



Imogen Whitaker - Clerk & RFO to the Council
T: 01243 575094/E: clerk@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.birdham.org.uk

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 19th April 2021
at 7pm on a remote video platform

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

In attendance:

The Clerk WSCC Pieter Montyn
CDC – Cllr Graeme Barrett 5 members of the Public

1. Apologies

Cllr Clive Bush

2. Declarations of interest

- i. Cllr Tim Firmston for item 7iv BI/21/00833/FUL and for Item 8, as he is a Berth holder. Cllr Montyn WSCC and Cllr Barrett CDC both declared their membership of the Harbour Conservancy. Cllr Montyn is also on the Planning Committee of HC. Item 8.
- ii. Cllr Firmston was granted a dispensation to discuss the planning application and Item 8 but not to vote.

3. Minutes – to agree and sign the minutes of March 15th 2021 meeting

With the following amendments the minutes were proposed by Cllr Pocock, seconded by Cllr Campbell and unanimously **AGREED**. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

Page 3 para 2: “Cllr Taylor said that Natural England did not reply” (instead of “object”).

Cllr Taylor said that recently she has had a very productive meeting with the local area director of Natural England, and she hoped that in the future their responses to planning applications would be more rapid.

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

There were no questions from members of the public.

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

Cllr Montyn said that as there were elections coming up on 6th May councillors were currently unable to advocate any proposals. However, he reported on the very constructive meeting that had taken place with WSCC Highways and engineers WSP Consultants on the flooding issues in Crooked Lane. They had spent several hours looking into every manhole and gully on both sides of the road from the Village Hall down to Westlands Lane. They discovered a number of interesting gullies along St James. They also went down Church Lane and Cllr Montyn was able to furnish them with more photographs. They will return tomorrow to measure further and see what design options they can come up with. A lot of money will be involved as this is a capital project. It will not be quick, but Cllr Montyn will keep on it.

Cllr Firmston said that every time it rains a huge puddle forms across Church Lane opposite Garden Corner. Cllr Montyn said that they had mapped all the culverts and gullies until where the water switches direction to flow the other way towards the A286.

End of report

Cllr Firmston notified the meeting that the Mobile Waste Facility Unit to which Birdham is contributing is now operational and he encouraged residents to take full advantage of it. The precept

for Birdham was increased to 8% to include the additional £4500. Without this the precept increase would have only been at 0.16%. Cllr Montyn said that this increase for a tax band D property only came to the equivalent of two cups of coffee a year.

Cllr Firmston has suggested to WSCC that the names of the contributing Parish Councils should be listed at the site so that residents know what their precept is paying for.

The unit will be on alternate weeks at West Wittering and Selsey. The exact dates can be found here:

[Dates for Mobile Waste Unit Selsey and W Wittering](#)

6. To receive reports from CDC members for Birdham

Cllr Graeme Barrett

Cllr Barrett had forwarded the Members' Bulletin. Any questions please email him.

He had forwarded the update to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy to Councillors with important issues to be discussed. He asked Councillors to respond as soon as possible. The update had been written by Carolyn Cobbold. Cllr Firmston said that everyone had received the document and that he had read it. It is extremely detailed, and he had asked Jane Cunningham for an executive summary of the document to facilitate comment, but he had not had a reply.

Cllr Barrett said that many Parish Councils have already replied in support of the document. Some of the changes are due to climate change and a request for the minimum terrain level for residential building works to be raised from 5m above ordnance datum (AOD) to 7m AOD. Cllr Barrett said that this was important as they needed to make sure that this document was addressed as part of the Local Plan.

Cllr Pocock said that any document that raised the building level above 5m should be supported.

Cllr Firmston to follow up.

Action	Cllr Firmston
--------	---------------

Cllr Elizabeth Hamilton

Cllr Hamilton reported that the day after tomorrow Hertfordshire County Council would be taking the government to court to contest the illegality of virtual meetings. Return to face-to-face meetings when social distancing is still in place with wearing of masks etc is difficult. CDC has brought forward its AGM to come before the 7th May as the Council Chamber is too small for all the members and members of the public to be able to socially distance.

Cllr Susan Taylor

Similarly, Cllr Taylor said that as the council was in purdah, she did not have much to report.

Cllr Campbell asked her about the situation with Birdham Farm. They have already been granted one extension – is a second extension to be granted? Cllr Taylor said that the first extension was granted because of lockdown but at the moment they do not know whether the second extension is to be granted or not. Cllr Barrett said that currently they are looking at the end of June.

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** – the special CDC planning meeting on 21st April at 9.30am would discuss the Harbour Consultancy consultation on Policy 19. (To be discussed later in the agenda). Any councillor wishing to speak must register before 5pm tomorrow.
- iii. Updates on Planning Enforcements – there were none received**
- iv. Planning applications to be decided:**

Planning application number	Address	Details	Comment
BI/21/00697/FUL	Hérons, Westlands Estate	Demolition of existing property and construction of a new single dwelling.	NO OBJECTION
BI/21/00383/DOM -	Loxworth Main Road Birdham	single storey side extension	NO OBJECTION
BI/20/03280/TPA	rear of 21 Rowan Close Birdham	(E) 481727 / (N) 99311 Proposal: Crown lift by up to 4m (above ground level) removing lower limbs on south & south east sectors overhanging rear	TO BE REERRED TO CDC TREE OFFICER Comment that same tree as BI/21/00660

		garden on 1 no. Oak tree within Group, G2 subject to BI/83/00023/TPO.	
BI/21/00833/FUL	Premier Marinas	For details see below	OBJECTION – see below
BI/21/00189/FUL	Birdham Marina	Installation of a replacement houseboat at Berth No. 30 of Chichester Marina with Bluefield houseboat including installation of H-column cored and grouted anchoring system.	STRONGLY OBJECT - the design is not in keeping with houseboats - The mass and scale of the building is inappropriate - It is not in keeping with the AONB - It is destroying a heritage asset - If any more were allowed it would resemble a container park
BI/21/00660/TPA	17 Pipers Mead Birdham PO20 7BJ	Crown reduce by approx. 25% (all round) on 1 no. Oak tree (quoted as no. 1) within Group, G2 subject to BI/83/00023/TPO.	TO BE REERRED TO CDC TREE OFFICER Comment that same tree as BI/21/03280
BI/21/00861/DOM	Strathmore , Main Road, Birdham, PO20 7HU	Erection of single storey rear extension, installation of front and rear dormer windows and garage alterations.	NO OBJECTION

Details of BI/21/00833/FUL

Chichester Marina Birdham Chichester West Sussex Demolition of three workshops/sheds for the comprehensive redevelopment of the South-West area of the Marina comprising four purpose built buildings including marine related workshops, offices, storage, reprovision and extension of the retail (chandlery) and a cafe/restaurant together with an additional 23 car parking spaces, boat parking and storage and appropriate landscaping - Variation of Condition 3 of planning permission BI/12/00475/FUL - Class use variation on buildings A to D allowing greater flexibility in the use of the existing business units, to enable retention and creation of employment opportunities

Council Comment: This application goes against Policy 23 of the Birdham Neighbourhood Plan. “Retention of Businesses ...proposals that adversely affect businesses related to the Marine heritage of Birdham (i.e., Birdham Pool and Chichester Marina) will be discouraged. Support will be given to the retention of all business related to tourism, marine, horticulture and agriculture against any proposals for redevelopment or a change of use in accordance with Local Plan Policies 3 and 26....” The Council would wish marine-related trades to continue, and the lack of parking would create a real issue locally.

Cllr Hamilton had spoken to current tenants and their view was that the Marina was greedy with rents. Marine businesses only work for 8 months of the year. She said that boat sales had soared and are extremely popular. The rent of the former chandlery(which has no shop window) and which has been empty for some time was £50K a year.

Cllr Glover said it was a popular destination for children to ride scooters and bikes because of the relatively slow-moving traffic and that people went to the Marina to see boats. It would have a detrimental effect on Tourism.

The Marina is 91% full and the rents are unnecessarily high.

- i. Cllr Campbell asked what had happened to the proposed meeting with Premier Marinas. The clerk had written several times to Jonathan Hogan but they had not responded.
- ii. The clerk is to write to Cllr Taylor CDC asking for information on the Church Lane and the Bell Lane planning applications – what is the reason for delay.

Action	Clerk
---------------	--------------

- iii. Cllr Firmston gave an update on the Birdham Business Park application BI/20/02378/FUL - Lge Scale Maj Dev. Birdham Parish Council had objected to the application on the grounds of proximity to the AONB, size, location on site and nuisance to neighbours. The Dawson group had written asking for further reasons for the objection. Cllr Firmston had replied confirming the Parish Council objections. At the same time The Harbour Conservancy had objected on the grounds of the impact a new building would have on the protected landscape of the AONB. Cllr Firmston said that the AONB does not object to a floating container in the Marina which is within the AONB but objects to an industrial building which is outside the AONB. He said that the issue of the Harbour Conservancy's inconsistency of views on the inside and the outside of the AONB must be resolved.

He proposed that a letter should be written to the HC asking them to explain their decision-making process. This was unanimously **AGREED**.

Action

Clerk

v. Delegated decisions to be noted

Planning application number	Address	Details	Decision
BI/21/00129/DOM	Springfield 9 Burlow Close	rear garden verandah	PERMIT
BI/21/00075	26 Longmeadow Gardens	Reduce north and east sectors by 2m on 1 no. Oak tree (T1) subject to BI/95/00032/TPO.	PERMIT
21/00343/TPA	2 The Saltings	Fell 1 no. White Poplar tree (T1) subject to BI/90/00028/TPO	PERMIT
: BI/21/00235/FUL	the old cottage, birdham road	Retrospective change of use of part of garden land to commercial business use	PERMIT

8. Conservancy Houseboat Consultation

Cllr Firmston had forwarded a five-page document of comments to councillors. He will adjust and send to the clerk for submission before 30th April.

Cllr Hamilton said that the houseboats and lodges were definitely change of use and required planning permission. She said that Enforcement was looking into this.

Marinas are for boats to go in and out – not just sit there. It will end up resembling a large caravan park. In the WSCC agreement with the Marina it says that it is not for residential use. Couldn't this agreement be looked at?

Cllr Campbell said that there was the added problem of all the paraphernalia that comes with residency. There is not the space on the boat, and it gets spread out all over the Marina.

Cllr Pocock was of the opinion that there had been no approval given for “habitable sheds” in the Marina.

Cllr Firmston said that notes about the “floating lodges” implied that an outboard motor could be fixed to the lodge and it could go through the lock and float around the harbour.

The clerk will send a letter to Harbour Conservancy.

Action

Clerk

(Cllr Montyn left the meeting at 8.35pm)

9. Birdham Neighbourhood Plan Review Report – A27 document

The NP review is progressing slowly. The “Call for Sites” report is nearly completed, and the group expects to be able to put it out for public consultation soon – hopefully, the middle of June.

The grant from Locality expired at the end of March. Most of the funds had been spent but £1269.03 will be repaid. If needed a further grant can be applied for.

They have applied for and been awarded a further grant for technical assistance. They will now engage a solicitor to investigate the possibility of using the bequeathed land for development.

Birdham Greenway – they are still awaiting the visit of the PROW officer.

Sewerage: There has been a survey of recent housing developments (Tawny site) and many residents have complained of problems with sewerage. Cllr Campbell will write to CDC saying that somebody must take responsibility for this.

Action

Cllr Campbell

A member of the public said that since Piper’s Mead had been built, Bell Lane residents had had more and more problems with blockages in the drain run (foul water but which also takes the surface water) which goes down to Piper’s Mead.

A27 Traffic Survey response

Cllr Campbell had adjusted his response to consider everybody’s view, except that of Cllr Hamilton as she had said that the Government imposed the housing numbers. Cllr Campbell said that it was not mandatory for CDC to accept those numbers and he had said this in his response.

Cllr Glover said that a simple paragraph needed to be added to ask where the information was that the land for the link road was available, that the design had been approved suitable for a location which floods, that the funding was there, and that the road was deliverable. Until this information was produced how could CDC justify the legality of the housing?

Cllr Taylor said that the information would not be forthcoming as CDC were in the throes of doing the feasibility study at the request of WSCC. Cllr Glover asked then how CDC could have allocated the housing numbers without this information.

Cllr Taylor said that if the feasibility study showed that the Stockbridge link road could not be delivered then they would have to review the housing numbers. Cllr Campbell said that this had been going on for two years – why only now was it being done. Cllr Taylor said because WSCC had requested it. Cllr Glover said that this left the council open to judicial review. It was being used as part of the justification but that it was not deliverable. It was being done in the wrong order. She felt that this should be put into the letter.

Cllr Glover will draft a paragraph to add to letter.

Action

Cllr Glover

Cllr Campbell asked if the time scale was being evaluated. Cllr Taylor said that was part of the feasibility study.

Cllr Pocock questioned the validity of Cllr Taylor's comment which was at variance with the claims that were made in the local paper recently. He said that Cllr Taylor had said that CDC were doing a lot of work to provide the road which would prevent pollution in the Harbour and yet she had just said that there was no evidence at the moment that the road was viable. The impression in the paper was that it was a "done deal".

Cllr Taylor said that nothing was sure until the plan went to the examiner and he/she made their decision. Cllr Pocock was concerned about political statements being made which would come to be discredited at a later date.

Cllr Taylor said that a report could always be made to the Standards Committee at CDC if the council felt it necessary.

10. Chichester District Local Plan: update and actions to be implemented.

Cllr Taylor said that as the council was in purdah there was not much to report. The Local Development scheme was progressing.

There were no further questions.

(Cllrs Taylor and Barrett left the meeting).

11. Clerk's report

i) Annual Governance Statement

The clerk had previously circulated the Annual Governance Statement. There were no objections or queries. Cllr Campbell proposed, and Cllr Churchill seconded the adoption of the Annual Governance Statement. Unanimously **APPROVED**.

ii) Date of Birdham's Electors' Meeting – as the situation is still uncertain it was agreed to postpone making a decision

iii) New Homes Bonus Allocation – this year Birdham is eligible to apply for £5312. Any community group who wishes to propose something of benefit to the community should contact the clerk.

Cllr Glover proposed a toddler swing set for the play area which was supported by a member of the public. Cllr Campbell said that the play area was extremely muddy after significant rainfall and perhaps that should be looked at. Clerk will let the Village Hall know of the fund.

iv) Discretionary Grants – there is £250 available for any community group or charity. Applications to the clerk before June meeting.

v) Correspondence:

- CDC taxi consultation – clerk to log no comment
- Infrastructure Development Plan projects for CDC – needs to be evaluated and projects added or removed. For next meeting
- CDALC – Cllrs Campbell and Firmston to attend AGM at 7pm on 26th April
- A request for land availability to start a market garden. Cllr Pocock felt that this was not the council's business as it was commercial.
- Clerk had received request from resident for pavement to be cleared on A286. She will send to Chris Stark for addition to one already on their list

- Training for Councillors formally provided by SSALC will now be provided by Mulberry and Co (same team). Currently on line but will resume some face-to-face. Clerk will forward link
- Sussex Police and Crime Panel is looking for two independent Members to each serve a maximum 5 year term. Applicants should live in Sussex. The Panel has the statutory task of holding Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner to account. Interested parties to contact the clerk.

vi) To approve the Payments for consideration – there was an additional bill of £820.20 for Playdale to be added. The payments were proposed by Cllr Glover, seconded by Cllr Pocock and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

vii) Expenditure to date and Bank reconciliation. The clerk had previously circulated an overview of the previous year’s spending. Due to late invoices £5061.25 which should have been spent last year will now be paid from this year’s budget. However, the council finished the 2020 financial year within budget.

12. Councillor Reports:

- i. Play area and playing field** – the fencing around the playground has been mended and the “Grasslok” under the play tractor installed. Cllr Churchill said that the play area had been really well used by families this year – particularly those with young children.
- ii. Village green and pond/condition of Village Drain/Ditch network**
Four volunteers were working up at the triangle pond and sowing wildflower seeds.
- iii. Communication working group - no report**
- iv. Community resilience – no report**
- v. Manhood Peninsula Action Group**

Cllr Bush had attended the meeting as Cllr Glover had been unable to. Cllr Bush thought it was helpful but not as strong as Birdham would like. Cllr Bush is to have a meeting with Joan Foster this week – it was felt that less meek and more hard-hitting would be more beneficial. If, however, she does not take that on board it might not be a forum for Birdham Council.

13. Reports of meetings attended by Councillors

Cllrs Campbell, Bush and Firmston had attended a meeting with potential developers Gladman Developments Ltd. GA had informed them that they had a wonderful scheme of 160 houses for the site opposite the shop. This increase from 125 to 160 (125 was previous plan proposed two years’ ago) was because they could bury the power cables underground. Not everyone in the village had received a leaflet from them so could not comment. The councillors gave no indication of what they thought of the scheme, and just said that any planning application that came forward would be considered in the usual way.

14. Items for inclusion on the next agenda

Infrastructure Development Plan projects
Appointment of councillors to outside bodies

15. Date and arrangements of next meeting:

Monday May 17th 2021

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

Signed: _____
Tim Firmston - Chairman

Date: _____

**Birdham Parish Payments for Consideration
Meeting April 19th 2021**

Balances on accounts:

Current account	£ 115,816.87
Deposit account	100,002.80
NS account	£ 7,092.54
	£222,912.21

Received since last meeting

Groundwork	£ 46,664.00
precept	£ 27,400.00
	£ 46,664.00

Paid since last meeting

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

Payments for consideration

Betty Geary	litter picking	70
I whitaker	Clerk's salary	719.85
nest	pension	52.48
council running costs	3 months	236.17
zoom	3 months	43.17
m h kennedy	grass mowing	250.38
sse	street lighting	104.46
lake road landscaping	fencing	198
genesis	neighbourhood plan	2459.04
a dover	bus stop/grass cutting	100
ams	hedge cutting	1883.7
cdc	bin emptying	676.41
Action in Rural Sussex	subscription	50
Playdale	Grasslok	820.20

Total £ 7663.86

Bank accounts as of 16th April 2021

Current Account	115816.87
Deposit Account	100002.8
National Savings	7092.54

Total 222912.21

Opening balance 1st April 2021	148950.69
add receipts in the year	74064
less expenditure to date	102.48

Balance 222912.21

Less

Reserve @ 50% of Precept	27400.00
--------------------------	----------

Total 27400.00

Ringfenced Funds

Op Watershed	2400.00
Culvert Ditch Maintenance	7000.00
Adams bequest (Fencing)	6500.00
CIL Payments	83990.66
NHB	10595.30
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	1269.03
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	46664.00

Total 158418.99

Available Funds

Total 37093.22

Signed: *IXWhitaker - Clerk*
17th April 2021