupportive and if they don't support the proposal their contribution would be divided amongst the remaining councils. Sidlesham residents would still be able to use the unit. Cllr Firmston said that all Parishes had to agree or none.

The decision deadline is February and Sidlesham will be making their decision before that time.

A resident asked if it would be possible to instigate a permit system as at Westhampnett. This had already been mooted by the Parishes, but it was deemed too expensive to implement and too difficult to monitor on site.

The service would be paid for retrospectively and would not be due until 2021 -22 financial year allowing Parish Councils to include in their budget.

Cllr Montyn pointed out that the cost per resident (tax band D) would be £5.11 per annum.

Cllr Richardson added that the provision of the service was part of the WSCC review, and it was possible that WSCC would pay.

A resident commented that he paid £50 a year for a green bin, and he felt disinclined to pay even a further £5 for a mobile service. Why didn't more residents take green bins and why weren't they free? Cllr Hamilton said that the problem with the green bin is that it only takes garden waste, whereas the mobile unit would take all waste, and that the cost covered the collection of the bins but not the recycling of the contents – this cost was covered by CDC.

One of the consultation questions had been "if the mobile recycling unit were to stop would you use a green bin" and the overriding response was no. Therefore, if it were cheaper it is unlikely that more people would use it.

These are only two remaining mobile recycling units in West Sussex and the costing is just for these two sites.

Cllr Richardson proposed, and Cllr Campbell seconded that Birdham Parish Council support this discretionary service with a likely contribution of £4200 per annum to the mobile recycling service. 5 votes for; one abstention.

The motion was carried.

Cllr Firmston will draft a letter for the Clerk to send to Steve Reed of WSCC and copy to the Clerk of Selsey T C.

Action: Cllr Firmston/Clerk

- ii. CDC reports including correspondence – there was none
- iii. To receive reports from Division members of WSCC and Ward members of CDC

Cllr Montyn WSCC

Cllr Montyn had reported the potholes in Church Lane. Mike Dare of WSCC had responded to say that the lane had been inspected on 11th December 2019 and that several defects were identified and logged for repair.

Cllr Firmston added that the issue of road markings and signage in Church Lane had also been responded to by Mike Dare and that WSCC was satisfied that the existing road signs and markings by St. James Church met the recommendations as set out in the Traffic signs manual. However, there was nothing to stop the Parish Council adding signs and road markings which they could purchase themselves.

Cllr Montyn said that there was no point in adding signage to a road that wasn't fit for purpose. The potholes on the side and in the middle of the road, made it dangerous and difficult for pedestrians and particularly children walking to school especially so in winter as there was no footpath.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council should write back to say that the cumulative effect of all the potholes alongside the cricket pavilion towards Crooked Lane rendered the whole road difficult to negotiate and that this section should be reprofiled and resurfaced.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Taylor CDC - Cllr Taylor reported on the Preferred Approach Local Review being undertaken by CDC. The Strategic Wildlife Gaps (Strategic Corridors Project) was an important issue and CDC were to apply to the National Heritage Lottery fund for £1m for the maintenance and improvement of SWGs. CDC will contribute £10K to support a Community Wildlife Officer. Even if CDC is unsuccessful in its application the policy will remain in the review.

Cllr Taylor went on to discuss the possibility of CDC taking on the 41 units allocated to SDNP. The SDNP Plan was made last year and CDC has a duty to cooperate with this plan. If CDC chooses not to accept the quota its evidence base for so doing would have to be extremely high.

Cllr Pocock felt that CDC should be trying to reach the high bar of the evidence base required and to explore every opportunity to reject taking on the extra housing.

Cllr Taylor said that if the housing were accepted then a statement of common understanding would be signed by all the authorities concerned.

It was generally felt in the meeting that cooperation was something that should work both ways and not just in a single direction.

A resident said that given the flooding in Birdham why would you build any homes in Birdham let alone take an extra 41 units. An examiner would argue that flooding is a problem that can be solved by engineering.

Cllr Elizabeth Hamilton – CDC

Cllr Hamilton reminded the meeting of the All Parishes Meeting which is scheduled for 10th February 2020. Once the agenda has been received the clerk will circulate and will book on those members wishing to attend.

Action: Clerk

The May Bank Holiday this year will be on Friday May 8th to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day. The church will be organising a "Vintage Day". CDC will be offering grants to help pay for the costs of organising an event.

Cllr Pocock felt that VJ Day should also be recognised. It was suggested that he write to CDC directly.

CDC are also offering grants for small businesses of up to £2.5 (with matched funding) or up to £1000 for training purposes.

Cllr Barrett – CDC

Cllr Barrett had sent a short report.

Rough sleepers – CDC have dedicated an outreach worker who works directly with rough sleepers to try and support them back into accommodation, which is available within the District, but some will not engage with the outreach worker.

Cabinet 7th January

Climate Change Initial Action Plan

Funding was approved to recruit a Climate Change Officer to deliver a 5-year Action Plan.

Off street Parking

The Cabinet approved the proposed increases

Southern Water Issues

Three issues within the ward have been taken up with Southern Water relating to Sewage problem: in West Wittering the non-implementation of Northfields Condition 19 (Enforcement Notice has been closed under delegated authority); in Birdham the Pinks Lane pumping station problems; in Bracklesham the non-implementation of the upgrade to the network along Beech Avenue and Stocks Lane.

(Cllr Taylor left the meeting at 8.30pm)

6. Finance and Corporate:

- i. To receive and approve a financial report.

Cllr Campbell proposed, and Cllr Hamilton seconded adopting the financial report. Unanimously **resolved**.

- ii. To circulate bank reconciliation – included in above

7. Correspondence not previously circulated to be noted

- i. The Clerk asked all councillors to note that the email address for Birdham PC is now <mailto:clerk@birdham.org.uk>. The other address will no longer be monitored or responded to and should be deleted from their contact lists.

- ii. The clerk had received a note from Dave Hyland at CDC concerning the BT phone box at Birdham Pool. This box has only been used twice in the last year and BT is proposing to remove it. It is not listed but if the Parish Council wishes to adopt it, they can (the telephony will be removed). It was unanimously agreed not to keep the box.

Action: Clerk

- iii. Parish Online.

Parish Online will be available to councils for £30 a year if more than 70% of councils signed up to it. The clerk advised the council to subscribe as it would be needed for the Neighbourhood Plan review. Training could be provided if necessary. Cllr Pocock said he would like all the Parish assets to be registered on the system by the Clerk – so that everything is in one place.

The council unanimously agreed to subscribe.

Action: Clerk

8. Traffic Calming for Birdham

The council had asked Mr David Thomson to prepare a proposal concerning a 20mph speed limit for Church Lane and Crooked Lane (and tributaries). (Attached). Mr Thomson has also liaised with other harbour villages. Bosham has been trying for years to get a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) limiting the speed.

Mr Thomson said that the blind bend in Church Lane without pavements is extremely dangerous for children walking to school. He said that he was seeking the support of the PC for his proposal. Cllr Pocock and Campbell support the idea. The problem is that there have not been any accidents here, which undermines the case, although other factors should be considered such as environment, cyclists, no pavements for children and other pedestrians.

Cllr Churchill said that other applications had been made previously and there is a long wait.

The Clerk advised the council not to start the project with an application for a TRO (which was expensive c£9000) when it was unlikely to succeed (because the roads are not known danger spots with high accident rates). It might be better to start with a volunteer traffic calming group signed up to the Community Speedwatch Initiative run by the police. (Training is required). Repeat offenders reported through the CS are prosecuted by the police. The group would have to invest in a Speed Indicator Device (SID), but all the data gathered by the device is used to prosecute and create evidence if ultimately a TRO is required.

Another way of slowing traffic down is to use "effects" which were first used by Ben Hamilton Baillie. Rogate has implemented one of his plans.

The clerk suggested inviting another council who has had a lot of success with this to come and talk to Birdham.

Cllr Montyn said that East Wittering were also starting out on this route.

Cllr Campbell thanked Mr Thomson for all his hard work. It was suggested that an article on the subject be written in the newsletter.

Action: Clerk

(Cllr Montyn left the meeting at 8.50pm).

9. Reports:

- i. Play area and playing field
 - a) Cllr Richardson to report on goal mouths.

Cllr Richardson said that the parents had now come back with a preference for combined football/rugby posts. Three quotes are to be acquired and Cllr Richardson had looked at the cost of a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) which start at about £60K.

In any case with the state of the playing field and the lack of drainage there wasn't much that could be done. Cllr Pocock was of the view that nothing should be done until residents started showing an interest.

The issue of draining the field was discussed. At least one quote had been obtained but the council did not have enough money. If draining the field was a possibility Ray Drabble should be kept informed as it might have an impact further down the flow line.

The councillors asked the Clerk to let them know which monies were currently held in the accounts at Birdham for which projects and which monies could be available to the council. **Action: Clerk**

ii. Village green and pond/condition of Village Drain/Ditch network

The new gates to Triangle Copse look wonderful. The council will be receiving the invoice for those shortly and the invoice will be paid from the New Homes Bonus fund.

Cllr Firmston is working on an official opening of the Copse and Ponds in mid to late April. He has notified the owners and identified people to work with.

iii. Communication working group

Cllr Firmston asked those councillors who had agreed to write pieces for the newsletter to send him the copy. Other items to be included were:

- W Wittering Patient Participants group
- Councillor list
- Operation watershed
- Co-option of councillor
- Purchase of upper pool by Chichester Harbour Trust

It was agreed that church events could be listed under a "village events" section and posters could be helped with, but otherwise the Parish Council newsletter will remain as a council-only document.

iv. Community Resilience

Cllr Firmston will be updating the current plan (which dates back 18 months).

v. Manhood Parishes Action Group

There had been a very robust discussion at the meeting concerning housing numbers and needs in the Local Plan review. Gillian Keegan MP will take the questions forward to central government.

10. Reports of meetings attended by councillors

Cllr Firmston will be attending a Police and Crime Commissioner's Focus group meeting about policing on the Manhood. Any questions or observations please send to him.

11. Items for inclusion on the next agenda

- VE/VJ Day celebrations
- Planning applications in other parishes

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday February 17th 2020 at 7pm in Birdham Village Hall.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed: _____

Timothy Firmston - Chairman

Date: _____

Birdham Parish Council

Financial Statement as at 20th Jan 2020

	£	
Bank Accounts as at 1st April 2019	98111.43	
Receipts to date	121001.22	
Expenditure to date	68005.33	
Balance	151107.32	
Represented by;		
Current Account (Barclays Community A/c)	24362.26	
Deposit Account (Barclays Premium Business A/c)	120607.79	
National Savings	7041.84	
Total	152011.89	
Less		
Reserve @ 50% of Precept	21063.13	
Loan Reserve for half year		
Outstanding Cheque/s -		
Total	21063.13	
Ringfenced Funds		
Op Watershed		
Culvert Maintenance	2300.00	
Catchment pond improvement fund	1900.00	
Adams bequest (Fencing)	1550.00	
CIL Payments	68873.94	
Total	74623.94	
Available Funds	Total	54668.28

Signed *IXWhitaker*

Clerk to the Council
20th January 2020

Payments to be considered

B Geary (Litter Picking)	70.00
Cllr Firmston (Recruitment Interview Expenses)	20.99
SSE	636.98
access by design	24.00
Total	751.97

Proposal for 20mph zone, Birdham Village

A 20mph limit has been discussed at Birdham Parish Council previously. This proposal is for a 20mph zone for that area of Birdham Village served by Church Lane and Crooked lane. There are other streets in Birdham Village that might qualify, but they are generally cul de sacs, too short for excessive speed and to include them would increase the capital requirements. This scheme would require the 30mph signs at the A286 junctions to Church Lane and Crooked lane to be changed to 20mph. The zone lies within the Chichester Harbour Conservation AONB.

The mix of pedestrians, cyclists, invalid vehicles and pets with traffic travelling at 30mph in an area with few pavements and minimal street lighting is considered dangerous to users; particularly children, the elderly, cyclists and invalid vehicles. Also of concern are pets and wildlife. The topography is relatively flat thus making it accessible to people with mobility issues such as the elderly and people using invalid vehicles. Such users are uniquely vulnerable to fast moving traffic. The amount and speed of the traffic appears to have significantly increased in recent years, particularly delivery vehicles associated with online retail.

Salterns Way is a dedicated cycling and walking route connecting Chichester and West Wittering. The route uses those key roads in Birdham which form a significant part of the proposed 20mph zone. A particular hazard exists on Church Lane where there are no pavements and signage advises oncoming vehicles are in the middle of the road. It is understood that the England Coast Path will follow the route of Salterns Way which adds further weight to the need for a 20mph zone.

At 20 mph the consequences of any collision are much reduced. For pedestrians and cyclists it makes a huge difference, with casualties reduced by 20%. The reduced speed of traffic may also encourage parents to walk to school, especially important for their children gaining independence and getting exercise. The streets will be less noisy with less pollution with improved quality of life.

For car users the change from 30mph to 20mph would cause only a modest increase in journey times. The longest journey through the 20mph zone is approximately one mile, the introduction of a 20mph limit would increase journey time by a maximum of one minute. For those closer to the A286, the delay would be proportionately less.

The proposed 20mph zone complies with Department for Transport Circular 01/2013-SETTING LOCAL SPEED LIMITS, having more than 20 dwellings and the zone exceeding the 600m minimum requirements.

Plan

1. Petition residents and users of the proposed 20mph zone to measure the evidence for such a scheme.
2. Work with the police to establish a core group who have been trained through the speedwatch scheme to monitor traffic speeds.
3. Produce a map showing the 20mph zone and the anticipated revised signage.
4. Submit a proposal through the Birdham Parish Council to the relevant Highways Committee of West Sussex County Council

5. Liaise with other harbour villages, such as Bosham, to increase pressure on WSCC to act
6. Contact 20's plenty for information and guidance

Petition

We, the undersigned, propose a 20mph zone for Birdham Village. The area comprises Church Lane, Crooked Lane and their side streets.

The current 30mph limit is considered dangerous to other users including pedestrians, cyclists, pets and wildlife. Particularly vulnerable are children, prams, elderly and invalid vehicles. Most of the streets have no pavements and there is minimal street lighting. A particular hazard exists on Church Lane where signage advises oncoming vehicles are in the middle of the road.

The area lies within the Chichester Harbour Conservancy and is popular with visitors such as walkers, cyclists, children and pets.

David Thompson 28.11.19

Flood area map

