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Minutes of the Remote Meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
at 7pm by remote video platform

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

**In attendance:**

The Clerk	WSCC Pieter Montyn
CDC – Cllr Graeme Barrett	7 members of the Public
CDC – Cllr Susan Taylor	

**1. Apologies**

None

**2. Declarations of interest**

- i. Cllr Firmston declared an interest on Planning application 21/00477; and Cllr Glover for planning application 21/00148 as neighbours to the applicants.
- ii. There were no dispensation requests

**3. Minutes – to agree and sign the minutes 15th February 2021 meeting**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pollock, seconded by Cllr Campbell, 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 questions from the public

**5. CDC Local Plan: A27 traffic scheme and to discuss Birdham response to CDC**

Cllr Taylor CDC was asked to comment on the Local Plan progress with regard to the traffic scheme.

Cllr Taylor said that she was unable to discuss the Stantec report as it was confidential at this time.

Regarding the Local Plan the Local Development scheme (timetable of the plan) has been revised because of Southern Water and Highways England issues. CDC has been asked by WSCC to do a feasibility study on the highways scheme, and they have set out their requirements. Cllr Taylor said that by the summer CDC hopes to have an indication of whether the Local Plan as it is currently might be feasible.

She said that they were hopeful that the plan would go to regulation 19 (for public consultation) by Spring 2022.

The Chairman said that they were discussing the link road in particular and that they had been told that no consultation was possible. Cllr Taylor said that as part of the Local Plan they had had to do a transport study and Peter Brett Assoc had come up with the link road.

There had been a lot of opposition to the link road and Peter Brett had been instructed to see if there were an alternative and there had been no alternative.

She said that the opportunity for consultation would be when the revised plan went to Regulation 19.

She was asked whether the implication was that Highways could handle all the additional houses on the Peninsula?

Cllr Campbell said that what was now proposed was exactly the same as that in 2018 – the total number of houses was the same as then and the link road was the same. What made CDC think that anything would be any different? CDC was not addressing the real issue of increased housing numbers – and in a year nothing will have changed. Why wasn't CDC addressing the real issue? At the time that the Local Plan had been made CDC should have pushed harder for 435 houses and no more.

Cllr Montyn said that the Regulation 19 was not a consultation only for the link road but would be the consultation for the whole plan and that today the council needed to discuss its response to the traffic study. 5 other councils on the Manhood were giving their views on the Traffic Mitigation study – everything in the Peter Brett report. There was no alternative to this report.

Cllr Pocock asked if the report was any different to the Highways England Option 3? When they did their report, they said that Option 3 would make less than 5% difference to traffic travelling East to West but would increase traffic flow North to South. Cllr Montyn said that nothing had changed in the Peter Brett report; the drawings were still the same and it did not deal with the existing traffic problems, let alone any increase in traffic.

Cllr Bush asked Cllr Taylor whether CDC had done a cost benefit analysis of the link road? She said that they had not. He asked which specific benefits had been taken into account and were benefits that were not to the Manhood peninsula included in that appraisal? He said that if the link road was not going to be of benefit to the Manhood, but was to be of benefit to everyone else – were CDC suggesting that the Manhood should just sacrifice itself?

He asked what costs apart from the financial ones had been looked at – more specifically the costs of the additional traffic on the Peninsula.

He went on to say that in 2019 CDC declared a Climate Emergency – he asked how this traffic solution sat with 21<sup>st</sup> century problems of pollution and environmental damage, and the world that was being left behind for all children? How had these costs to the environment been evaluated?

He said that he was impressed with Cllr Taylor's inability to respond to any of these questions. Cllr Taylor asked for these questions to be forwarded so that she could respond more fully.

Cllr Glover said that given the delay to the plan on the infrastructure issues surely the date of Spring 2023 was not realistic? Was there not a possibility of an interim plan with reduced numbers?

Cllr Taylor said that they hoped by the Summer to have some idea if the direction of the Plan was feasible. She said that they must ascertain whether the housing numbers were feasible. She said that it was all evidence based and that the evidence would have to prove that the housing numbers could not be met.

Cllr Pocock said that plan had originally proposed higher numbers but 435 had been settled on promising improvements to infrastructure and the A27. Those suggestions had failed – traffic between North and South would be increased.

Cllr Taylor said that since the last meeting she had read the Examiner's report and that p52 – 56 showed that numbers had been reduced not because of infrastructure but because the Traffic study was out of date. The examiner had said that a new transport study needed to be done. The way the housing assessment was done at the time was different. This time round the calculation was made using a methodology imposed by the government.

The Chairman said that the report from Natural England - Chichester Harbour Condition Review - was very worrying. The author of the report said that the amount of discharge into

the harbour was unacceptable. The continued under-investment by Southern Water since privatisation in 1991 had caused this problem – what had been done to the infrastructure since that time?

Cllr Taylor said that the Environment Agency had said that Southern Water were not in breach of their permit. Cllr Barrett said that the decline in crustaceans spoke for itself which for an SSSI was unacceptable.

She said that CDC had to rely on the Statutory Consultees, but each time Natural England were asked for comments they did not reply. She was asked whether CDC had challenged the number of permits to Southern Water. She said that was not CDC's job. She said that the Environment Agency was the government body that oversees this.

The chairman asked her what Councillors were to reply when a resident told them that they had sewage coming up into their toilets? Cllr Taylor said that CDC was meeting with Southern Water about this.

Cllr Bush asked what Natural England said when CDC asked why nobody had objected?

Cllr Taylor said that she had not met with them personally.

The Chairman asked whether sewage coming up into a resident's toilet was sufficient "evidence" to show that any more development is not viable? CDC said that everything was "evidence" based, but when Parish Councils provided robust evidence CDC said it wasn't enough? Cllr Taylor said that they were aware of the problem and were referring it to Southern Water.

Cllr Bush said that all the housing allocation was being forced to the south of the district. He said that despite CDC's Climate Emergency declaration it was allowing the destruction of the climate and the environment all to bolster the Conservative manifesto. He said that if CDC asked the right questions, they could put together the proper evidence base – they could show that the housing numbers are destroying the environment.

Cllr Barrett said that both CDC leader Cllr Lintell and Cllr Taylor had been trying for four years but continually came up against a brick wall. He said that the houses were not needed as shown by the ONS data.

Cllr Campbell proposed that the Parish Council should write a letter strongly objecting to the traffic mitigation report. This was unanimously AGREED.

A Member of the Public Juliet Johnson said that it was time for the public to push back against the policies put out by the government. She thought that what Southern Water was doing was illegal and in her view there was collaboration from the other agencies. All the previously world-renowned crustaceans on the Manhood were being destroyed by pollution starting from many years ago.

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

Cllr Montyn said that in order to push back it was necessary for the local MP to be on board.

- a) He reported that most people will have received their Council tax bills today. The WSCC tax has increased by 4.99%. 3% increase for adult social care allowed by government without the requirement for consultation, in addition to 1.99% increase in council tax. Almost all of the extra covid costs have been covered by government grants. There have been some increases in allocation, for example to the children's budget (which accounts for 20% of the WSCC budget), and Highways and Environment have also seen increases.
- b) Crooked Lane flooding works – Cllr Montyn is in regular touch and WSCC have come to an agreement with their contractor WSP to assess the situation.
- c) The Harbour Conservancy has issued a draft policy statement about house boats in the harbour. This is still in consultation and if agreed will be Planning Policy 19. Cllr Montyn to forward to Clerk.

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

Cllr Hamilton reported on a talk given at CDC on Climate Change by a member of the Government Climate Change Commission. She was asked what a Parish could do to help? She listed some suggestions:

- i. Solar panels
- ii. Tree planting and less grass-cutting

- iii. "Green" homes grants for those in fuel poverty
- iv. Waste minimalism – to get to 70% reduction by 2030
- v. Car sharing
- vi. EV charging points in the village (village hall)
- vii. Local repair café in Birdham

Cllr Hamilton said that she would like to see these items on the monthly agenda.  
End of report

Cllr Barrett had forwarded the Members' Bulletin and had nothing further to add. Anyone was welcome to contact him with questions or enquiries.

End of report

(Cllr Barrett left the meeting at 8pm)

## 8. 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** – Rowan Nursery Enforcement notice 20/00350/CONT damage to protected trees. Breach ceased and case closed.
- iv. **Planning applications to be decided:**

Planning application number	Address	Details	Comment
: BI/21/00235/FUL	The Old Cottage, Birdham Road	Retrospective change of use of part of garden land to commercial business use	NO OBJECTION
BI/21/00094/DOM	Bay Tree House Westlands Estate PO20 7HJ	Conversion of integral garage to habitable space, single story side extension. Construction of a detached garage and storage. New front boundary wall and gates and replacement of drive surfaces	NO OBJECTION
BI/21/00477/TCA	St James' Church Church Lane	Notification of intention to reduce canopy by 2m on 1 no. White Poplar tree (q	Refer to CDC tree officer
BI/21/00148/LBC	The Hundred House Hundredsteddle Lane	repairs to roof above back door	NO OBJECTION
20/03125/OUT	Land south of Clappers Lane, Earnley	Outline Application for the erection of up to 100 dwellings with associated access, landscaping and public open space. All matters reserved other than access.	OBJECTION: It was agreed to support the Earnley objection. Every car going to development will go through Birdham. The development is next door to the development that already has sewage problems
BI/21/00334/DOM	Elmstead , Birdham Road, Birdham, PO20 7BX	build a wooden garden room	NO OBJECTION

### v. Delegated decisions to be noted

Planning application number	Address	Details	Decision
BI/20/03078	Ravenoak, Martin's Lane, Birdham, PO20 7AU	Proposed rear extension	PERMIT

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	PERMIT for variation of condition – blinds only for roof lights but not for other windows
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A request had been made by Gladman Associates concerning the development of the fields opposite Birdham stores for a meeting with the Parish Council. Cllr Campbell said that this company was a “no win no fee” obtainer of planning permissions and would exploit every opportunity to get planning permission. It was agreed that the council should meet them. Cllrs Firmston, Bush, Campbell and the Clerk to meet and explain the position with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Action

Clerk

### 9. House boats: design/planning permissions and meeting with representative for Birdham Marinas

Cllr Bush had sent a note to Shona Archer at Enforcement CDC concerning the houseboat in Birdham Pool. She wrote back to say that in her view these did not fall under the designation “boat” and would try to get it removed.

There is one in Birdham Pool , 3 in Chichester Marina.

The Secretary of the Birdham Pool Berth Holders Association intended to circulate a link to the Conservancy Consultation to all members. He asked how many “houseboats” were being planned? This is not known. Given that several people in Birdham Pool and Chichester Marina live permanently there what is the legislation concerning them? He also asked if the Parish Council had had any approach from Birdham Pool concerning these houseboats. They have not.

The clerk had received a letter on behalf of Premier Marinas concerning the objection to the design of the houseboat on Chichester Canal. They have requested a meeting.

Cllrs Bush, Churchill and Firmston will attend on behalf of BPC; Cllr Hamilton for CDC and Mr Tony Monks.

Action

Clerk

### 10. Birdham Neighbourhood Plan Review 2020 – 2035

Cllr Campbell said that the Birdham plan was proceeding quickly. They had received a draft response from the consultants re the Call for Sites. They were progressing the grant for Technical support from Locality and were looking at the possibilities of the land bequeathed to the council next to the recreation ground.

David Thompson was making good progress with the Birdham Greenway.

The group feels very strongly about the housing allocation and had written to G Keegan MP. They received a “cut and paste” response. With the delay in the Local Plan, they feel that objecting to local development is going to be harder as there will be various multiple-house applications. They intend to keep objecting and fighting.

Cllr Hamilton thanked the group for all their hard work.

### 11. Recreation Ground

The Chairman had had a meeting with Dr Lodge, a consultant on drainage. He had dug holes and flown a drone and in his view the drainage of the field was feasible. The cost would be in the region of £70 - £80K. He talked about a wet scoop in the South West corner to encourage wildlife and possibility of earth mounds. No grants are available for the work, but he could identify contractors and it could happen between April and October any year.

Cllr Bush found it difficult to believe that the water could just be drained into the ditches without causing problems. Cllr Glover said that over a hectare and a Flood Risk Feasibility study would have to be done.

It was agreed that no decision could be made without consultation with the community – perhaps at an electors’ meeting.

## 12. WSALC and CDALC

Cllrs Firmston and Campbell had attended the AGM and voted according to the Council's instructions. The motions were all carried and WSALC was instructed not to pursue the contract with Hampshire. The board was changed, and Trevor Leggo will resume working for West Sussex with the support of Mark Mulberry. Talks are in progress with East Sussex.

Birdham Parish Council unanimously **AGREED** to reinstate its membership of WSALC. A reduced membership fee (10%) will be invoiced next month.

## 13. Draft scheme of Delegation for approval by Council

Cllr Firmston proposed, and Cllr Campbell seconded that the Scheme of Delegation should be adopted: Unanimously **AGREED**.

## 14. Clerk's report

- i) **Local Electricity Campaign** – the clerk had received a “copy and paste” response to the first letter to G Keegan asking her to support the Local Electricity bill. She has drafted a reply which refutes G Keegan's responses and asks her again to support the bill. Council agreed that the Clerk should send the letter.
- ii) **Correspondence**
  - a) M Kennedy had sent in a revised quote for grass cutting. There is an increase of 1.97%. It was agreed to continue with his services
  - b) Discretionary grants: there is a sum of £250 available. Any applicants should contact the clerk.
  - c) CDC taxi consultation. This concerns tightened security for users of taxis with increased DBS checks, and more frequent vehicle checks. The clerk will forward to the councillors to read; they can either respond or a collective response be prepared at next meeting.
- iii) **To approve the Payments for consideration**

Cllr Campbell requested that the council approve an additional bill for the Neighbourhood Plan Review group: £6090 + vat for the consultants. There will be one other bill to come before the end of March.

Cllr Pocock proposed, and Cllr Hamilton seconded the payments for consideration. Unanimously **RESOLVED**.
- iv) **Expenditure to date and Bank reconciliation**

At the beginning of the next financial year £3500 allocated to Culvert and Ditch maintenance will move into the reserved funds, making a total of £7000.

At the next meeting the clerk will give a brief resume of the spending of this financial year.

## 15. Councillor Reports:

### i. Play area and playing field

The funding for the goal posts will expire in 2022. The goal post should be bought and either installed or stored.

Action	Clerk
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### ii. Village green and pond/condition of Village Drain/Ditch network – no report

### iii. Communication working group – no report

### iv. Community resilience - no report

### v. Manhood Peninsula Action Group – the Neighbourhood Plan Review group are looking to liaise with MPAG.

## 16. Reports of meetings attended by Councillors

Cllr Firmston had circulated his report of the Manhood Peninsula Partnership. He said that the Chichester Harbour Condition Review was very worrying. The report can be read here:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5535304204419072>

Cllr Pocock said that in future when any councillor attended these meetings the issue of the Sidlesham Wastewater works should be raised, and questions asked about storm discharges into the harbour.

#### 17. Items for inclusion on the next agenda

- Discretionary grants
- Local Plan CDC
- Climate change actions
- Harbour Conservancy Houseboat consultation

#### 18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7pm by remote video platform.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.25pm

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

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

### Birdham Parish Payments for Consideration Meeting March 15th 2021

#### Balances on accounts:

Current account	£ 50,105.68
Deposit account	£100,002.80
NS account	£ 7,092.54
	<b>£157,201.02</b>

#### Received since last meeting

£ -

#### Paid since last meeting

betty geary	litter picking	£70.00
I whitaker	Clerk's salary	£719.85
nest	pension	£52.48
sse	street lighting	£ 95.10
playdale	grass lok	£820.20

**Total** £1,757.63

#### Payments for consideration

betty geary	litter picking	70
I whitaker	Clerk's salary	719.85
nest	pension	52.48
Fields in Trust	subscription	65
hmrc	contributions	7.38
a dover	grass cut and bus stop	50

**Total** £964.71

**Bank accounts as of 10th March 2021**

Current Account	50105.68
Deposit Account	100002.8
National Savings	7092.54

<b>Total</b>	<b>157201.02</b>
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Opening balance 1st April 2020	136412.94
add receipts in the year	106326.21
less expenditure to date	85,538.13

<b>Balance</b>	<b>157201.02</b>
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**Less**

Reserve @ 50% of Precept	25304.00
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<b>Total</b>	<b>25304.00</b>
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**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	10595.30
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	8658.23

<b>Total</b>	<b>116156.19</b>
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**Available Funds**

<b>Total</b>	<b>15740.83</b>
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Signed:

*IXWhitaker -  
Clerk  
10th March  
2021*