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Minutes of the of the Hybrid Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
at 7pm

**Present:** Cllr Elizabeth Hamilton (Acting Chair), Cllr Graham Campbell, Cllr Laurie Pocock, Cllr Bush  
**Present:** WSCC Pieter Montyn, CDC Graeme Barrett, CDC Elizabeth Hamilton  
**Zoom attendees:** Clerk  
2 members of the public (Zoom)

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**1. Apologies**

Cllr Firmston (on holiday), Cllr Glover (Covid), Cllr Taylor

**Absent:** Cllr Churchill

**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 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 meeting**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pocock, seconded by Cllr Campbell and with the following amendments were unanimously **AGREED** to be a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair. Item 5iv: should read “proposed development on the boundary of West Wittering”.

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

A resident asked about the proposed development off Crooked Lane. The Clerk had written to CDC planning department about the site but had received no reply. It was confirmed that no council taxpayers money was being spent – all the funding was coming from Hyde. Cllr Hamilton said that it was being dealt with by CDC by Cllr Hamilton herself.

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

- i. Cllr Montyn reported that the budget was passed last week by WSCC. The Operation Watershed funding is to be continued but with increased funding - £300 - £500K a year.
- ii. Cllr Montyn had attended the Appeal for Church Farm along with a number of local people. He said that the applicants fielded an ace team headed by Barrister Young; conversely the CDC team were not up to the mark. He had been in touch with Nicolas Bennet (CDC) about the S106 agreements as nobody seemed to know what was going on least of all the two women from WSCC. The public attending the appeal had put in a lot of effort to counter the application, something which CDC had not done. The applicants quoted “facilities for a town of 5000 people” lumping together East and West Wittering. Cllr Montyn said that Nottingham County Council partly owned Welbeck Strategic Land – he was appalled that another county council was looking to build on local land and that CDC should take this up. Welbeck Land aims to promote planning applications in the south of England, signed by a senior office from Nottingham County Council and they have 75% controlling interest .

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

- i. Cllr G Barrett had circulated the Members’ bulletin to all councils.

- ii. Referring to the Church Lane appeal Cllr Barrett said that the decision would be made on 26<sup>th</sup> April.
- iii. With regard to the Local Plan CDC had delivered nearly twice as many homes as those required. Most of these go as second homes – there is not a requirement for homes here.
- iv. There was to be a full council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March where all business would be discussed apart from the budget. The budget was discussed yesterday; there will be a £5 increase for Band D taxpayers
- v. CDC is finally going to employ a landscape officer. In this area CDC's performance has been quite poor. The officer will be employed on a two-year contract.

**CDC Cllr Elizabeth Hamilton**

- i. Cllr Hamilton informed the meeting that the CDC meeting next week required all questions to be sent in by noon on Friday.

**Cllrs Barrett and Montyn left the meeting at 7.43pm**

**7. Planning matters including appeals, applications and CDC delegated decisions.**

- i. **Notifications of new Planning Enforcement Notices** – the council had received notice to say that the enforcement order against the house Morello in Cherry Lane was to be reviewed. The increase in height is at least one metre and the Parish Council still requires a second planning application which was originally the requirement of CDC

<b>Action</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
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- ii. **Notifications of Planning Appeals** – Houseboat Gypsy which was objected to by the council has gone to appeal. Objections must be with the planning office before 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020

<b>Action</b>	<b>Cllr Firmston</b>
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- iii. **Updates on Planning Enforcements** – Cllr Pocock requested a proper update from Legal officer at CDC about the Birdham Travellers.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Cllrs Hamilton/Barrett/Clerk</b>
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- iv. **Planning applications to be decided:**

Planning application number	Address	Details	Comment
BI/22/00333/DOM	Farne House Court Barn Rd	Proposed single storey extensions including linked wing to south west with alterations to fenestration (alternative scheme to partially implemented planning permission BI/18/01100/DOM).	It was agreed ask applicant's agent to procure an extension on time so that the council can properly consider all the documents that are currently missing from the application.
BI/22/00408/DOM	Bay Tree House , Westlands Estate, Birdham, West Sussex, PO20 7HJ	Conversion of garage to habitable space with single story side extension. Replacing existing windows. Replacement of tile with weatherboarding at first floor. Erection of 1 no. detached garage/storage building. Replacement of drive surfaces. New front boundary wall and gates - Variation of Condition 2 of householder permission BI/21/02780/DOM - to allow for changes to include a front porch,	<b>NO OBJECTION</b>

		rear loggia and minor changes to the front landscaping	
BI/22/00457/DOM	Salthouse , Martins Lane, Birdham, West Sussex, PO20 7AU	new swimming pool, paved surround, screening and associated works.	NO OBJECTION

v. Delegated decisions to be noted

Planning Application number	Address	Details	Decision
BI/21/03007/FUL	Pict Fenn Court Barn Road	Replacement of the existing single family dwelling house with attached garage and separate outbuildings with a new single family dwelling house with separate outbuildings and associated landscaping works.	PERMIT
BI/21/03332/DOM -	20 Old Common Close, Birdham, PO20 7SE	erection of single storey rear extension	PERMIT
BI/21/03543/DOM	Creekside , 28 Greenacres, Birdham, PO20 7HL	Demolition of conservatory, front single storey extension in addition to consented scheme, reference 20/02589/DOM	PERMIT
BI/21/03446/DOM	5 The Saltings, Birdham, PO20 7JA	single storey side and rear extn	PERMIT

**8. Birdham Neighbourhood Plan Review to include report from CDC Panning Committee meeting Koolbergen Nurseries BI/20/02066/OUT**

- a) Cllr Campbell reported that the last meeting was two weeks ago. The group has written to CDC saying that too many houses have been allocated to Birdham.
- b) Regarding the bequeathed land there has been a development in that the executors had not engaged with the council as to whether they would allow covenants to be removed. Cllr Glover spoke to one who is still practising and in contact with the other executors. They had potentially scope to change the covenants on the grounds that the bequest should not be a burden. If it could be shown to be of benefit to the Parish (financially) there would be grounds for a positive discussion. The group is looking at how many houses could be built and whether there would be a financial benefit. If there was a financial benefit and the beneficiaries and executors agree, a deed could remove the covenant. Cllr Bush said that the worth needed to be established and whether it was viable. Cllr Glover said that the return had to be significant, or the executors would not release. Cllr Pocock said that someone needed to establish how many homes could be built and to convince the executors – money from the grant can be used for this.
- c) The draft design codes report: the group felt that it was just formulaic – a template with a few bits added. They have made amendments and returned it. There is another meeting with the company next Tuesday.
- d) Cllr Campbell spoke at the Church Farm Appeal pointing out that the A286 was the busiest road emanating from Chichester and carries 50% more traffic than all other roads which pass through a village. It has also suffered 7 fatalities in 5 years.

**9. Queen's Green Canopy Planting of Trees within Birdham – update and future care of saplings**

The planting of a walnut tree will take place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March by the Vice Chair Elizabeth Hamilton to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> day of the 70<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of the Queen. It will be planted between the hall and the play area.

**10. Harbour Conservancy Post – Councillor Bush**

Cllr Bush had looked at the job description in detail and was unable to commit to the post. A councillor from W Wittering is applying Cllr Nicolette Pike. When CDALC issues the nominations, the council will decide who to support.

- 11. Motion:** *This Council supports the petition launched by Association of Democratic Government and Lawyers in Local Government on 5 January with regard to remote and hybrid meetings. We agree to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling on the Government to change the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold such meetings when they deem appropriate within agreed rules and procedures.*

The motion was proposed by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Pocock and unanimously **AGREED**

Action	Clerk
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## 12. Clerk's report

- i) **Quotes for maintenance works – deferred to next meeting**
- ii) **Discretionary Grants** – there were three applications for grants this year and as usual the council tried to support local charities:
  - W Wittering first responders – allocated £100
  - 4 Sight Vision – allocated £100
  - Life centre – allocated £50

Action	Clerk
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- iii) **Correspondence**
  - It was agreed to send a further response the Boundary Commission review objecting to the splitting of the Manhood into two separate constituencies. CDC will be attending the hearing in Portsmouth. It was important to stress that there were no community ties between Selsey and Bognor Regis. Cllr Glover said that MPAG had written to the Commission as well. The clerk to send all correspondence to Cllr Campbell and Cllr Glover who will send the response.

Action	Cllrs Campbell /Glover
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- it was agreed that Birdham Parish council would support the Association of Play Industries bid for government to finance playgrounds in under privileged areas.

Action	Clerk
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- It was agreed that the Electors' meeting would be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at the village hall. Clerk to ascertain that hall is free.

Action	Clerk
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- iv) **Payments for consideration** – the payments for consideration were proposed by Cllr Bush, seconded by Cllr Campbell and unanimously **RESOLVED**.
- v) **Expenditure to date and Bank reconciliation – circulated.**

## 13. Councillor Reports:

### i. Play area and playing field

- most of the bequeathed land has been cleared.
- The Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Brownies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Birdham & Wittering group plus parents and residents spent the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> March planting native tree whips under the supervision of Jane Reeve of the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group. There was a total of about 36 people involved. Their work will benefit the wildlife and make the playing field a more attractive area for residents. The work achieved will be used towards the Scouts Environment badge. It was agreed that a thank you letter should be sent to Jane Reeve and the Scouts.

Action	Clerk
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- Cllr Hamilton will speak to the Hall about putting water butts in for easy watering of the saplings.

- ii. **Village green and pond/condition of Village Drain/Ditch network** – the next group clearance is planned for 15<sup>th</sup> March at 10am
- i. **Communication working group** – newsletter to be prepared and published before Electors’ meeting
- ii. **Community resilience – no report**
- iii. **Manhood Peninsula Action Group** - Cllr Glover reported that an MPAG meeting had taken place yesterday which discussed the appeal at Church Farm. The issue of the Welbeck Land Group and Nottingham County Council involvement (their pension investment group) was discussed. Louise Goldsmith had sent a letter saying that it was not ethical for a c to council to contribute to another council’s planning development. They also sent a letter to the Boundary Review commission. It was asked if BPC could write to Nottingham County Council and ask them how much they had earned from this?  
Cllr Bush felt that although this was alarming, upsetting and disingenuous it was also a bit of a red herring. He said that it was distasteful and immoral but not illegal. The appeal would be interesting and 125 local people were there. The barrister was agreed to be obnoxious and questioning everything.

**14. Reports of meetings attended by Councillors**

Cllr Campbell and Mr David Thomson had met with two members of the Boxgrove Traffic Calming group. They were extremely helpful. They had gone to an enormous amount of trouble collecting data for Boxgrove- measuring speeds for several years. They said that just changing speed limits was not enough. Cllr Campbell is organising a meeting with Mike Thomas from WSCC. Cllr Campbell said that it was an extremely complicated business.

**15. Items for inclusion on the next agenda**

- **Farne House planning application**
- **Suggestion of Scout hut on bequeathed land**

**16. Date of next meeting**

**The next meeting will be on Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 7pm**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.40pm

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

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

**Birdham Parish Council Payments for Consideration  
Meeting March 9th 2022**

**Balances on accounts:**

Current account	112258.08
Deposit account	100010.27
NS account	7093.25
	<b>219361.60</b>

<b>Received since last meeting</b>	0.00
	<b>0.00</b>

**Paid since last meeting**

betty geary	litter picking	70.00
i whitaker	clerk's salary	807.18
nest	pension	59.31
sse	street lighting	95.10
		<b>1031.59</b>

**Payments for consideration**

betty geary	litter picking	70.00
i whitaker	clerk's salary	807.18
nest	pension	59.31
Andrews	removal ball wall	80.00
Playdale	deposit toddler swing set	2361.32
		<b>3377.81</b>

**Birdham Parish Council Meeting 9th March 2022**

**Bank accounts as of 5th March 2022**

Current Account	112258.08
Deposit Account	100010.27
National Savings	7093.25

**Total** 219361.60

Opening balance 1st April 2021	148950.69
add receipts in the year	126364.63
less expenditure to date	55953.72
<b>Balance</b>	<b>219361.60</b>

**Less**

Reserve @ 50% of Precept	27400.00
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Total	27400.00
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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	15395.30
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	8020.00
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	46664.00

Total	169969.96
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**Available Funds**

Total	21991.64
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Signed:

*IXWhitaker - Clerk 5th March  
2022*