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

**Present:** Cllr Timothy Firmston (Chair), 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

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### **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 web-scams 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 around them.

- a) 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:  
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 not. Always check up by replacing the receiver, and 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 get scammed with 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. With this type of scam, the victims often do not accept that it isn’t genuine and refuse help. People end up losing their money, or the scammers could end up using their bank account to launder money.

If you receive a link to a website in an email, you can use “Get Safe Online”’s free online check-a-website tool to see if a website is harmful or safe by visiting:  
[www.getsafeonline.org/checkawebsite](http://www.getsafeonline.org/checkawebsite).

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

If you are worried that a text you receive is a scam, or if you are not sure, send the text to **7726**.

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 for example, or taking part in a draw where you could win a million, having your loft insulation removed – calling to say that they can check your loft insulation and remove foam insulation (at double the price and only do half the job), or, one of the trickiest, is 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 to £150 for the call.

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.

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## **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. The 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 paint yellow lines and stop people blocking the sight lines of these roads at school drop-off and pick-up times. All comments to be sent to the Clerk on [clerk@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@birdhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 13.04pm

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

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