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Minutes of the of the Hybrid Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 14th June 2023
at 7pm

Present: Cllr Timothy Firmston (Chairman), Cllr Elizabeth Hamilton, Cllr Jan Devos
WSCC Pieter Montyn CDC Elizabeth Hamilton
6 members of the public.
Clerk and one member of public (Zoom)
Ms Susan Taylor – candidate for Co-option

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Cllr Churchill (unwell) and Cllr Salamons (holiday). CDC M Chiltern; CDC I Ballantyne.

2. Playing field – changes to layout of equipment to consider.

Mr George Shepherd, a young resident and user of the recreation ground talked to the Council of his views on how to make the field work better for everyone. He started by thanking the council for having installed the football goal posts and the new ball wall which were fantastic. He explained that he felt that a MUGA (Multi use games area) would be the best option for the field. He said that when the field was too muddy the MUGA would still be able to be used for basketball, hockey and football. He said that it would promote an active and healthy lifestyle for all residents of Birdham, encouraging them to do more sport and exercise.

He understood the environmental issues of a MUGA but felt that in the short term it would have a very positive impact on the village and would make sport more accessible.

Cllr Firmston asked him what he thought of a second pair of goal posts but set wider apart – perhaps 100m depending on the number of possible players. (The current posts are set at 36m for 5-a-side football). There could be up to 7 -11 of his friends playing at one time. He said it was also possible to have two separate groups playing at the same time at different goal posts.

Cllr Firmston commended George for his very articulate argument in favour of a MUGA and thanked him for having taken the time to share his ideas with the council. Cllr Firmston said that the issue of the mud and flooding on the field in winter would also have to be taken into consideration.

3. Co-option of Councillor

Ms Susan Taylor's application to be a councillor had been received and reviewed by the Council. The Chairman invited Ms Taylor to say a few words.

Ms Taylor said that although she lived in Itchenor a part of Itchenor was actually in Birdham Parish. She said that it was an important time for Birdham and the peninsula with all the planning applications and appeals that were happening. She said that these developments affect the whole peninsula and that it was important to defend the Parish and its environment.

Cllr Firmston proposed the co-option of Ms Taylor and Cllr Devos seconded. Ms Taylor was unanimously **CO-OPTED**. She duly signed the Acceptance of Office form and took her place with the council.

4. Recruitment of new councillors

Birdham Parish Council has an allocation of 9 councillors and still only has six seats filled. Cllr Firmston said that there was one more person who might be interested. It was agreed to put up more notices in public places. Particular projects can get people interested and involved who then decide to stay on the council. Perhaps something could also be put into the school newsletter.

Action

Clerk

5. Declarations of interest

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

6. Minutes – to agree and sign the minutes of 17th May 2023 meeting

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

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

A local resident said that he just wanted to voice his disappointment that Birdham village is no longer a community as it had been not so many years ago. The Hall used to be used for so many things such as Jumble sales, clubs; teas; events; the local history group. He said that something needed to be done. He said that the Cricket Club was active and that there were a few other clubs being set up. He said that the call for volunteers for Traffic Calming had got a few takers. He said that somehow Birdham needed to be made more of a community. He said that a more regular newsletter which contained local news was needed to get some effort and interest going. He also said that changing rooms could also be considered. The village was stumbling; there had been no real celebration for the coronation and there was no longer a real sense of community.

Cllr Hamilton said that when she had been canvassing for the election people had bemoaned the lack of community in Birdham. Monthly teas and sales of fruit and veg would be good. She said that the church café was open on Friday and Saturday mornings, but nobody knew it was.

Cllr Hamilton to discuss with Mr Wright some possibilities and find people to implement.

Mr Thompson said that he agreed with Mr Wright and that the lack of communication was key. There was no way of getting information. He said that people sometimes tried to support initiatives but when nothing happened, they gave up. There needed to be a way to unify school, hall, and church groups.

Cllr Firmston said that he would aim to produce a second newsletter for the autumn with more local news.

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

Deferred to later in the meeting.

9. To receive reports from CDC members for Birdham

Cllr Iain Ballantyne had circulated this report:

“ I thought I would send the following, in view of the number of resident enquiries about the speculative development opposite the Birdham Store.

It would be better to send the same information to the whole of the parish council following what was clearly a high level of interest in East Wittering. It will help to understand why flooding has become a recent issue and, to a lesser extent, why it has taken so long to get to an agreed plan.

I am still trying to get my head around the layers of complexity around planning law. To give you an outline explanation there has been some delay because of the election and subsequent creation of a new council, but that is now done of course.

The agreed plan has been subject to what are called section 19 consultations which are technical questions around issues of sustainability and the quality of the evidence (in an application) During this period, the officers have had to assess some 2,300 issues raised by 150-200 different individuals and organisations. That process is now completed, and we can submit the local plan to the Planning Inspector.

A further complication is that the Government has reviewed some of the criteria in the National Planning Policy Framework, the full report of which was expected in the spring of this year - so far not published.

Once this has been done it means that the need to have 5 years supply in the pipeline to get the plan accepted (by the DoE) will (we have been told to expect) be reduced to 4 years. Fortunately, CDC has over 4.6 years so that will put us in the position of not having to consider speculative and non-compliant applications, one of which is the site opposite the Nisa store in Birdham.

We will then have another 2 years to complete another 5 year plan whose parameters are set by the Government. On the face of it, this should be achievable.

To add to the good news the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, another national study, came out earlier this year and has effectively removed most sites on the Manhood.

I hope this gives you a useful briefing, but it would be foolish of me to commit to a timescale. My best guess is that it will still be some months before the plan is fully up and running. However, it should put us in a position to turn down applications that do not comply with the plan.

Finally, one of my personal objectives is to circulate a digest to all the Witterings councils on a monthly basis covering planning and other issues that come up, such as, say, event licences. It is in development, but it won't be until next month, prior to the meeting."

End of report.

CDC Cllr Elizabeth Hamilton

Cllr Hamilton said that she had attended several induction sessions to get to know the new councillors and gather information.

She had attended the CDC planning committee meeting today, the results of which would be discussed later in this meeting

10. To receive the Chairman's annual report **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT for the year 2022 -2023**

1. The Parish has promoted biodiversity with the work continuing with the three ponds and within Triangle Copse. Replacement tree planting took place on the playing field to replace those stricken by the drought in the summer of 2022. A walnut tree was planted as part of HM The Queen's Green Canopy. The continuing help from the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group is much appreciated.
2. For the playground a new toddler swing has been installed. Two practice goal posts on the field have proved popular with all ages. Other items are planned.
3. The monthly parish council meetings continue in the Village Hall, apart from the month of August, and the ability to join remotely on Zoom is used by some residents.
4. The review of the current Birdham Neighbourhood Plan has been completed with the intention of resetting how the residents would wish the village to develop and thrive given the pressure of additional housing numbers and the pressure on maintaining the AONB as a special and protected space. A new Design Code has been produced to aid applicants, architects and planners.
5. Discussions started on changing the traffic speed limit on some or all of the main road (A286) through Birdham and the roads leading to the neighbouring villages. The proposed Community Highways Scheme needs to encompass all the various elements and gain the support of WSCC Highways.
6. The parish council continues to examine and comment on the many and varied planning applications every month for large and small developments and building changes. The parish council continues to liaise and co-operate with the Chichester Harbour Conservancy on these and other matters.
7. Several planning appeals through the year has required a considerable amount of time to prepare and present each case against a proposed development or building change. These appeals are often lodged by well-resourced companies and developers using a range of expert staff.
8. The Electors' Meeting was held on Saturday 25th June 2022 at the Village Hall when 50 to 60 residents heard three presentations and able participate in a question-and-answer session. The presentations featured the Neighbourhood Plan, Community Highways Scheme and the future suggestions for improving the use of the playing field area.
9. Finally, I would like to thank the parish councillors and residents who carry out all this work and attend other events and meetings all as volunteers, ably assisted and guided by our Parish

Clerk, Imogen Whitaker. During the year Clive Bush decided to stand down as a councillor and we thank him for all his contributions. Jan Devos and Catherine Salamons joined as co-opted members.

Timothy Firmston. Chairman. 04-06-23.

Cllr Hamilton thanked Cllr Firmston for all his hard work as Chair over the years.

11. Planning matters including appeals, applications and CDC delegated decisions.

- i. **Notifications of new Planning Enforcement Notices -none**
- ii. **Notifications of Planning Appeals**
 - a second appeal notice had been received today for the Kelly's Nurseries application for 73 homes and the Parish Council submission had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The date of the appeal hearing is 5th July – before the next Parish Council meeting. Anyone available to attend the hearing should be at CDC offices at East Pallant House for 10 o'clock.
 - The Public enquiry for the Bell Lane development of 150 homes will be in September.
 - Birdham Parish Council had sent its objection to the Compulsory Purchase order for the path to the social housing development off Crooked Lane to the Secretary of State, and is waiting for a response.
- iii. **Updates on Planning Enforcements** – Birdham Traveller update (confidential) had been forwarded to councillors
- iv. **Planning applications to be decided:**

Planning application number	Address	Details	Comment
BI/23/01051 /FUL - Minor Dev - Dwellings	Court Barn, Court Barn Road	Replacement dwelling, outbuilding and associated works (approved under BI/21/02858/FUL and varied by BI/22/01621/FUL) - Variation of Condition 2 of planning BI/22/01621/FUL - To reference changes to increased height and depth of chimney, addition of a new window to west elevation at ground floor level and storage mezzanine to garage annexe.	No objection on condition that the new garage annexe and the new mezzanine is not used as an independent dwelling nor sold separately as one.
BI/23/00480 /ELD	Hillands Farm, Batchmere Rd	Existing Lawful Development Certificate for use of room in wooden cabin type building in a barn as dwelling.	Birdham Parish Council OBJECTS to this application on the grounds that the information is confused, inconsistent and insufficient. The words camper van, mobile home, barn and wood cabin are used with no time scale and no plan of the site has been provided. The affidavit supplied is insufficient. It is unclear when the occupation of the camper van then transferred to the occupation of the wooden cabin. It is suggested a site visit is appropriate to establish further information.
21/01830/OUT DCLG Ref No: APP/L3815/W/23/3319434	Land Off Main Road, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7HU	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.	SEE BELOW
BI/23/00909 /DOM	11 Greenacres, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7HL	First floor extensions to the east and west side elevations providing home office and gymnasium	SEE BELOW

21/01830/OUT DCLG Ref No: APP/L3815/W/23/3319434:

The meeting at CDC this morning was for CDC officers to determine on what grounds they would defend the appeal in September. They needed to secure and identify A27 improvements; public open

space/allotments; dispute the appellants view on housing supply which differed from the council view. With a 4.7 year housing supply there was a tilted balance in favour of the development. There was much discussion about congestion and of course, sewage. Only one of the 13 officers on the planning committee lives on the Manhood.

Finally, there was a vote of 5:4 in favour of the officers.

Cllr Taylor said that the officers had needed to decide on what grounds to defend the appeal as the reasons offered for the defence had not been viable enough. It was also important that the inspector did not consider CDC's grounds unreasonable otherwise costs would be awarded against CDC.

WSCC says the development should be refused because of drainage issues.

Cllr Firmston said that the Parish Council objection had been sent to all 13 Districe Councillors but only one had replied. As of 4th June, there had been 243 objections to the application and a further 50 today.

BI/23/00909/DOM 11 Greenacres, Birdham

Neighbours of the proposed extensions to 11 Greenacres attended the meeting. They said that these latest extensions would bring the build right up to their boundary and bring the property another 12 feet closer. Originally the distance between the properties had been 62 feet but now it was half that. Number 11 now completely fills its plot of land and is overwhelming the property next door. The result of this new addition to the planning would remove sunlight from number 9. Their own property is now dominated by the view of number 11.

Cllr Firmston said that no figures had been published so it was not possible to know the increase in footprint. The architect had said that both extensions will appear "subservient to the main building". The Harbour conservancy has not commented.

Cllr Taylor said that no other property in this development from c 1970s goes boundary to boundary. It was agreed to ask the Harbour Conservancy to comment.

It was agreed to OBJECT to the application on the grounds of over development of the plot to the detriment of the other houses, its overbearing nature and mass and scale of the development with the added extensions. The whole is detrimental to the original design of the development. It is within the AONB and within view of the harbour.

v. Delegated decisions to be noted

Planning Application number	Address	Details	Decision
BI/23/00963/DOM	Lockfield, Lock Lane	Swimming pool and plant house with associated landscaping	PERMIT
BI/23/00582/AGR	Carthagena Farm Bell Lane Birdham Chichester	Siting of a sustainable high flow agricultural irrigation reservoir following the decision notice on BI/22/01360/PNO.	PERMIT
BI/23/00735/TPA	Land South Of Chichester Canal Adjacent To Salterns Lock Lock Lane Birdham West Sussex	Tree works.	PERMIT
BI/23/00640/DOM	Farne House Court Barn Road Birdham Chichester	Glazed link between extension and pool house, and minor fenestration changes to main house.	PERMIT
BI/23/00779/TPA	Rear Of 14 & 15 Pipers Mead Birdham Chichester West Sussex	Tree works	PERMIT

12. Birdham Neighbourhood Plan Review

The Neighbourhood Plan and new Design Codes document have been put on the website.

Item 8 - Report from WSCC Pieter Montyn

Cllr Montyn apologised for his lateness as this meeting clashed with another on the peninsula. He had been trying to ascertain when Southern Water would undertake works for new sewer linings in Birdham as cited in their plans. They just didn't respond. It has to be done in the summer months. The sewer lining should reduce the amount of infiltration flow to the Pinks Lane Pumping station. Both Summer Lane and Sidlesham Waste Water Treatment Works discharge into Pagham Harbour. The Natural England report into Pagham Harbour by Kate Ball is underway. Pagham Harbour is seriously impacted by the discharges into the harbour.

Tomorrow Cllrs Montyn, Firmston, and Mr Graham Campbell and representatives from Appledram and Donnington Parishes will meet with WSCC Highways Officers to discuss traffic issues.

Cllr Montyn had forwarded the WSCC annual report on works undertaken on the PROW network for West Sussex.

13. GLAM – update

Mr David Thompson gave an update on the GLAM meeting. (Green Links Across the Manhood). GLAM is a subcommittee of the Manhood Peninsula Partnership run by CDC. Mr Thompson is the Parish Council representative. Whilst working on the Neighbourhood Plan, he had been assigned working on traffic in and around the village. As everyone knew there had been 7 fatalities on the A286 (mainly). Two of these were cyclists. His task was to try and find safe off-road routes for cycling (and now with electric bikes – this makes cycling available to everyone).

He met with the county representative and found that although there were a lot of squiggles on the map there were no definitive routes.

He collaborated with Ian Sumner and Peter Warbank to try and get some proper designated routes. Although it's called the Birdham Greenway it is actually in Donnington Parish. It has been established that a 2m wide route is viable – the only problem at the moment is the possible presence of water voles.

He said that the reason for bringing this to the PC was for it to be included in the Electors' meeting. They needed walkers, horse-riders, cyclists, wheelchair users – everyone to comment on available paths in the parish. For example, Salterns Way into the Marina is a very tight corner, and cyclists have to dismount – so it is not ideal. Another of the proposals is for “quiet lanes” too numerous to mention. The Parish Council needs to identify the quiet lanes (for example, Church Lane, Crooked Lane, Martins Lane). The whole idea merits a much wider discussion. The closing date for proposals is 1st September.

If the PC identifies the Quiet Lanes, then it could be proposed at the electors' meeting. Funding for this falls on the Parish Council.

14. New Scout Hut – update

Mr Alan Drew Chair of the trustees from the Village Hall said that the Hall was keen to issue a new land lease to the Scout hut for 50 years and they were supportive of their new build, so issue of the lease was moving forward.

Mr Drew took the opportunity to tell the Council that he would be stepping down as Chair of the trustees but that as there were only three trustees this might prove to be problematic. They are finding it impossible to find residents to be trustees. He said that there were two options:

- Hand the hall back to the parish council or
- A former trustee was willing to come back temporarily but was worried about the lack of support.

Mr Richardson had mooted the idea of having a working party of two trustees and two councillors to work out, over a year, a solution to the problem and see what the options were.

It was agreed to put this on the July agenda. Mr Drew said that if no solutions were found the PC would have to take the hall back.

15. Clerk's report

i) Correspondence

- The clerk asked if any monies had been spent on the coronation to claim back from the grant received from CDC. None.
- CDC are looking for Parish Councillors to sit on the Standards Committee. Cllr Taylor volunteered. Clerk will let Nicholas Bennett know.
- Local Electricity Campaign (which Birdham PC supports) have asked councils to write to their MP (Gillian Keegan) asking her to write to the Energy Minister Andrew Bowie, asking that he support Energy Bill clauses 272 and 273. **AGREED.**

- Fencing at hall: Lake Road Landscaping will be asked to quote for fence and gate repairs for the Village Hall, and Parish Council fence repair.
- Wildlife camera streaming at Triangle Copse. Cllr Firmston to ask Jane Reeve of the viability with regard to protecting the space.

Action

Clerk

ii) **Payments for consideration. The payments for consideration, with the addition of £450 to Chris Milford for Parish works were unanimously RESOLVED.**

iii) **Expenditure to date and Bank reconciliation – circulated.**

16. Councillor Reports:

i. Play area and playing field

Cllr Firmston said that the new see-saw, monkey bars and replacement suspension bridge had been installed by Playdale in the playground as well as the new ball wall by Wicksteed on the field. The new jubilee bench has also been installed but the older broken bench has had to be removed.

ii. Village green and pond

Cllr Firmston said that at this time of year the wildlife was just getting on with “living” and that the working party was having a rest. Moth trapping to identify species would be happening tomorrow.

iii. Communication working group – no report

iv. Community resilience – no report

17. Reports of meetings attended by Councillors

Cllrs Firmston, Salamons and Mr Campbell had attended an informal meeting with Broughtonwood Homes who are the developers for Birdham Straight House with regard to developing the bequeathed land.

Cllr Firmston had attended the MPP meeting and will circulate his notes later. There is a very high death rate for birds in Pagham Harbour due to avian flu.

18. Items for inclusion on the next agenda

- Spending of CIL money
- Village Hall
- Goal posts

19. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday 12th July at 7pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.31pm

Signed: _____
Tim Firmston - Chairman

Date: _____

Birdham Parish Council Payments for Consideration

Meeting June 14th 2023

Balances on accounts:

Current account	£ 104,956.04
Deposit account	£ 100,231.15
NS&I	£ 7,099.85

£
212,287.04

Received since last meeting

Jacksons Fencing
(Insurance claim)

£
2,492.61

£
2,492.61

Paid since last meeting

wannops

solicitor advice bequeathed land

£
720.00

betty geary

litter picking

£
70.00

imogen whitaker

salary

£
877.59

nest

pension

£ 64.00

mh kennedy and sons

grass cutting

£ 286.36

mh kennedy and sons

grass cutting

£ 298.56

satswana

data protection officer

£ 180.00

adrian dover

grass cutting and bus stop clearance

£ 95.00

broxap

jubilee bench

£ 1,015.20

sse

street lighting

£ 98.33

witterings medical centre

donation

£ 150.00

4 sight vision

donation

£ 75.00

Homestart

donation

£ 75.00

£ 4,005.04

Payments for consideration

Jacksons Fencing

height barrier repair

£ 3,291.13

betty geary

litter picking

£ 70.00

I Whitaker

clerk's salary

£ 877.59

nest

pension

£ 64.00

mh kennedy and sons

grass cutting

£ 597.12

adrian dover

grass cutting and bus stop clearance

£ 130.00

wicksteeds

ball wall installation

£ 2,406.19

wsc

street lighting

£ 1,137.28

playdale

playground installation

£ 4,867.01

jnr

ms365

£ 1,631.52

chichester tree services

cutting dangerous branch

£ 225.00

sse

street lighting

£ 101.40

£ 5,398.24

Birdham Parish Council Recon 14th June 2023

Bank accounts as of 8th June 2023

Current Account	£104,956.04
Deposit Account	£100,440.12
National Savings	£ 7,099.85
Total	£212,496.01

Opening balance 1st April 2023	£201,592.77
add receipts in the year	£ 35,287.91
less expenditure to date	£ 24,384.67
Balance	£212,496.01

Less	
Reserve @ 50% of Precept	£ 32,458.50
Total	£ 32,458.50

Ringfenced Funds

Op Watershed	£ 2,400.00
Culvert Ditch Maintenance	£ 14,000.00
Adams bequest	£ 6,500.00
CIL Payments	£ 83,990.66
NHB	£ 6,404.46

NP Grant Parish Land	£ 39,749.00
Car charging points	£ 1,500.00
Trees	£ 4,000.00
Ponds improvement long term	£ 2,000.00

Total	£160,544.12
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Available Funds

Total	£ 19,493.39
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Outstanding PWLB

Total	£108,150.80
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Signed:

*IXWhitaker - Clerk 8th June
2023*