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Minutes of the of the Village Meeting (Electors' meeting)
held on Saturday 16th November 2024
at 10am

Present: Cllr Timothy Firmston (Chairman), Cllr Catherine Salamons (Vice-chair)
Cllr Jan Devos, Cllr Gordon Churchill, Cllr Susan Taylor
WSCC Pieter Montyn
Clerk (Zoom) and many members of the public

1. Talk on Scams and how to avoid them – Rich Moorey

Mr Moorey opened his talk by introducing himself as a former Police Officer who worked on SCAMS. He said that incidences of scamming are 43% higher than two years ago – becoming almost the biggest crime. He had some booklets on different types of scams that the public could take away with them. For the leaflet on webscams contact Chichester District Council.

Scammers are successful because people who have been scammed are scared, embarrassed, or ashamed to report it. But scammers are good at what they do so people should not feel ashamed, but should talk about it to everybody.

Police impersonation scams: this is when someone telephones you and claims to be a police officer – usually (but not always) from Manchester or Hammersmith police.

The questions to ask yourself are:

- a) Was the phone call/email/text unsolicited ie did you ask them to ring you? 85% are unsolicited – usually the police will only ring you if you have already had contact with them.
- b) When you get a call/text/email consider your situation at the time. The scammer doesn't know your situation, but you may fall into the category by chance. Mr Moorey gave the example of the text received by a woman who was asked for money by a close friend saying that she was in Spain and had had all her money stolen – could she send £2000. As it happened the woman's close friend had been to Spain the previous week, but had come back. Had she received the call a few days earlier, she might have thought it to be true. There are now for sale apps that imitate your voice – be careful that the person who says they are calling you is that person – always check up.

Another common “try” is someone will ring, asking you if your computer is running slowly and they can help. Computers run slowly a lot of the time – so you could think it's genuine but it's a try. Always check up by replacing the receiver, and then ringing back but only after you have heard the dial tone. Never ring back without hearing the dial tone first.

- c) BANK FRAUD – calls/texts/emails saying that they are from your bank asking you to move money or send money. Always check by replacing the receiver, pick up the receiver making sure you hear the dial tone first and then dial 159. This is a secure line set up by banks so that you can check immediately if the call/text/email that you received is genuine. You will be asked who you bank with, (Nat West, Barclays, HSBC etc) and then they will tell you if the call/text/email is genuine or not.

- d) ROMANCE FRAUD – this scam often “piggy backs” off other apps you may be using. For example, apps such as “Words with Friends” where you engage with other people that you don’t know. They will divert you to Whatsapp or messenger and start a conversation. They then start “grooming” you by text. Often people with this type of scam do not accept that it isn’t genuine, and refuse help. People end up losing their money, or the scammers could end up using your account to launder money.

If you are worried that it is a scam send the text to **7726**.

- e) COMPUTER FRAUD – make sure your computer is secure by using Authenticator codes. If you receive an email do NOT click on the link – this could open your computer to “ransome ware” being installed remotely, and giving the scammers access to your information.

Remember that scammers are very good at gleaning information about you.

Good ways to protect yourself are to use BT Guardian or Sky shield on the telephone systems. These filters calls and are a good investment.

Numbers to remember:
Call 159 for bank related scams
Send text scams to 7726

Other types of scams are being asked to put money into an orphanage in Malawi; taking part in draws where you could win a million, loft insulation – calling to say that they can check your loft insulation and remove foam insulation (at double the price and only half do the job), responding to games on the telephone where you call a number. The number will be on a premium line and will cost you between £15 up to £150.

To be sure that the tradesperson you wish to engage is valid, use Checkatrade or use personal recommendations.

Trading standards do a scheme called “Buy with Confidence” and they will tell you if the business is genuine or not. [Buy with confidence](#)

PROTECT YOURSELF

You can attach a notice to your front door/hall window saying that you do not open the door to “unsolicited calls”.

Mr Moorey was thanked for his talk and took some questions.

2. Birdham Community Speedwatch

Mr Mike Evans one of the coordinators of the Birdham Community Speedwatch group talked about the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to have a 20mph speed limit put in for the village lanes.

Mr Evans explained that the group had been trained by Sussex Speedwatch Police. The group uses a hand held radar and the registration number of those breaking the speed limit is sent to the police and they offender will receive a warning letter. On the third time they will lose points from their licence.

The group needs more volunteers for about an hour a week – please contact the Parish Clerk if you could spare the time.

A member of the audience asked about installing speed humps which would stop the problem. Mr Evans explained that there was a limited budget for 20mph TROs and that any road works were very expensive. Added to that there are no pavements and speed humps would render the road very difficult for wheelchair users, prams etc plus there are no lights at night making it even more dangerous for pedestrians.

Mr Evans said that the Police were informed when a Speedwatch session would take place. He confirmed that since they have undertaken this programme it has acted as a deterrent as drivers now know that it is an area that is logged, and speeds are consequently slower.

The Speed Indicator device (SID) is authorised to function in six different locations in Birdham and the speeds recorded have been very high. Sidlesham Lane 86 mph; Bell Lane 107 mph; Crooked Lane in front of school 45 – 50 mph.

The SID reports the direction of travel of the vehicles and the speeds. The School Safety zone is enforced by Police from time to time.

3. Traffic Regulation Order for yellow lines – Kewells Corner, Pescotts Close, Church Lane and St James Close.

A public consultation has started for those residents in the immediate vicinity of the above roads to put down yellow lines and stop people blocking the sight lines of these roads at school drop-off and pick-up. All comments to be sent to the Clerk on clerk@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed: _____
Tim Firmston - Chairman

Date: _____

**Birdham Parish Council Payments for Consideration
Meeting December 15th 2021**

Balances on accounts:

Current account	126410.02
Deposit account	100010.27
NS account	7092.54
	233512.83

Received since last meeting

interest	2.49
	2.49

Paid since last meeting

betty geary	litter picking	70.00
I whitaker	clerk's salary	719.84
d thompson	soil analysis	30.00
genesis	neighbourhood plan	1200.00
mulberry and co	training T Firmston	48.00
wsalc	parish online sub	84.00
adrian dover	grass cutting and bus stop	110.00

g campbell	software for np	103.29
sse	street lighting	104.46
mh kennedy	grass cutting	255.30
		2724.89

Payments for consideration

betty geary	litter picking	70.00
I whitaker	salary	807.18
nest	pension	59.31
Applecarte distribution	leaflet drop	145.00
Covers	hazard tape	5.81
town country planning ass	membership	90.00
Arun District Council	printing survey	480.00
sse	street lighting	101.40
lake road landscaping	fence repairs recreation ground	954.00
mh kennedy	grass cutting	255.30
		2968.00

Birdham Parish Council Meeting 15th December 2021

Bank accounts as of 10th Dec 2021

Current Account	126410.02
Deposit Account	100010.27
National Savings	7092.54

Total 233512.83

Opening balance 1st April 2021	148950.69
add receipts in the year	126363.92
less expenditure to date	41801.78

Balance 233512.83

Less

Reserve @ 50% of Precept	27400.00
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Total 27400.00

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	9950.00
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	46664.00

Total	171899.96
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Available Funds

Total	34212.87
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Signed:

*IXWhitaker -
Clerk*

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