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Minutes of the Remote Meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
at 7pm

**Present:** Cllr Timothy Firmston (Chairman), Cllr Elizabeth Hamilton (Vice chair) Cllr Graham Campbell, Cllr Glover, Cllr Bush, Cllr Pocock, Cllr Churchill

**In attendance:**

The Clerk WSCC Pieter Montyn  
CDC – Cllr Graham Barrett 0 members of the Public

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**1. Apologies**

None

**2. Declarations of interest**

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

**3. Minutes – to agree and sign the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 meeting.**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Hamilton seconded by Cllr Campbell, and unanimously **AGREED** to be a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

**4. Public Question time from residents of Birdham in accordance with Standing Orders 1d – 11**

There were no members of the Public present.

**5. To receive a report from WSCC member for Birdham Cllr Montyn**

- a) Cllr Montyn presented the Transport Study of Strategic Development which forms part of the Chichester District Council Local Plan. The report was produced 2 years ago by Stantec (formerly Peter Brett Assoc) and WSCC is a consultee on this report. More houses equate to more cars so the Inspector will want to see mitigation of the impact on the road network through increased housing. (Any resident wishing to have a copy of the report should contact the Clerk.)

There will essentially be 4 junctions: Fishbourne roundabout; Stockbridge roundabout; Whyke roundabout and Bognor roundabout. There will be a few other modifications but those are the most important. Cllr Montyn said that a much closer examination of these reconfigurations needs to be undertaken. Two of the junctions will be “hamburger” style (where some traffic travels straight through the middle) and traffic lights will be used on all four junctions. Cllr Montyn said that there would be a lot of stopping and starting. For example, traffic coming from Fishbourne will have to go through two lots of traffic lights to access the A27; but traffic wishing to go east will have a further four sets of lights to negotiate.

From the Stockbridge and Whyke roundabouts there will be no right turns (hence the need for a link road). Traffic from Stockbridge wishing to go east will be unable to and will have to go through Chichester city. Similarly, traffic from Whyke will be unable to turn right and will have to go through Chichester City.

Anyone coming from the east will have to access Chichester much earlier (at Portfield). A27 users will benefit most. Chichester city will see an increase in traffic, and local traffic will have a worse time.

WSCC has asked for much more modelling and for studies on pollution and noise.

Cllr Montyn said that he was not chair of a committee; more of an informal working party that had been put together to investigate this, but he was insisting that more modelling be done.

The Highways England model will have to be updated from 5 years ago to take into account the effects further afield and in Chichester city. Cllr Montyn confirmed that the land at Fishbourne where the link road would go is owned by WSCC and leased to farmers. WSCC cannot make land available for housing and employment but could make a strip of land available for a road.

Cllr Pocock said that the only houses therefore to be serviced by this link road would be the 200 scheduled for Birdham. Cllr Montyn said Selsey would also be serviced by the road. He said that part of the justification for this link road had been the employment units but that will not happen now.

How many cars will be back on the road after Covid and how many people will work more from home is an unknown quantity at this time.

CDC had not taken on board the restraints and effects of all these houses on the area – they were just trying to fill the quota. The A259 in Nutbourne has applications for 296 houses on three sites.

Cllr Firmston asked what the Parish Council could do to help with traffic modelling etc. Cllr Montyn said that the Planners at CDC and at WSCC needed to be contacted and questioned about the feasibility. WSCC has asked for air pollution, noise, and link road feasibility studies.

Cllr Churchill said that the plan did not consider the health and wellbeing of locals nor has it paid any attention to climate change. Cars idling at multiple traffic light junctions would be producing more fumes – they have made no consideration for pollution.

Cllr Montyn said that there would no flyovers, nor tunnels - just junctions.

- b) WSCC Budget: Cllr Montyn reported that at the WSCC Budget meeting an increase in Council Tax of 5% was agreed. On a council tax band D property this would be an annual increase of £71.93.
- c) The Harbour Conservancy had submitted a strongly worded refusal for the planning application in Church Lane on the grounds of major development.
- d) The asked-for capital scheme for Crooked lane must be scoped and an estimate drawn up to see whether it is viable and feasible for WSCC to do.

Cllr Firmston asked if WSCC could now fund the mobile waste facility as they had not had to make so many savings given the grants from central government. Cllr Montyn said that the mobile site was not to be reviewed and the local parishes would still have to pay for it.

## **6. To receive reports from CDC members for Birdham**

### **Cllr Graeme Barrett**

- a) Cllr Graeme Barrett said that he will be asking for a timetable for completion and submission with regard to the Local Plan.
- b) He said that the chaos that would be caused by works on the A27 and disruption to businesses on the peninsula would be immense.
- c) He reiterated that another major problem on the peninsula and in Chichester was the sewerage network. CDC had written to OFWAT and Southern Water and CDC was waiting for a response. Cllr Barrett added that with the addition of the Southern Gateway project it was going to be chaotic. Rat-running through North Mundham would be rife.

Cllr Glover asked Cllr Barrett if CDC were looking at the impact of pollution in the light of the coroner's report on the death of a local child and the contributory factor of pollution. He said further work needed to be done on this issue.

Cllr Graham Campbell reported that he had attended a meeting with Gillian Keegan which had been less than satisfactory. Her response to the housing numbers was that they had to be accepted and that she was unable to go back to central office with a refusal. She had also been adamant that there would be no northern bypass. He had written to her after the meeting detailing everything that he had not been given the opportunity to say at the meeting. He had outlined that the road and sewerage were unsuitable for more houses and until there was a proper proposed plan to remedy that, nothing could be supported. No upgrade to the infrastructure had been done. Lack of infrastructure had been cited by the examiner in 2015 as a reason for reducing the housing numbers and he had agreed that no further houses could be supported by the current system.

Cllr Campbell said that Birdham and other peninsula parishes should continue to say no to further housing until the A27 works had been completed, and that they must keep fighting for that.

### **Cllr Elizabeth Hamilton CDC**

This evening there will be a Cabinet meeting discussing the budget which would be presented to full council.

She said that the All Parishes Meeting hosted by CDC had seen 97 attendees. Given the state of the roads that evening it was good to know that no one would have had to drive back in such icy conditions. She suggested that to continue with “Zoom” for the winter meetings would be beneficial for those living furthest away.

(Cllrs Montyn, Barrett left the meeting at 7.45pm)

## **7. 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 – the Clerk had circulated to Councillors the definitive list of current enforcements from CDC.**
- iv. Planning applications to be decided:**

Planning application number	Address	Details	Comment
BI/21/00129/DOM	Springfield 9 Burlow Close	rear garden verandah	NO OBJECTION
BI/21/00071/DOM	Kinderhook, Court Barn Rd PO20 7BQ	Erection of single storey extension to side and rear and new front porch.	NO OBJECTION
BI/21/00149/DOM	7 Florence Close Birdham Chichester	2 storey side extension	NO OBJECTION
BI/21/00075/TPA	26 Longmeadow Gardens	Reduce widths by 2m on north and east sectors on 1 no. Oak tree (T1) subject to BI/95/00032/TPO.	TO BE REFERRED TO TREE OFFICER AT CDC
21/00343/TPA	2 The Saltings	Fell 1 no. White Poplar tree (T1) subject to BI/90/00028/TPO	TO BE REFERRED TO TREE OFFICER AT CDC

### **v. Delegated decisions to be noted**

Planning application number	Address	Details	Decision
BI/20/02946/PNO	Land North Of Cowdry Nursery Sidlesham Lane Birdham PO20 7QW	Removal of current roof on agricultural storage and replace with steel pitched roof.	<b>Parish Council objected</b> <b>Decision: Planning permission required</b>
BI/20/02772/DOM	74 Crooked Lane	removal of metal shed and erection of workshop	<b>PERMIT</b>
BI/20/03248/DOM	Merrieweather 18 Greenacres Birdham PO20 7HL	3 no. two storey extensions and 1 no. single storey extension to the east elevation, erection of 1 no. shed and associated works - Variation of condition 5 from planning permission 3 BI/20/01237/DOM	<b>Parish Council objected</b> <b>Decision: PERMIT</b>

BI/20/02775/DOM	Cowdray Barn Birdham Road	Replacement external pool and single storey pool house	PERMIT
BI/20/02476/ELD -	Inchgower , Birdham Road, Birdham, PO20 7HS	rebuild front façade with alterations to fenestration	PERMIT

## 8. Birdham Neighbourhood Plan Review 2020 - 2035

- a) The group had received a draft report on the Call for Sites, which they will be discussing at their meeting tomorrow evening.
- b) They had had a further meeting with Aecom, who had been very positive and said that the group would get funding for legal advice on the covenants among other items. They had said that they would forward a list to the group but so far nothing has been forthcoming.
- c) 13 days ago, they had a meeting with WSCC about the Birdham Greenway and they were still waiting for feedback.
- d) The letter asking neighbouring parishes and groups to write to CDC and WSCC expressing their support for the Greenway had been sent out. At the moment Birdham is only asking for their written support, not a financial contribution.
- e) The group will also be looking at the Transport strategy document in their meeting tomorrow night.
- f) It appeared that CDC was going for the full housing allocation without argument.

Cllr Firmston thanked the group for all their work which he was sure would bear fruit.

## 9. Recreation Ground Drainage

The clerk had sent some further information to Ray Drabble at WSCC with photographs of the ground and a little history. She is waiting for a reply.

Cllr Glover said that it was worth bearing in mind that if you drained an area greater than 1 hectare a full flood risk assessment report was necessary. She said that any contractor would just put the water into the surrounding ditch network which could exacerbate the flooding problem in Crooked Lane near the school. She said that looking at the flooding issue would have to be a part of any work undertaken.

## 10. Parish Footpaths

Cllr Firmston had found 3 footpaths that could be lost, and a letter had been sent to the Ramblers Association for them to look in further detail.

- 1) Footpath from Crooked Lane and about opposite the village hall and passing down a track close to Lippering Farm to emerge on to the West Wittering road the B2179. There are no visible wooden finger posts;
- 2) Lock Lane to the A286;
- 3) opposite Mapson's Farm leading to Sidlesham.

Cllr Firmston asked that if anyone else knew of any paths that might be lost to let the Clerk know. (Cllr Hamilton left the meeting at 8.20pm)

## 11. Clerk's report

- i. CDALC extraordinary meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The following motion was proposed by Cllr Bush and seconded by Cllr Campbell:

**Motion:** that at the meeting the Birdham representative Cllr Firmston should vote to elect a new chair and vice chair for CDALC and vote to elect two new representatives for WSALC. Unanimously **RESOLVED**

- ii. WSALC : The following motions were resolved.

- a) **Motion 1:** That Birdham will withdraw its membership from WSALC in the event that it decides to leave SSALC.  
**Proposed by Cllr Bush and seconded by Cllr Campbell. Unanimously RESOLVED.**
- b) **Motion 2:** That Birdham PC votes **AGAINST** WSALC AGM Agenda item 8ii: the nomination of Cllr Oliver, Cllr Beal and Cllr Richardson as voting representatives at the Annual General Meeting of NALC  
**Proposed by Cllr Bush and seconded by Cllr Campbell. Unanimously RESOLVED.**
- c) **Motion 3:** that Birdham Parish Council votes **FOR** the WSALC AGM **Agenda item 9.1 Special Resolutions:**

- I. The Parish Councils of West Sussex instruct the Directors of WSALC as a Special Resolution not to purchase governance services from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils
- II. The Parish Councils of West Sussex instruct the Directors of WSALC as a Special Resolution to work with the East Sussex Association of Local Councils to re-establish a Sussex Association and to receive joint governance arrangements through a single service
- III. The Parish Councils of West Sussex instruct the Directors of WSALC as a Special Resolution to appoint a new Chair and Vice Chair of WSALC

**Proposed by Cllr Bush and seconded by Cllr Campbell. Unanimously RESOLVED.**

**Ordinary Resolutions:**

The ordinary Resolutions had since been removed from the WSALC Agenda by the WSALC Company secretary who deemed them illegal, therefore no decisions were required.

- iii.** WSALC EGM – in the event of an Extraordinary General Meeting of WSALC being called the following motions were resolved so that the Parish Council representatives had clear instructions on how to vote.

**Motion:** The Town and Parish Councils of West Sussex consider they have not been properly consulted about the West Sussex Association of Local Council's (WSALC) proposals to move away from the current model of services provision through the Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils (SSALC) to purchasing support from the Hampshire Association of Local Council (HALC). This process appears to have been deliberately withheld from member councils and has led to the other 2 County Association in SSALC having to make their own arrangements for their members. This has resulted in decisions being made in haste, with no clear demonstration of value for money, nor member support. Given the potential for many local councils to leave the Associations, this is causing considerable harm to the sector locally. In view of the lack of trust in the process, this meeting therefore instructs the Board:

1. To cease negotiations with HALC with immediate effect
2. To enter into urgent discussions with the East Sussex Association of Local Councils and the Chief Executive of SSALC to ascertain whether a one-year agreement can be reached to operate a pan-Sussex Association comprising the two County Associations and through this provide time for Member Councils to consider the best way forward to achieve value for money from April 2022 and should this be agreed to enter into such an arrangement
3. Request all District Associations to meet urgently to discuss this matter and their representation on the Board and to instruct those representatives as to how they wish them to progress the matter
4. Reconvene a further General Meeting within 4 weeks if working with East Sussex is not achievable, to consider the options available to Members and to agree a way forward.

**Proposed by Cllr Bush and seconded by Cllr Campbell. Unanimously RESOLVED.**

- iv. Motion:** to move the Birdham Parish Council Annual Meeting to Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to comply with the Coronavirus Act and hold the meeting by online platform. It was agreed to wait and see whether the government makes an extension to the Coronavirus bill nearer the time.

**v. Parish Council Properties and Leases**

It was agreed that Cllr Glover and the Clerk will have a look through the documents and come up with a plan of action.

Cllr Pocock asked if these land assets could be put on Parishes Online.

Action	Clerk/Cllr Glover
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- vi. Parish Council Representative for GLAM – Mr David Thompson.** Mr Thompson accepted to be the Council representative at GLaM meetings and to report back to the Parish Council.
- vii. Correspondence**
  - Police Special Enforcement unit will carry out disruption and enforcement operations on roads across the county, targeting those involved in serious, organised and violent crime.
  - As from the Summer a trial of recycling textiles and small electrical goods will be launched by WSCC. A separate recyclable bag will be issued and picked up from the side of the recycling bin every fortnight.
  - the clerk asked the councillors if they would like to receive Public Sector Executive magazine into their inboxes (covers Local Government issues nationwide).
- viii.** To approve the payments for consideration – the payments were proposed by Cllr Glover and seconded by Cllr Campbell and unanimously **RESOLVED.**
- ix.** Expenditure to date and Bank reconciliation – circulated to Councillors. Currently on budget. The clerk requested all bills to come in before next meeting so they can be paid from this financial year.

## 12. Councillor Reports:

### i. Play area and playing field

Cllr Churchill had notified the clerk about youngsters in the village kicking footballs against the already damaged playground fence. The clerk had produced some notices and Cllr Firmston will attach to the fence. Cllr Churchill said that the play area was being well used. The clerk has asked Lake Road Landscaping to mend the playground fence. Cllr Churchill asked for details about the repairs which need doing – clerk will send inspection report and list compiled by Cllr Firmston.

Action

Clerk

Unfortunately, the handyman that had been found to do the repairs has had to get another job. If anyone knows of a handyman who could do the repairs, please contact Cllr Churchill.

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

Cllr Firmston reported that the FLOW project which had been monitoring wildlife habitats was due to finish in June. If anyone has any comments to contribute to the three-year project evaluation, please send to Cllr Firmston.

### iii. Communication working group – no report.

### iv. Community resilience – no report

### v. Manhood Peninsula Action Group

Cllr Glover reported that a letter will go out to all Parishes from the group and at that point Birdham could evaluate whether to be more involved.

## 13. Reports of meetings attended by Councillors.

- Cllr Campbell previously reported the meeting with G Keegan MP in Item 6.
- Prior to the meeting Cllr Firmston had circulated his notes on the All Parishes Meeting to councillors

## 14. Items for inclusion on the next agenda

## 15. Date of next meeting

March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021

Cllr Glover mentioned the encroaching vegetation on Bell Lane footway which was too narrow for a pushchair or two people to walk side by side.

The clerk to see if it could be added to the sidings work currently on the list for WSCC.

Action

Clerk

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.09pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Firmston - Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Birdham Parish Payments for Consideration  
Meeting Feb 15th 2021**

**Balances on accounts:**

Current account	45653.73
Deposit account	100000
NS account	7092.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>152746.27</b>

**Received since last meeting**

Interest NS&I	50.7
	<b>50.7</b>

**Paid since last meeting**

betty geary	litter picking	70
I whitaker	Clerk's salary	719.85
nest	pension	52.48
zoom	video platform	43.17
I whitaker	council running costs	199.85
access by design	Domain management	24
pwlb	loan repayment	8591.04
Landbuild	Bank stabilisation The Saltings	17463.31
sse	street lighting	113.66
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27207.36</b>

**Payments for consideration**

betty geary	litter picking	70
I whitaker	Clerk's salary	719.85
nest	pension	52.48
sse	street lighting	66.75
playdale	grass lok	683.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1592.58</b>

**Birdham Parish Council Meeting of 15th February 2021**

**Bank accounts as of 11th February 2021**

Current Account	45653.73
Deposit Account	100000

National Savings	7092.54
unpaid cheques	
<b>Total</b>	<b>152746.27</b>

Opening balance 1st April 2020	136412.94
add receipts in the year	99996.35
less expenditure to date	83,663.02
<b>Balance</b>	<b>152746.27</b>

**Less**

Reserve @ 50% of Precept	25304.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>25304.00</b>

**Ringfenced Funds**

Op Watershed	2400.00
Culvert Ditch Maintenance	3500.00
Village Triangle Kingfisher ponds	512.00
Adams bequest (Fencing)	6500.00
CIL Payments	83990.66
NHB	4268.24
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	8908.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>110079.13</b>

<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>17363.14</b>
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Signed: *IXWhitaker - Clerk*  
*11th Feb 2021*