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Minutes of the HYBRID Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
at 7.30pm at Birdham Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Timothy Firmston (Chairman), Cllr Pocock, Cllr Churchill Cllr Hamilton (Vice Chair)  
WSSC Cllr. Pieter Montyn, CDC Cllr Graeme Barrett and 7 members of the public

Unable to attend due to technical difficulties: The Clerk, Cllr Glover, 4 members of the public

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**Preamble.** The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and apologised for the delay in the start due to trying to reconcile the Zoom IT connectivity. He explained the recent change in meeting days of the week explaining that the Village Hall had a regular booking now for the third Monday evening of the month so the meetings had moved to the third Wednesday evening of the month. However, the Village Hall had double booked the room for the 21<sup>st</sup> July so the meeting was now being held on the fourth Wednesday for this month only.

A Parish Planning meeting was likely to be required in August for the most recent planning applications just received. One such planning application would be discussed this evening but no decision could be made.

**1. Apologies**

Cllr G Campbell, Cllr C Bush and Cllr S. Taylor CDC.

**2. Declarations of interest**

- i. Cllr Firmston declared an interest for BI/21/01668/Dom
- ii. There was one dispensation request for a planning application added to the agenda after its issue. BI/21/02040. Cllr Firmston is a berth holder at Birdham Pool. The councillors agreed the dispensation for one year, to discuss and to vote on any proposals.

**3. Minutes – to agree and sign the minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 meeting**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pocock, seconded by Cllr Churchill and unanimously **AGREED** to be a true and accurate record with the following amendment, and were duly signed by the Chairman. Item 5 paragraph 1, last sentence to read: "Cllr Montyn to take up with WSSC".

**4. Public question Time from residents of Birdham in accordance with Standing Ordwers 1d - 11.**

A resident asked why white paint markings were used round road potholes and road faults that then faded before the potholes were repaired leaving the issue unresolved? Recent examples were sited in Church Lane, Birdham

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

Sewerage had continued to be an important topic. Cllr. Montyn had been in contact with the CEO of Southern Water(SW), Mr. McAulay, at a semi-public meeting. The SW plans for the next five years will be from 2025 onwards. Foul water from the Manhood Peninsula is sent to the Sidlesham Wastewater Treatment Works.(WTW). Surface water infiltration continues to be a problem such as at the Pinks Lane, Birdham pumping station that requires a road tanker to be in place in anticipation of rainfall. This attendance often involves night duties.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> August Cllr Montyn and two other County Councillors will be visiting the Sidlesham WTW.

A recent planning application for 100 dwellings in Earnley was refused as the sewerage system was deemed to be inadequate for additional connections. Sewerage complaints were still being received from residents in Pipers Mead, Rowans Close and Tawny Close all in Birdham. In 2019 the Birdham Village Residents Association conducted a survey on these issues and the evidence should be available.

A group of ten Members of Parliament around the Solent area has been set up to further the sewage issues under the coordination of the MP for the Isle of Wight.

The surface water flows around the Pinks Lane, Bell Lane and the Hundredsteddle area were discussed.

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

- a) Cllr. Barrett reported that the CDC monthly edited newsletter continues to be circulated. Parking in the Witterings (East and West) has been an ongoing topic over the summer months. CDC Enforcement Officers have been on site and the amount of illegal parking has been reduced. West Wittering Estate has been involved in the traffic and parking activities.
- b) Discussions with the local Police and the PCSOs continue with their offer to attend parish meetings. The Clerk to forward the Birdham Parish Council future dates to the Chichester Police Sergeant, the PCSO for the Witterings and copy to Cllr. Barrett.
- c) The Boundary Commission of England has issued their proposals for redefine the constituency on the Manhood. This could involve splitting the Manhood north and south and moving the eastern parishes to a new constituency based on Bognor Regis.
- d) CDC is planning a motion to the Secretary of State for Transport for a reconsideration of all the A27 road improvement options including a northern bypass route.
- e) COVID 19 infection rates in the Witterings are increasing.
- f) Earnley Parish Council is to reconsider the Neighbourhood Plan for Birdham as it affects the Somerley Conservation Area.
- g) On Thursday morning 29<sup>th</sup> July CDC members will be briefed on the changes planned for the Local Plan Review. As the meeting will be held on the Zoom platform, the outcomes made will be delegated to the CDC Chief Executive to discharge as decisions by Zoom can now only be valid at in-person meetings. It would appear that the transport mitigation to enable additional building on the Manhood is now undeliverable / unaffordable for the proposed Link Road AL6 and the A27 junction alterations.
- h) Cllr. Montyn reported on the planned higher national parking fines as the current parking fines are not really a deterrent. Any changes have to be agreed by the Department of Transport.

## 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 – there were none received**
- iv. **Planning applications to be decided:**

Planning application number	Address	Details	Comment
BI/21/01633/DOM	1 Rowan Close	Retrospective erection of flue for a	No Comment but RESERVATION:

		wood burning stove to heat an existing wood cabin	The height of the flue will not clear the first storey windows of neighbouring properties and could cause smoke nuisance
BI/21/01668/DOM	The Kedge , 1 Oak Meadow, Birdham, PO20 7BH	Erection of single storey side/rear extension and associated internal alterations, conversion of garage into habitable accommodation and erection of detached garage and boat store	No objection but with the suggestion that the height of the garage/boat store be no higher than the dividing walls between the two adjoining properties
BI/21/01866/PLD	Houseboat Oyster Catcher berth 1	Garden building and bike/storage shed	No Objection
BI/21/01830/OUT - Lge Scale Maj Dev - Dwellings	Land Off Main Road, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7HU	(E) 482177 / (N) 99575 Proposal: Outline planning application for up to 150 dwellings (including 30% affordable housing) with community park, public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point. All matters reserved except for means of access.	Strong Objection - see below for details
BI/21/02040/FUL	Birdham Pool Marina	Change of use to enable the installation of 5 no. waterlodges to be used as holiday accommodation.	No decision taken. Extraordinary planning meeting to be held on 11 <sup>th</sup> August at 7pm to discuss See below for comments

v. Delegated decisions to be noted

Planning application number	Address	Details	Decision
BI/21/01301/DOM	10 Burlow Close	Proposed detached garden room in rear garden for ancillary home office/domestic accommodation use	PERMIT
BI/21/00833/FUL	Premier Marinas	Change of use to allow non-marine related letting and activities in existing buildings	REFUSED

**Planning Application BI/21/01830/OUT:** The Chairman read out the draft response prepared by the Parish Council. During discussion the following points were highlighted: sewerage capacity and the difficult planned vehicle access from the site on to the A286 road. WSCC Highways Planning has lodged a long reply on the CDC planning portal. For the planned SUDS scheme the question was raised as to where the moved water is diverted to, and then dispersed.

West Wittering PC, Earnley PC and East Wittering and Bracklesham PC wish to discuss the draft response. These Parishes are to engage their own independent traffic consultants to address the evidence of traffic on the Manhood and how planning applications should be considered.

**Planning application BI/21/02040/FUL Birdham Pool Marina:** no mention had been included by the applicant of using the Harbour Conservancy Planning Principles. Car parking at Birdham Pool was already an issue and this development would increase the problem with these “waterlodges” used by residents and for holiday accommodation.

Within the application there is a discrepancy concerning the location of the “waterlodges” within the Pool. Either they could be randomly spread through the Pool or they could be sited by the decision of the purchaser. If the latter, then for ease of access by the residents the “waterlodges” could be moored alongside the Causeway road and be very visible.

Although the planning application had been discussed no decision was made. A dedicated meeting would be held at the Village Hall on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 7pm.

## 8. Birdham Neighbourhood Plan Review 2020 – 2035 to include Sites’ Assessment report queries.

A resident raised the concern of several residents along Bell Lane and within the Somerley Conservation Area concerning the recently published Site Rankings and Site Recommendations as part of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Review. The resident stated there were major discrepancies and that the document should be removed from the NP website.

As a first draft of the document further comment and discussion can continue, including at a public/electors' meeting probably to be held in September or October 2021.

The resident reported that several householders in the Somerley area had concerns that the criteria used to evaluate the different sites had not been open for consultation before being used. The weightings used for each criteria did not reflect the status of a conservation area in line with the status of an AONB for planning purposes.

To conduct the site evaluation a consultant had been engaged and the suggested criteria to assess the sites had been amended by the NP Review Group and then passed on to the consultant to work on the evaluation.

It was noted that the approach used by the Review Group, the work of the consultant and the methodology for evaluating the sites had been agreed by CDC, overseen by an assessor and by the Government funding of the project to ensure it could be justified. Birdham Pool is a Heritage Asset and the above application if granted could change the character of the area. There had been no mention of the planned sewerage system for the "waterlodges" included by the applicant. "Waterlodges" moored close to existing berth holders could be problematic and the arrival of such structures could be the start of the Pool becoming a floating caravan park.

#### **9. Village Hall fencing – report from meeting to designate responsibility – Cllr Firmston**

Item postponed to the next meeting.

#### **10. To consider the Council response to WSCC Transport Consultation**

There is no mention of the A286 road through Birdham within the consultation document. A second webinar is planned for the 8<sup>th</sup> September and responses need to be completed by the 8<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **11. To consider the Council response to the Boundary Review**

The Boundary Commission England have proposed that the parishes of Selsey, Sidlesham, Hunston and North Mundham on the Manhood plus Tangmere move in to a new parliamentary constituency of Bognor Regis.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- The Manhood is identified as one peninsula.
- All the parishes on the Manhood focus on Chichester. It is difficult to travel to Bognor Regis. All the transport links are with Chichester.
- There are no community ties with Bognor Regis.
- School children attend schools on the Manhood, in Chichester or travel through Chichester to Midhurst, for example. Having two different members of parliament would reduce the accountability to parents/carers.
- Birdham would be worse off if half the Manhood parishes were to leave for another new constituency.

After discussion it was agreed Birdham would support the affected parishes in resisting the proposed move.

The Chairman to draft a response to be sent via the Clerk to the Boundary Commission England and the BCE Review Group within WSCC.

Action

Cllr Firmston.

#### **12. Quiet Lanes – report from David Thompson (GLAM)**

Mr. Thompson explained the purpose of Quiet Lanes of which there are none at present designated within West Sussex. Parishes need to support the concept which included users treating other users with respect for example. Quiet lanes are not a traffic calming method. Parishes will need to fund the signage and markers that identify Quiet Lane(s). The possible lanes in Birdham could be Crooked Lane, Martins Lane, Church Lane and Westlands Lane. One sign would be required at each entry point of this area. It was also considered to include Sidlesham Lane. Public / resident consultation will be required if the scheme is to progress. The actual expenditure required is not known at this stage.

### 13. Clerk's report

- i. **Future of the New Homes Bonus** the clerk to forward the consultation..
- ii. **Trees**  
To be discussed at the next meeting.
- iii. **Correspondence**  
Nothing to report
- iv. **To approve the payments for consideration.**  
The payments totalling £11407.71 were proposed by Cllr. Hamilton, seconded by Cllr. Churchill and unanimously **RESOLVED**
- v. **Expenditure to date and Bank reconciliation**  
The document had been circulated

### 14. Councillor Reports: To be reported at the next meeting

- i. **Play area and playing field**
- ii. **Village green and pond/condition of Village Drain/Ditch network**
- iii. **Communication working group**
- iv. **Community resilience**
- v. **Manhood Peninsula Action Group**

### 15. Reports of meetings attended by Councillors

To be reported at the next meeting

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

WSCC Transport Consultation

### 17. Date of next meeting

A Planning meeting to be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Parish Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September commencing at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy Firmston - Chairman

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

**Birdham Parish Council Payments for Consideration  
Meeting July 28th 2021**

**Balances on accounts:**

Current account	109074.69
Deposit account	100005.29
NS account	7092.54
	<b>216172.52</b>

**Received since last meeting**

**0.00**

**Paid since last meeting**

sse	street lighting	110.60
betty geary	litter picking	70.00
i whitaker	Clerk's salary	719.84
nest	pension	52.50
chi tree services	tree felling rec ground	3000.00
m h kennedy	grass mowing	255.30
a dover	bus stop/grass cutting	60.00
jnr computers	domain renewal/MS365 subs/IT support	1298.40
sse	street lighting	95.10
wsc	street lighting	1036.48
g campbell	sound equipment	109.71
		<b>6698.22</b>

**Payments for consideration**

betty geary	litter picking	70.00
hmrc	employer's contributions	5.31
I whitaker	Clerk's salary	719.84
council running costs	3 months	228.27
zoom	3 months	43.17
nest	pension	52.50
a dover	bus stop/grass cutting	110.00
pwl	loan repayment	8591.04
sse	street lighting	101.40
wsalc/nalc	subscription	513.78
m h kennedy	grass mowing	510.60
Fields in Trust	Membership subscription	65.00
g campbell	np website domain	71.80
St James' Birdham	graveyard maintenance	325.00
		<b>11407.71</b>

**Bank accounts as of 15th June 2021**

Current Account	109074.69
Deposit Account	100005.29
National Savings	7092.54

<b>Total</b>	<b>216172.52</b>
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Opening balance 1st April 2021	148950.69
add receipts in the year	84209.94
less expenditure to date	16988.11

<b>Balance</b>	<b>216172.52</b>
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**Less**

Reserve @ 50% of Precept	27400.00
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<b>Total</b>	<b>27400.00</b>
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**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

<b>Total</b>	<b>158418.99</b>
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**Available Funds**

<b>Total</b>	<b>30353.53</b>
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Signed:

*IXWhitaker -  
Clerk*