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Minutes of the of the Hybrid Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 13th November 2024
at 7pm

Present: Cllr Timothy Firmston (Chair), Cllr Jan Devos, Cllr Gordon Churchill,
CDC Iain Ballantyne
Clerk and CDC Elizabeth Hamilton (Zoom) and 7 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllrs Salamons, Taylor and Hamilton – apologies accepted by Council.
WSCC Pieter Montyn

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest for matters on the agenda

3. Minutes – to approve and sign the minutes of 9th October 2024 meeting

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

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

- i. A local resident thanked the council for having tried to have the placement of the new EV charging sockets moved from in front of her house, as she is disabled and needs the space free at all times. Unfortunately, WSCC made no changes when meeting with the Parish Council chair, Timothy Firmston, and WSCC Pieter Montyn. The resident has written to WSCC to ask for a reconsideration, and she will also be writing to the MP.
- ii. Another resident asked about the planning application for 150 homes that had been withdrawn but was now back, but no information was available on the CDC planning portal. The application is a preliminary application for 134 homes and is currently in discussion with CDC. It has not yet been made public so for the moment there are no comments to be made.

5. To receive reports from CDC members for Birdham

- i. Cllr Iain Ballantyne reported that with the arrival of the new government some things were less clear with regards to the budget, but that CDC's reserves were in a slightly better position than last year, but information is still sought from the government to be able to budget correctly.
- ii. Planning enforcement: there is to be an administrative change to the way planning enforcement is run. Applications older than ten years will not be enforced, but instead the applicants will be strongly encouraged to submit a retrospective application and there will be changes to the right of appeal.
Cllr Devos asked about travellers who had been longer than 10 years on a site. They will also be strongly encouraged to submit a retrospective application.
- iii. The coastal path has successfully applied for a government grant of £9million. This will have an impact on sustainability, drains and ditches.
- iv. CDC is knocking down the public conveniences in Tower Street and they will be replaced with accessible single units which will be set in a more landscaped area.

Cllrs Ballantyne left the meeting at 7.15pm

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

- i. Planning Enforcement Notices – new and/or updates:** there were none received
- ii. Notifications of Planning Appeals –** there were none received
- iii. Planning applications to be decided:**

Planning application number	Address	Details	Comment
BI/24/02247/DOM	Dragonsfield, Westlands Estate, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7HJ	(E) 481888 / (N) 100604 25th October 2024 Single storey extension to south elevation linking dwelling and existing garage, refurbishment of existing property and alterations to existing garage, front gates, replacement permeable driveway and pool.	NO OBJECTION
BI/24/02186/PRELM	Land off main road Birdham	Reserved matters application for no. 134 dwellings.	Unable to comment – not in public domain
BI/24/01225/FUL	Tobias, Bell Lane, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7HX	Erection of 2 no. new dwellings with new access, proposed drop kerb and associated works. Alterations to existing dwelling including replacement of existing single storey rear extension with two-storey rear extension, changes to fenestration, alterations to external finishes and demolition of existing garage.	No objection on condition that no new access is opened onto Bell Lane. BPC to submit traffic data to WSCC
BI/24/02323/TPA	12 Rowan Close	tree works	Refer to tree officer
BI/24/02347/TPA	Beechway, Martins Lane	tree works	Refer to tree officer
BI/24/02500/TPA -	28 Rowan Close	Reduce height by 2.5m, reduce west, south and north sectors by 2.5m, reduce east sector by 3m, reduce major limb on north sector by 4m and remove sublateral limb (growing south-east) from major limb within Group, G2 subject to BI/83/00023/TPO.	Refer to tree officer

iv. Delegated decisions to be noted

Planning Application number	Address	Details	Decision
BI/24/01760/FUL - Minor Dev - Dwelling	Broomer Farm, Lock Lane, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7AX	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse and garage/annexe and erection of new dwellinghouse.	PERMIT
BI/24/00940/FUL - Minor Dev	Hundredsteddle Farm, Hundredsteddle Lane, Birdham	Staff accommodation (static caravan) for a seasonal agricultural worker	WITHDRAWN

The Chair moved Item 13 to here.

Birdham Traffic Regulation Order – update and public consultation

Mr Mike Evans, the lead on the Community Speedwatch team said that the Speed Indicator Device had now been moved on from Sidlesham Lane where the top speeds recorded had been 80mph and 78mph. In the last 10 days 9000 vehicles had been recorded going one way and 10,000 going the other way. 14% moving away from the main road and 27% towards the main road were in excess of 60mph.

The top recorded speed in Bell Lane was 107mph, and the last observations were in the 80mph. This traffic data will be supplied to WSCC.

The Police Community Speedwatch team receive notification of excess speeding and the offender receives a written warning. After three warnings there will be points on the licence.

Traffic Regulation Order for village lanes.

A significant number of vehicles travel over 30mph in Church Lane and top speeds are recorded at 50mph. In Crooked Lane past the school, there are still high speeds, and have been recorded at 48mph. WSCC are now keen to look at this data.

The first hurdle has been passed in that the Police have made no objection to the 20mph traffic regulation order.

Generally, the SID is working well, and acting as a deterrent, as well as indicating what the traffic problems are.

The TRO for 20mph has passed the first test and there has been no objection from the police. Now a public consultation has to be undertaken, and the team are awaiting more formal notice from WSCC.

On 15th June 2024 there was a meeting with Highways asking what sort of support should be presented. A petition was suggested, and further information could be obtained from Tracey Gillick at WSCC.

Traffic Regulation Order to introduce yellow lines at Kewells Corner, Church Lane and Pescotts Close.

There has been an excellent positive response, and the council thanked residents for responding. These are still being sorted.

7. Responses for Government consultation on remote meetings and proxy voting for Councils.

The councillors present responded orally to the questions which the clerk will submit on the government portal. Councillors can still respond individually if they wish.

Action

Clerk

8. Motion to accept Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2024 – 25.

Cllr Firmston reported that this would be an increase of £914.16 p/a for the clerk.

The motion was proposed by Cllr Devos, seconded by Cllr Churchill and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

9. Birdham Parish Council precept/budget setting for 2025 – 26.

The clerk had circulated the second draft, and the council discussed.

The precept setting was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Devos, seconded by Cllr Churchill, and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

10. To discuss initiating a youth project for Birdham with financial support.

The Clerk had circulated some initial findings and proposals. These are to be looked at by councillors and will be reviewed in February/March 2025. There is no budgetary impact on the precept for next year. Cllr Churchill mentioned the issues with GDPR for young people. This would be partly why professionals should deal with this through the local schools.

11. Grants and Funding – update on monies allocated to Parish.

The council reviewed the current status of the Parish allocations from S106, CIL and NHB. The clerk is to try and reallocate the NHB fund as the work to the bus stop on Bell Lane will not now be possible. Previously allocated funds will be spent over the next few months.

Following the Playground inspector's report a new carousel will have to be installed, as it has come to the end of its natural life. Quotes to be sought.

Action

Clerk

12. Birdham Village Meeting – update and final arrangements.

Cllr Devos said that neither she nor Cllr Salamons had received the Newsletter which gave details for the village meeting. She will take some extras and distribute.

Councillors should be at the hall for 9am to set up chairs and refreshments. The talk on avoiding scams will probably last 45mins to an hour including questions.

After that time councillors should be prepared to answer specific questions on the following:

- o Youth project/shelter – a picture will be on the screen of the computer – Cllr Devos (clerk to attend remotely).
 - o The use of the bequeathed land – Cllr Salamons
 - o The Chichester Local Plan – Cllr Taylor
 - o TRO on A286 and TRO in Birdham – Cllr Firmston
 - o Scout hut rebuild – Cllr Churchill
 - o Patient Participation Group W Wittering practice – Cllr Churchill
- Cllr Firmston will purchase coffee and biscuits.

13. Birdham Traffic Regulation Order – update and public consultation.

Already covered above.

14. To receive a report from the WSCC member for Birdham

No report.

15. Clerk's report

i) Correspondence

- o "Don't lose your way" footpath survey from 4 years ago has now been completed. Clerk to forward report to councillors
- o Operation Watershed at Appledram had been severely disrupted by two violent attacks on the contracting team on Thursday and Friday of last week. The man was verbally abusive and aggressive and drove through the road signs putting himself and contractors at risk; on the Friday he physically assaulted a contractor and drove his vehicle through the signage again threatening to set fire to the contractors' vehicle. The road has now been closed until the work is completed and a deviation is in place.

- There has been concern from a resident on the Hyde Martlett land in Blanche Close, as there is a hidden pond, with no fencing but badly overgrown.
- The clerk is in contact with Utility aid trying to get a cheaper electricity contract, as SSE has refused to issue new contracts.
- The leaders of WSCC have agreed to send a letter to the Secretary of State explaining the importance of the A27 to the economic well-being of the area.
- The next All Parishes Meeting for Councillors will be held remotely on 3rd February 2025.
- Scottish and Southern Electricity Network (SSEN) have issued information about their Priority Services Register in the case of a power outage. Residents with medical needs or very young families should sign up to the register.

ssen.co.uk/PriorityServicesRegister/ or call: 0800 294 3259

The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free support service for people who may be vulnerable. This can include factors such as age, health or disability, and people in vulnerable situations.

This is provided by energy suppliers and also by the operators of the energy distribution network. They each maintain their own register for their customers, and customers can simply contact their supplier to find out more and discuss whether they should join.

- ii) **Payments for consideration** – with two additions of £60 for Parish Online and £323.32 for MH Kennedy, the payments were proposed by Cllr Devos, seconded by Cllr Churchill and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

- iii) **Bank reconciliation – circulated.**

16. Councillor Reports:

i. Play area and playing field

- Cllr Firmston reported that the new footpath is delayed because of the weather and will now be installed sometime in 2025
- New “no dog” signs have been installed at the play area
- The Bequeathed land has been cleared of brambles – but they will soon return if not kept under control. Cllr Firmston to ask Jane Reeve to visit and give advice on biodiversity/trees.

ii. Village green and pond

- the plaque commemorating Birdham resident D Francis (the inventor of Scalectrix) has been installed on the green

iii. Communication working group

- the newsletter has been delivered to every resident in Birdham which amongst other items details the village meeting on Saturday 16th at 10am at the Village Hall for all residents.

iv. Community resilience – no report.

17. Reports of meetings attended by Councillors

Chichester Local Plan hearings were taking place and were open to the public. Cllr Firmston had quickly visited and reported back to the meeting.

18. Items for inclusion on the next agenda

- feedback on Village meeting
- Update on grants if any news

19. Date of next meeting: PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE A WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4th 2025.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed: _____
Tim Firmston - Chair

Date: _____

Birdham Parish Council Payments for Consideration

Meeting Nov 13th 2024

Balances on accounts:

Current account	£61,074.06
Deposit account	£131,933.44
NS&I	£7,154.78
	£200,162.28

Received since last meeting

CDC	CIL payment	£12,500.00
		£12,500.00

Paid since last meeting

betty geary	litter picking	£70.00
imogen whitaker	clerk's salary	£877.59
nest	pension	£64.00
hmrc	employer contributions	£64.65
imogen whitaker	council running costs	£253.79
Boxgrove PC	telephone contribution (50%)	£37.00
Boxgrove PC	SLCC sub (50%)	£114.50
sse	street lighting	£186.34
ICO	data protection fee	£35.00
ProcessMatters2	NPPF consultation response	£275.00
Adrian Dover	grass cutting and bus stop clearance	£95.00
Rospa Playsafety	playground inspection	£146.40
timothy firmston	cllr expenses	£93.03
		£2,312.30

Payments for consideration

betty geary	litter picking	£70.00
I whitaker	clerk's salary	£877.59
nest	pension	£64.00
ICO	data protection	£35.00
adrian dover	grass cutting	£70.00
ams contracting ltd	grass cutting	£1,207.50
selsey press	newsletter	£419.00
applecarte distribution	leaflet distribution	£145.00
mh kennedy and sons	grass cutting	£269.43
Health and Safety	signage play ground	£10.66
royal british legion	poppy wreath	£22.25
Andrews	clearance of bequeathed land	£725.00
		£3,915.43

Bank accounts as of 6th November 2024

Current Account	£61,074.06
Deposit Account	£131,933.44
National Savings	£7,154.78
Total	£200,162.28

Opening balance 1st April 2023	£147,709.91
add receipts in the year	£100,767.53
less expenditure to date	£48,314.86
Balance	£200,162.58

Less

Reserve @ 50% of Precept	£36,908.00
Total	£36,908.00

Ringfenced Funds

Op Watershed	£2,400.00
Culvert Ditch Maintenance	£17,500.00
Adams bequest	£6,500.00
CIL Payments	£68,710.20
NHB	£6,404.46
NP Grant Parish Land	£500.00
Car charging points	£1,500.00
Trees	£5,275.00
Ponds improvement long term	£3,000.00
Total	£111,789.66

Available Funds

Total	£51,464.92
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Outstanding PWLB

Total	£95,750.00
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Signed:

IXWhitaker - Clerk 7th November 2024