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Minutes of the of Birdham Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
at 7pm

**Present:** Cllr Timothy Firmston (Chair), Cllr Catherine Salamons (Vice-chair)  
Cllr Elizabeth Hamilton, Cllr Jan Devos, Cllr Gordon Churchill.

Clerk – zoom CDC Elizabeth Hamilton

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**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Iain Ballantyne and Cllr Mark Chilton  
Absent: Cllr Susan Taylor Cllr 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 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 meeting**

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

Item 5iii – the sum awarded to CDC was £2.9 million and not £9 million

Item 15i paragraph 3 – situated in Florence Close, not Blanche Close.

**Notes from Village Meeting:** The notes from the village meeting held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were proposed by Cllr Salamons seconded by Cllr Devos and duly signed by the Chair.

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

There were no questions.

**5. To receive a report from CDC member for Birdham Cllr Hamilton**

- i. Cllr Hamilton reported that at yesterday's cabinet meeting the District Council tax bases were discussed. In principle there are no empty homes in Birdham and the taxbase has gone up to 911 as opposed to 851 last year.
- ii. The shingle displaced by the storm is now being replaced (at Medmerry) with a grant from the Environment Agency for £100,000/3500 tons.
- iii. The council has adopted the Solent Bird Aware strategy which should be taken into account in planning decisions as the nesting of the birds is being damaged by increased development.

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

- i. **Planning Enforcement – new and/or updates** - none
- ii. **Notifications of Planning Appeals** – Appeal at Studcroft Farm dismissed – not sufficient sewage infrastructure.
- iii. **Planning applications to be decided:**

Planning application number	Address	Details	Comment
BI/24/02496/PA6ABE	Carthagena Farm, Bell Lane, Birdham	Extension for existing agricultural building	No comment

BI/21/01830	134 homes on Land off Main Road Birdham	CONSULTATION	Please see below under Clerk's report for details on consultation by the developer on reserved matters.
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Cllr Hamilton had attended the CDC Planning Committee meeting with regard to planning application BI/24/00727/FUL at Pinks Four, Bell Lane for Change of use of land for the provision of six pitches for gypsies and travellers including associated access tracks, parking and turning areas. CDC Councillor Iain Ballantyne spoke in favour of this application.

Cllr Hamilton spoke against the application as did the Agent for Mr Pick who lives next to the site. There are issues with sewerage and flooding. The committee deferred the decision until more information was supplied concerning the flooding and sewerage. It is a private lane, and there would be a net loss of biodiversity and the site is not in the settlement area.

**iv. Delegated decisions to be noted**

Planning application number	Address	Details	Decision
BI/24/02061/FUL - Minor Dev	Unit 5, Premier Business Park, Birdham Road	Refurbishment of the existing commercial unit	PERMIT
BI/24/01437	10 Pescotts Close, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7HD	Amended plans extension 500mm larger	PERMIT

**7. i) Motion to revoke agreement of precept made on 13th November 2024, due to increased costs.** The motion was proposed by Cllr Salamons and seconded by Cllr Churchill. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ii) Motion to agree Precept for Birdham 2025 -26.**

The clerk said the raised costs were the increase in Employer National Insurance contributions of 1.5%, and the lowering of the payment threshold to £5000; and the increase of costs from the IT provider of 55%.

However, with the increase of the taxbase these costs have been fully absorbed in the final figures leading to an increase of 10.68% in the precept and a weekly cost of £1.85p per week for a tax band D household.

The motion was proposed by Cllr Devos and seconded by Cllr Churchill. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**8. Birdham Village Meeting – feedback**

It was agreed that the delivery of the leaflets had not been thorough enough and councillors knew of several properties that had not received the notice. Perhaps next year use the post office? To be discussed. Also improve email list so that residents can be emailed a copy.

Action	Clerk
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There were 31 residents present at the meeting. The talk on Scams was informative and there were useful updates from the Community Speedwatch group and the Scouts.

Cllr Devos spearheaded a discussion about what could be done to engage young people in Birdham. There were a lot of useful suggestions and generally residents were in favour of offering more. It seemed to be a good format - half formal/half informal.

**9. Request by Scouts to install a marquee behind the Scout hut on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

The council had no objection to this but required assurance of the type of event.

Action	Clerk
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Cllr Churchill said that the scouts were needing information to be able to connect to the drainage system underneath the village hall car park. This was for rainwater and not effluent disposal. There seems to be no trace of any works or contacts with a contractor in the Parish Council records.

Cllr Churchill also said that it had been suggested that the EV Charging points should be installed on the WSCC highway but on the village hall side of the road, and then cars could park in the car park to charge. It seems that there has already been an agreement with Pieter Montyn and WSCC to

move the charging points from directly in front of the resident's home to further along. This would allow for the disabled parking space to be allocated.

**10. To receive a report from WSCC member for Birdham.**

No report

**11. Clerk's report**

**i) Correspondence**

- CDC have sent a request for more information about the usefulness of the Manhood Peninsula Project officer who is employed by CDC but whose salary is contributed to by all councils on the Peninsula. The clerk will forward to councillors after the meeting, for contributions. There are three sub-groups covered by the role – SWISH/CHASM and GLaM.
- the clerk had received a request from CDC to inform them of any community groups operating in Birdham. There are several at the church: youth group/knit and natter/lunch club. There is also a rambling group. Clerk to forward to CDC

Action	Clerk
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- the developers of the 134 houses on land off Birdham Road have started a consultation on reserved matters which will end on 20<sup>th</sup> December. All residents will receive a copy of the leaflet and are invited to comment.

**See appendix 1**

**ii) To approve the payments for consideration** – with the addition of a payment for £130 for grass cutting the payments were proposed by Cllr Devos, seconded by Cllr Churchill and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

**iii) Bank Reconciliation – CIRCULATED**

**12. Councillor Reports:**

**i. Play area and playing field:**

- Cllr Firmston reported that the installation of the second all-weather football has had to be postponed due to the inclement weather. It is hoped that it will be installed in the Spring.
- The council unanimously agreed to go ahead with the picnic shelter. The clerk is to verify the status of the bonded rubber mulch in terms of health and safety. The cost will be £16642 and will be paid for by CIL and \$106 contributions. It will be located at the end of the village hall and in front of the play area.

**ii. Village green and pond**

- Maintenance of the ponds is all up to date.
- Cllr Churchill asked if that when the council acquired a new bench it could be dedicated to Mr Barry Richardson.
- It was mentioned that the sign on the village pump commemorating the Queen's jubilee was broken and half of it lying on the ground.

**iii. Communication working group**

- In the next edition of the newsletter, Cllr Churchill asked for a notice requesting new trustees to be inserted. However, there will not be a spring edition and the next edition will be in October next year.

**iv. Community resilience – no report**

**13. Reports of meetings attended by Councillors – no reports**

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

**15. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2025.**

**The chair wished everyone a very Happy Christmas!**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.25pm

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

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

## APPENDIX 1: Developer consultation

### Bringing new sustainable homes to Birdham



#### Why have I received this leaflet?

- › The purpose of this leaflet is to advise you of a planning application which is currently being prepared for submission for 134 homes at Main Road, Birdham. The development will include a collection of beautifully crafted homes carefully designed for modern living. Working closely with the local authorities, the proposals seek to provide a new bespoke development that will complement the surrounding area. The application will be submitted to the Council following positive pre application discussions with the Council.

#### A landscape-led development at Main Road, Birdham

##### The Proposals

- › The development will also include 30% affordable housing with community park, public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and vehicular access from Main Road, Birdham. The proposals include enhanced cycle and pedestrian connectivity; a new network of play space and open space; ecological enhancements with wildlife corridors across the site; and, provision of energy efficient homes with air source heat pumps.
- › The Outline application, agreeing the principle and scale of development as well as a design code, was approved in February 2024 and this Reserved Matters Application will agree design details including landscaping, general layout, scale and massing.

## 01 A sustainable, landscape-led development at Main Road, Birdham

The purpose of a Reserved Matters Application is to define details of how the appearance, landscaping, drainage, layout and scale of the development will be developed in accordance with the Outline approval and Design Code. Access and transport arrangements for the site were approved as part of the Outline planning permission and are now under construction.

The Outline application included 150 homes however, this has been revised to 134 homes to allow for a higher quality design with more green spaces across the site. More detail on the site and its sustainable location are as follows:



134 high-quality new homes with 30% affordable



10-minute walk to Birdham CE Primary School



Within easy access to a range of local amenities



Provision of 3.12 ha. of public open space with Local Areas of Play and a Countryside Gateway



Connectivity to and enhancement of Public Rights of Way



100% Electric Vehicle Charging across all dwellings

### High-quality Design

New homes will be developed with a high-quality design across the site that respects the setting and local character of Birdham whilst presenting an attractive new development in accordance with the approved Design Code.

The Redrow Heritage Collection takes inspiration from the Arts and Crafts movement, taking forward its high-quality craftsmanship, beauty and attention to detail. Examples are shown on the last page.

### Green Infrastructure

There are three areas of Public Open Space within the site that will be accessible to both new and existing residents. One is an equipped area of play, the second is a Local Area of Play and the third, to the east, is a countryside gateway with semi-natural equipment.

The green infrastructure will deliver enhanced tree planting and links to these open and green spaces.

## 02 The Proposals



### Access

The main vehicular access to the site is off Main Road, to the northern corner of the site with an emergency access further along Main Road and has already been approved at Outline stage. As part of the approved design, we are proposing to install a signalised crossing (puffin crossing or toucan crossing) to assist the new development in reaching local services and facilities. There are also a number of cycle routes through the site and improvements to be made along Main Road.

### Sustainability

As part of the construction process Redrow will be implementing a "Fabric First" approach where we will be building energy efficiency into the very fabric of the homes using enhanced insulation, highly efficient doors and air source heat pumps which are far more energy efficient than gas boilers.

### **03 Redrow Homes are an established and experienced house builder**

Redrow is a leading UK premium housebuilder dedicated to giving people a better way to live. For nearly 50 years, we have been creating high quality homes and communities for our customers and local people, building over 100,000 homes across the country.

Placemaking, promoting biodiversity to deliver net gains beyond regulatory requirements and investing in innovative technologies to transition to a low carbon approach alongside the consistent delivery of award-winning, energy efficient homes to customers is built-in into every one of our developments.

### **04 How do I get involved?**

We are keen to hear your views on the detailed design of the development and open spaces. We have set up a consultation website at:

[www.mainroad.squarespace.com](http://www.mainroad.squarespace.com)

Please send your comments by email to [mainroad@lukenbeck.com](mailto:mainroad@lukenbeck.com) or by post to 59 Tower Street, Winchester, SO23 8TA by **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024**.



This leaflet has been prepared by Luken Beck mdp Ltd. on behalf of Redrow Homes Southern Counties



## Birdham Parish Council Payments for Consideration

Meeting Dec 4th 2024

### Balances on accounts:

Current account	£56,251.79
Deposit account	£131,933.44
NS&I	£7,154.78
	£195,340.01

### Received since last meeting

£0.00

### Paid since last meeting

betty geary	litter picking	£70.00
I whitaker	clerk's salary	£877.59
nest	pension	£64.00
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	£323.32
Health and Safety	signage play ground	£12.79
royal british legion	poppy wreath	£22.25
Andrews	clearance of bequeathed land	£725.00
parish on line	sub	£60.00
mh kennedy and sons	grass	£323.32
grant	St James's	£325.00
		£4,574.77

### Payments for consideration

betty geary	litter picking	£70.00
I whitaker	clerk's salary	£877.59
nest	pension	£64.00
Fields in Trust	annual membership	65
SSE	street lighting	394.86
		£1,471.45



**Bank accounts as of 28th November 2024**

Current Account	£56,251.79
Deposit Account	£131,933.44
National Savings	£7,154.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>£195,340.01</b>

Opening balance 1st April 2023	£147,709.91
add receipts in the year	£100,767.53
less expenditure to date	£53,137.61
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£195,339.83</b>

<b>Less</b>	
Reserve @ 50% of Precept	£36,908.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£36,908.00</b>

**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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£111,789.66</b>

<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£46,642.17</b>
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<b>Outstanding PWLB</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£95,750.00</b>
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Signed: *IXWhitaker - Clerk 27th November 2024*