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Minutes of the of the Hybrid Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 8th January 2025
at 7pm

Present: Cllr Timothy Firmston (Chair), Cllr Catherine Salamons (Vice-chair)
Cllr Elizabeth Hamilton, Cllr Gordon Churchill, Cllr Susan Taylor
In attendance: WSCC Pieter Montyn CDC Elizabeth Hamilton
Clerk (Zoom)

1. Apologies

Cllr Jan Devos

2. Declarations of interest

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

3. Minutes – to approve and sign the minutes of 4th December 2024 meeting

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Salamons, seconded by Cllr Hamilton and were unanimously **AGREED** to be a true and accurate record. They were 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 reports from CDC members for Birdham

- i. Cllr Hamilton had attended the Cabinet meeting yesterday and before the start of the meeting the CEO Diane Shepherd had talked about Devolution. The WSCC meeting to decide whether to submit an expression of interest was to be held tomorrow at 10.30am. There will be a new footprint for Sussex, and the WSCC elections would be put off for a year.
- ii. The Infrastructure Business plan was discussed. The police have asked for funds to install more cameras around Chichester district – principally numberplate recognition cameras.
- iii. The strategy for the homeless was reviewed
- iv. There will be training on the Biodiversity Net Gain and monitoring charges for 30 years will be asked for up front for new developments.

The chair moved item 10 to here – Report from WSCC member for Birdham

- i. Cllr Montyn referred back to Cllr Hamilton's report on police cameras. He said one was designated for the Witterings road but the actual location is not yet known.
- ii. Cllr Montyn had sent updates on the Almodington sewage leak to the clerk. Two thousand residents were affected by the sewage pipe breakage. Tankers were pumping for 4/5 hours per day. Cllr Montyn will have his usual meeting with Southern Water on 30th Jan and will make it clear to them that this kind of disruption cannot happen again. The pipe is two miles long and if it has broken in one place it may happen in another – what will they do to ensure that it does not happen again?

Cllr Montyn asked residents to let him know before the end of the month of any recurrent issues that they are suffering so that he can bring them to the attention of SW.

iii. **Devolution**

Cllr Montyn had sent several documents to the clerk which she will circulate tomorrow. As previously stated, the expression of interest must be registered by 10th January 2025 (Friday).

The government wished to see all local upper-tier authorities team together with others. Unitary authorities will be formed by grouping local councils together. If the Council does not choose to do it, it will be forced upon it at a later date.

WSCC, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove are proposing to submit together (population of about 1.7 million). Between times the work still needs to be done by the District Councils, but ultimately they will fall away.

The new authorities will be responsible for Strategic Planning, Transport (rail and road) and other portfolios will be devolved on them.

New Unitary Councils will be formed at a local level.

WSCC has drafted a letter expressing its interest and tomorrow at the Cabinet meeting they will ask members to support it.

The government will issue a public consultation later this month.

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/24/02688/FUL	The Boat House, Units 4 And 6, Building D, Chichester Marina, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7EJ	Retrospective (Section 73a) for the change of use of land and siting of mobile container to provide food & beverage with outdoor seating area.	NO OBJECTION
BI/24/02808/TPA - Tree Apps	Land North Of 10 To 29, Old Common Close, Birdham, West Sussex,	Prune back to previous pruning points on 1 no. Black Poplar tree (T18), subject to BI/97/00036/TPO.	REFER TO TREE OFFICER
BI/24/02866/PLD	Unit 1 Carthage Farm Bell Lane Birdham Chichester	Lawful Development Certificate [Proposed] for D1 medical/health use to include use as a small independent veterinary practice, in respect of Conditions 09 and 13 of planning permission BI/19/00444/FUL.	NO OBJECTION

Cllr Hamilton reported on the application BI/24/01422/FUL which is to go before planning committee next week. There have been thirty-one letters of support locally and one objection. The parish council is to submit its support for this application.

- iv. Delegated decisions to be noted

Planning Application number	Address	Details	Decision
BI/24/02323/TPA	12 Rowan close	tree works	PERMIT
BI/24/02347/TPA	Beechway, Martins Lane	tree works	PERMIT

7. Any urgent business not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

None

8. Request for Marquee on field – Scouts

The clerk had not received a response – to follow up

Action	Clerk
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9. Councillor training in planning

The clerk had received the list of training being run by WSALC and will forward to councillors.

Action	Clerk
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10. To receive a report from WSCC member for Birdham

Covered above

11. Clerk's report

i) Correspondence

- The government has issued a consultation on Standards and Sanctions in councils. Several years ago, the Standards' Committee had produced a detailed report in which they had recommended that sanctions be imposed on councillors for failing to adhere to the Code of Conduct. At the time, the Government had not adopted this recommendation. The government is seeking views from individual elected councillors as well as Council bodies – Parish, District and County. The clerk will forward to councillors to complete and will also complete on behalf of the Parish Council.
- The CDALC meeting 14th January will be attended by Cllr Firmston
- 9th March 2025 will be considered the Day of Reflection to remember the pandemic and its impact on communities.

ii) Payments for consideration – with the addition of the deposit for the shelter of £9985.43 the payments were proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Churchill and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

iii) Bank reconciliation – circulated.

12. Councillor Reports:

- i. Play area and playing field - none**
- ii. Village green and pond – usual flooding across Court Barn Lane**
- iii. Communication working group - none**
- iv. Community resilience – none**

13. Reports of meetings attended by Councillors – none

14. Items for inclusion on the next agenda

15. Date of next meeting – the next meeting will be on February 12th 2025 at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.59pm

Signed: _____

Tim Firmston - Chair

Date: _____

Balances on accounts:

Current account	£54,371.12
Deposit account	£132,266.56
NS&I	£7,154.78
	£193,792.46

Received since last meeting

interest	£333.12
	£333.12

Paid since last meeting

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

Payments for consideration

betty geary	litter picking	£70.00
imogen whitaker	clerk's salary	£877.59
nest	pension	£64.00
hmrc	contributions	£64.65
mh kennedy and sons	grass cutting	£323.32
		£1,399.56

Bank accounts as of 7th January 2025

Current Account	£54,371.12
Deposit Account	£132,266.56
National Savings	£7,154.78
Total	£193,792.46

Opening balance 1st April 2023	£147,709.91
add receipts in the year	£101,100.65
less expenditure to date	£55,018.22
Balance	£193,792.34

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	£45,094.68
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Outstanding PWLB

Total	£95,750.00
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Signed:

*IXWhitaker - Clerk 7th January
2025*