

## BIRLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 16 March 2011  
Birlingham Village Hall

### Welcome

- 1) Present: Councillors Hall, Reynard, Aston, Comins and Morris.  
In attendance: Councillor Adrian Hardman, District Councillor Davis, Footpath Warden and Tree Warden.
- 2) Apologies: None
- 3) Declarations
  - a) Personal - none
  - b) Prejudicial - none
  - c) Register of Interests – none
- 4) The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to all councillors, were amended. They were then agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 5) Democratic Opening – see below
- 6) Progress Reports
  - a) Footpath
    - i) Footpath 500 (Rough Hill orchard) The kissing gate had been replaced by the landowner.
    - ii) Footpath 509 (end of Whitehall Lane) The stile had been repaired.
    - iii) Footpath 515 (on track past Manor Barn cottages) The post had been replaced.
    - iv) Footpath 518 (Asham Lane) Trees had been cleared by the landowner
    - v) Expenses – refer to Finance

Michael Porter had informed the Chairman that pollarding was by the field only on Asham. The soil spread on Asham track was a County matter.

The Chairman thanked the Footpath Warden and the Tree warden as it was coming to the end of their term. Also thanked them for their physical efforts.

- b) District Councillor
  - i) Full extent of cutbacks to Wychavon District Council have been taken on board and the house is in order.
  - ii) The public toilets are to close at 6pm to make savings.
  - iii) 382 bus service – Informed of the meeting in Wadborough with Councillor's Paul Middlebrough and Rob Adams in attendance. The minutes had been sent to the press. Various petitions. Good attendance. An extra month has been given on consultation. It is hoped that the bus service will be reduced and not cut. Pressure on streamlining the County Council's services.

- iv) Pershore library – used by rural parishes. 60% live outside Pershore. There is no decision at the moment. The Civic Centre has been offered as an alternative site. The current building when built had won an architectural award. Believe the consultation is purely money driven due to the cutbacks.
  - v) Eckington Bridge is to close during the summer holidays to vehicles between 9.30am and 3.30pm. The remainder of any work will be finished next year but should not mean any further closure.
  - vi) Councillor Davis thanked the Parish Council for allowing him to serve and attend the meetings. Councillor Davis is standing for re-election in May.
- c) County Councillor – Apologies for being late
- i) Response regarding the 382. It is an important service bringing people in and out of the village especially for work. Asked the Parish Council to respond to the consultation because of its rural location risk. Birlingham could be severely affected if the service was lost.
  - ii) Pershore library. Review of library services. Pershore Town Council do not want the library moved. Under 30% of the users are from Pershore. Better to move or find another solution because of the cost of the repair of the building There is £1.4m to save out of the library budget. Some will be staff reduction from sharing premises. Asked Parish Council to make a response.
  - iii) Road issues. Chairman pointed out that the roads are like crazy paving and there is very little sub-structure. Councillor Hardman assured he was doing everything he could but there are other priorities. Actually saying that there is £12m in the budget not £15m as quoted in the leaflet. Already £3m spent on frost damage. He agreed there needs to be a push into rural roads. Councillor would give more comments at the May meeting.  
He is lobbying for us as well as Defford and Strensham. He agreed that Upper end and Church Street, as main roads, are not acceptable.
  - iv) Berwick Bridge. Informed the Councillor that Worcestershire Wildlife had concreted the road bridge but the railings had not been done. Still needs further action.

d) Clerk

- i) Flashing Speed Sign information had been obtained in a copy email to the District Councillor. Quote” During the PACT panel meeting last night held at Eckington Village Hall the issue of a flashing speed sign was brought up. It was discussed that it might be a possibility that Eckington, Birlingham and Defford Parish Councils may want to purchase a sign to share between villages during different times of the year.  
Would it be possible for each of you to raise this issue at your next Parish Council meeting, with a view to identifying which villages are keen on the idea. I think the approximate cost for a sign is about £2000 which is battery operated”. Simon Williams, West Mercia Police, Community Support Officer

In February the Clerk contacted Louise Gerber from Eckington Parish Council and told her Birlingham had already set its precept and that the cost was too great.

- ii) Overgrown hedge on the Eckington Road, Birlingham. Councillor Hardman asked if Roy Fullee had responded. Clerk informed Councillor that there had been no response and asked the Councillor to action further.

iii) Public Consultation of the proposals for reducing subsidised bus services within Worcestershire had been circulated to all Councillors. Also put questionnaire on noticeboard.

Email from Councillor Davis regarding a meeting held at Wadborough. Circulated to all Councillors.

Pershore Town Council to hold a public transport meeting regarding the reductions in local bus services and give locals a chance to have their say. Notice regarding the public meeting at the Town Hall put on board. Notified Revills.

Email from Town Council regarding a Public Meeting in Evesham on the bus cuts. Information put on noticeboard.

iv) Letter and equipment pack regarding power cuts from e.on shown to attendees. Pack contained an analogue corded telephone, a torch with batteries, a windup mobile phone charger, a battery operated radio, a foil blanket and a reusable hand warmer.

v) Birlingham Bystander – Spring Edition 2011 Dates for your Diary were given to Edward Farrar following his written request: 16 March, 18 May (including the Annual Meeting starting at 7pm), 20 July, 28 September, 23 November to start at 7.30pm.

vi) Parish Matters circulated to all Councillors.

vii) Additional Budget Consultation meeting – 4 February. Worcestershire County Council letter advising of budget setting process.

viii) Pershore High School newsletter circulated to all Councillors.

ix) Worcestershire County Council Revised Draft Validation Document – processing and determination of planning applications for Minerals and Waste Management development validating applications giving guidance on submitting a planning application. Consultation period from 15 February to 12 April.

x) Nomination Packs given to all Councillors for the Parish Elections May 2011 returning papers by Noon Monday 4 April 2011.

xi) Strips - Chasing Roy Fullee The survey that was carried out in November measured weight only to determine vehicle classifications. Asked for weight and speed.

xii) Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document: Publication document. Advising how Worcestershire County Council plan waste management facilities in Worcestershire until 2027. This is the version of the Strategy that Worcestershire County Council intends to submit to the Secretary of State following a 6-week consultation period on the “soundness” of the strategy. Emailed to all Councillors.

xiii) Electoral register. Residents are advised to register. If after 2years the names are not on the roll they will not be taken forward. Can cause problems with credit rating for example.

xiv) Worcestershire County Council – A4104 Defford Road road order for surfacing. Put copy of Order on noticeboard.

xv) 30 mph road sign. Emailed Roy Fullee, Senior Highways Liaison Engineer, asking for the signage to be replaced. The Avenue opposite junction with Broadway Road. Mr Fullee has responded and said it will be replaced.

xvi) Noticeboard – update for Secretary at BVH saying that the idea had been shelved because of the proposed use of the telephone kiosk but that was not ideal and the empty phone box was still in the ownership of the local authority due to legalities. In Clerks letter dated October 2009 it was asked that the board and its consideration be put on hold. The Parish Council now wish to get further quotes and seriously

reconsider the board in the location adjacent to Church Street as agreed by the BVH members. The board has become overcrowded. It is felt that notices need to be kept separate from the advertising on the village hall noticeboard. Some notices are being taken down but not by the Village Hall Committee. It was hoped that this was still a favourable situation and the BVH would be kept updated with any progress.

xvii) Minutes and agendas received from BVH secretary. Circulated to all councillors.

xviii) Concessionary Travel Scheme information from Worcestershire County Council. Poster and leaflets would be distributed around the County.

xix) Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on data transparency – consultation by Communities and Local Government – circulated to all Councillors.

xx) Standing Orders had been amended and circulated.

xxi) Petition copies received from Pershore Town Council regarding the relocation of the library.

## 7) Planning

a) Report on current outstanding planning applications - none

b) Applications approved/refused

W/10/02434/PP - Old Rectory Cottage, New Barn Lane, Birlingham WR10 3AB  
Installation of an oil tank for central heating

APPROVED 21 February

Parish Council – support this application

c) Consultations on planning application without drawings; CD's; grants available for I.T.

The Parish Council had been asked by the Planning Department to give consideration to consultations without the drawings in paper form and in some major applications the CD format due to electronic submission. The Councillors felt that as the Local Authority had the statutory duty to consult with Parish Councils a hard copy should be supplied.

Although there was a suggestion from Planning of a possibility of Grant available, this was deemed not suitable. The Planning Group and other Councillors present said that in electronic format it was difficult to see scale and that drawings are easier. Paper plans should therefore be retained.

## 8) Financial Matters

a) Bank balance - £1,865.41 at 28 February 2011.

b) The Accounts for 2010/11 were accepted.

c) Receipts:

£90.00 – Worcestershire County Council Lengthsman

Payments made:

£90.00 – Lengthsman November/December 2010 – Carl Brassington (cheque number 215)

£20.00 – Royal British Legion – Poppy wreath for Birlingham war memorial (cheque 211)

£31.01 - Footpath Warden costs including mileage, fuel and telephone calls (cheque number 217)

£23.00 – Tree Warden expenses for course including attendance fee and mileage (cheque number 216) (forecast was estimated at £40 November 2010)

d) Future payments and budget forecast – financial year 2011/12:

£250.00 – Birlingham Village Hall contribution

£140.00 – Lengthsman January (£100) and February (£40) – Carl Brassington

9) Email Distribution List – circulation for villagers interested in Parish matters.

An email contact could be set up in addition to the minutes that are published on the noticeboard. Chairman would put a note in The Bystander for any interested persons.

10) 2011 Wychavon Parish Games

Series of events competed for by people living in the Wychavon parishes organised by Wychavon Sport. Would put information out to Mark Yeomans on behalf of the cricket club, John Freeth for the karate club and Nic Carson for The Swan to advertise the events.

11) Steve McVitte

A letter had been received from Councillor Steve McVitte who will not standing for re-election having given the matter considerable thought due to business commitments. It would be his intention to stand again in the future. The Chairman and Councillors wished Steve well with his business venture and when things were settled they hoped to see him in the future as a member again. Clerk to acknowledge.

12) Litter Pick – Communities Against Litter Village Clean-up Scheme

It was agreed that the Litter Pick should be held on Saturday 2 April at 10.30am meeting on The Green. There was no bursary this year due to the economic climate. Clerk to organise.

13) Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

Councillor Reynard reported on PACT . There were apologies for PC Gary Shephard not attending this meeting. At a recent meeting of the group it had been reported that there were 93 crimes within the Eckington Ward during 2009/2010 They were minor offences such as house burglaries and vehicle crimes. A survey had been put round to parishioners from PACT but there had only been 10 responses.

The Councillors agreed that a consultation should be sent regarding the library. It should not close and be retained where it is due to accessibility. However, if an alternative site had to be found it should be retained in Pershore.

Clerk to seek clarification on PAYE and pensions due to the legislation changes.

- 14) Closure – with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9pm. **The next Parish Council Meeting is on Wednesday 18 May 2011. The Annual Parish Meeting is prior to the Parish Meeting commencing at 7pm**

Signed: .....Councillor Anthony J Hall,  
Chairman

Date: .....

**Democratic Opening** – Your Services 2011 – 12 Wychavon in Worcestershire quotes from the County Council its Priorities in particular Roads, Travel and Transport “A major £15million programme has just started to improve roads in rural areas”. Can something be done for Birlingham which have the worst roads in the District? Perhaps we can find out from the Leader of the Council what the parishioners’ council tax pays for. How much is allocated to Birlingham? Can the Leader stop asking and do something particularly in view of what has recently happened around the church which was not scheduled. The money is there.