

Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 21 January 2015

at Birlingham Village Hall

Councillors:

Councillor Morris
Councillor Hill
Councillor Aston
Councillor Comins
Councillor Conder
Councillor New
Councillor Yates

Present:

District Councillor Ron Davis

Apologies for absence:

Footpath Warden, Bruce Hayward

Welcome

1. Declarations of Interest

- a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

(Note: Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) of the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held 19 November 2014, a copy of which had been circulated to all Councillors, were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Democratic Opening

Appendix 1

4. Progress Reports

- a) Footpaths – nothing at this time.
- b) District Councillor
 - i. Councillor Davis said that Wychavon District Council was now progressing their budget calculations. For example the Council Tax is only to increase by 1.98% and car parking charges will not change for the next 4 years. Generally the District Council has had a good financial year so far.
 - ii. Actions are being taken to 'slim down' the expenditure and Wychavon District Council is working on other ideas of joining forces/services particularly with Malvern to save on costs. Malvern and Wychavon District Councils still retain their own identities under one Chief Executive. The next level of cut backs for both council's will be with senior management.
 - iii. Wychavon District Council are making land available to sell or redevelop to rent and relocating businesses. Good investment.
 - iv. The 'Promises of Services' are being revised and renewed for the next year.
 - v. Wychavon District Council is improving skills of local people. They are supporting students to attend the Worcester University.
 - vi. New Homes Bonus – would not be supported by a Labour government. This would mean that years 4, 5 and 6 would be lost.

- vii. There have been 700 affordable homes built during the last year compared to only 150 in the past.
- viii. There are energy saving schemes that are being supported.
- ix. Promote the reduction of waste. Encouraging more uptakes on the chargeable brown bins i.e. a new lorry for more recycling bins.
- x. Broadband upgrade hasn't reached the villages yet.
- xi. It is Councillor Davis' intention to stand again at the next election but probably for the last time.
- xii. Councillor Davis passed on a leaflet and he suggested that this be passed to the Cricket Club for their information.

Councillor Davis was thanked for his attendance which was appreciated.

c) County Councillor – not able to attend.

d) Clerk – see Appendix 2

5. Planning

a) Current applications pending

- i. W/14/01881/OU - Land surrounding and including 1 and 2, Avon Bank, Upton Road, Defford
Boundary of Birlingham: Outline application for the creation of a residential development comprising of 63 units

Parish Council comments:

1. The Council opposes this development on the boundary between Defford and Birlingham parishes.
2. The development lies outside the designated development area for Defford and land for additional housing in the village has already been identified in the draft SWDP.
3. The lack of infrastructure, in the form of shops and schooling is noted as are the dangers involved in access from the site on to the busy Upton road.
4. The application lacks detail on the treatment of the public footpath and the affect of the persistent flooding on the amenities of the site.

b) Applications granted

- i. W/14/02266/CU - The Old Stables, Upper End, Birlingham, Pershore WR10 3AA
Change of use from offices and workshop/lab and stable/ garage to 2 no. dwellings
Approved 12 December 2014

Parish Council comments:

Following corrections on the website and a conversation with the Planning Officer clarifying the proposed extent and design of the fenestration, the comments are:

1. The Council has no objection to the change from commercial to residential in the use of the building.
2. The Old Stable is a building of some architectural and historic interest. It is understood that only existing materials and timber will be used for the conversion externally.
3. There is concern that the applicant must understand that the proposal cannot be amended, if approved, without further formal permission.

6. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balance: £6,203.65 as at 24 December 2014.

b) Accounts for 2014/2015 were resolved.

The accounts will now include a section showing the current and projected year-end free reserves, i.e. bank balance less total of all budgets.

c) Receipts:

- i. £900.00 – Wychavon District Council
- ii. £75.00 – Worcestershire County Council – Lengthsman
- iii. £180.00 – Worcestershire County Council – Lengthsman

Payments:

- i. £125.00 – HM Revenue & Customs (Oct, Nov, Dec) (cheque number 324)
- ii. £50.00 - Poppy wreaths (cheque number 322)
- iii. £75.00 – Lengthsman (September) (cheque number 323)
- iv. £180.00 – Lengthsman (October) (cheque number 326)

d) Future Payments:

- i. £900.00 – New Homes Bonus allocated to Birlingham Cricket Club
- ii. £60.00 – Lengthsman November
- iii. £140.00 – Lengthsman December
- iv. £500.00 – Clerks pay
- v. £25.00 – Clerks expenses

- e) Precept – There has been a split decision on the agreement of the budget requirement. However it was resolved to accept the precept at £4,882 which results in an increase in the Band D charge for next year of 1.99% over that charged in 2014-15. The budget requirement form had been returned to Wychavon District Council. See Appendix 3 for calculations.

The special budgets were discussed and the following decisions were agreed:

- i. The Parish Council maintains a number of special 'budgets', which provide the funds for particular activities of the Council or for dealing with unplanned expenditure. Currently these are the Tree Budget From Litter Pick, Lengthsman Budget, Plane Tree Budget and Litter Pick Bursary. For the avoidance of confusion, these will now be known as the Tree Provision, Lengthsman Provision, Plane Tree Provision and Litter Pick Provision respectively. The Tree Provision is to be used for the work of the Tree Warden and other expenditure relating to trees in the village; the Lengthsman Provision is to be used for the work of the Lengthsman and is funded entirely by Worcestershire County Council; the Plane Tree Provision is for future works on the village plane tree; the Litter Pick Provision is to be used to top up the Tree Provision as and when required or for other exceptional expenditure. The remainder of the Council's bank balance is the Free Reserves, which covers the Council's day-to-day spending.
- ii. a) The Council's budget will include a sum of £500.00 annually for the Plane Tree Provision until the provision reaches a figure of £4,000.00. This will provide the necessary funds for future works on the plane tree on the village green.

b) In accordance with the decision of the Parish Council on 20 November 2013, a further sum of £500.00 will be transferred from the Litter Pick Provision to the Plane Tree Provision.
- iii. In accordance with the decision of the Parish Council on 20 November 2013, a sum of £324 will be transferred from the Litter Pick Provision to the Tree Provision and from there to Free Reserves. This amount was used to pay for a survey on the oak tree at the Old Coach House.
- iv. a) The Council's budget for 2016/17 onwards will include a sum of £250.00 annually for an Election Provision until the provision reaches a figure of £2,000.00 This will provide the necessary funds in the event of a by-election being called.

b) The Council's 2015/16 budget includes a sum of £1,000.00 for the cost of an election; the effect of including this sum is that the Free Reserves are reduced. If there is no Parish Council election in May 2015, £250.00 will be transferred to the Election Provision, with the remainder contributing to the Free Reserves.

- v. The Parish Council aims to maintain Free Reserves at year end equivalent to 12 months' normal expenditure (estimated to be approximately £4,000.00 in 2015/16), excluding transfers to the special provisions. To achieve this, it will increase its precept each year (subject to Government guidelines) until the target has been met. This is to ensure that sufficient funds are always available for day-to-day expenditure and to allow for unforeseen expenditure.

Thank you again to Councillor Hill for his assistance.

7. Village meeting to discuss a Neighbourhood Plan

The date for the meeting has been confirmed as Monday 2 February 2015 at 6.30pm in the village hall. The booking fee is £7 per hour. A Neighbourhood Plan needs the villagers to take the initiative to prepare one. It can be Parish Council led or by a group of at least 21 volunteers forming a forum. Andrew Ford, Policy Planner at Wychavon District Council will attend the meeting and explain what a Plan is and what is involved. There will then be a question and answer session and ultimately a decision to decide whether to go ahead with a Plan. It is the parishioners' choice. It is an informal meeting and the outcome will be passed back to the Parish Council.

Paula Aston has confirmed she is willing to lead should the decision be to go ahead. She will have to be elected if that is the case. The meeting has been advertised in the Birlingham News and a notice will also be put on the parish noticeboard. It is suggested that a notice could be put in the Defford Arms and The Oak.

8. Litter Pick

It was agreed that a litter pick should go ahead, as usual. The members suggested dates of 14 or 21 March 2015. The Clerk will look at dates, check the availability of the equipment at Wychavon District Council and then let members know the outcome of the suitability.

9. Wychavon 2015 Community Grant

Members have been given the information regarding the grant. It has been advertised via the Birlingham News and a poster put on the noticeboard. Applications should be made by the middle of March. Members thought it was quite bureaucratic and the timescale was limiting. Were there any organisations that would benefit?

10. Councillors' reports and items for next agenda

Why has the New Homes Bonus not been used by BVH? Clerk to get an update.

A parishioner had asked if another vehicle directional sign could be put in the area of the church. And could a mirror be put on the Lower End on the bend?

What was the update on the misuse of the stables? Clerk to get an update on the infringement.

11. Closure with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.13pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Wednesday 18 March 2015 at 7.45pm.

Signed: **Councillor Steve Morris, Chairman**

Date:

Appendix 1 – Democratic Opening

Is there any further update on the incident reported on the Eckington Road regarding the overgrown path?

Is it protocol to use or not use a person's name?

Appendix 2 – Clerks Report

News e-mail

Birlingham News 67 2 December

It's the start of a busy time of year, and this issue contains information on a wide variety of topics. In this issue:

1. Cuppa & Chat, 3rd December
2. Funeral Service for Bill Trow-Poole, 5th December
3. New Year's Eve Red Party
4. Vacancy at the Almshouses
5. Parish Council, 19th November
6. Be Cyber Smart Campaign

5. Parish Council, 19th November

At its meeting on 19th November, Birlingham Parish Council discussed a number of issues, including the following:

- After lobbying by the Parish Council over a number of years, the County Council has erected a new sign opposite the war memorial to discourage HGVs from using the lane to Lower End.
- The Council Tax precept for 2014/15 has been provisionally set as £5200.00 (a rise of 4% over last year to cover increased costs).
- The Council supported the application by Birlingham Cricket Club for a contribution from the New Homes Bonus to upgrade its facilities at the cricket ground.
- The Council has agreed to set up a meeting with a member of Wychavon District Council Planning Department to discuss the feasibility of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Birlingham. The meeting will take place early next year and all residents will be invited.

6. Be Cyber Smart Campaign

West Mercia Police have launched a campaign to raise awareness of internet-related crime and to give people the knowledge they need to protect themselves.

Their twelve tips for safe online shopping this Christmas are available at www.birlingham.org/docs/be_cyber_smart_campaign.pdf

Birlingham News 68 12 December

There's plenty to do in Birlingham over the Christmas and New Year period, as always. In this issue:

1. Carols in the Courtyard, 20th December
2. Christmas Services at St James's Church
3. New Year's Eve at the Defford Arms
4. Christmas Bin Collections

4. Christmas Bin Collections

Dates for bin collections in Birlingham over the Christmas period are as follows:

- Wednesday 24th December: black bins, as usual
- Saturday 3rd January: green bins (plus extra clear recycling sacks) & brown bins
- Friday 9th January: black bins (plus up to two extra refuse sacks)
- Thursday 15th January: green bins & brown bins

Clear recycling sacks are available from the Birlingham phone box or from Pershore Civic Centre.

Christmas trees can be composted or taken to the Hill & Moor Household Recycling Centre, which is open Monday-Saturday 8.00am-6.00pm, Sunday 9.00am-1.30pm (closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day). Alternatively, the Council recommends that you chop up your Christmas tree and put it in the brown bin if you have one.

Birlingham News 69 14 January

An open meeting has been arranged to discuss the feasibility of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Birlingham – full details below.

In this issue:

1. Parish Council Meeting, 21st January
2. Hugh Derbyshire
3. Joan Gill
4. Neighbourhood Plan Meeting, 2nd February
5. Bulb Teas & Bulb Sunday, 22nd February
6. Community Grants
7. Planning Applications

1. Parish Council Meeting, 21st January

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 21st January at 7.45pm in Birlingham Village Hall. This is your opportunity to express your views on local issues, so please come along.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Meeting, 2nd February

A meeting has been arranged to discuss the feasibility of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Birlingham. The meeting will be held on Monday 2nd February at 6.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall. It will be attended by a member of Wychavon District Council Planning Department, who will advise us on the suitability of such a plan for the village and will answer questions on the processes involved in creating a plan.

Neighbourhood plans allow residents to influence the location, design and dispersion of new housing and the provision of infrastructure, green space and other amenities. These plans have legal status and planners and developers must take them into account. More information on neighbourhood plans is given in the letter recently sent to residents, which can be viewed at www.birlingham.org/docs/neighbourhood_plan_letter_2014-09-17.pdf. The Neighbourhood Plan would be led by the Parish Council but would also involve interested members of the community.

All are welcome to the meeting, which will decide whether or not to proceed with a plan.

6. Community Grants

Charities and voluntary groups are being asked by Wychavon District Council to submit bids for community grants. This year's pot is £50,000 and bids can be made for up to £10,000 for individual projects, with a theme this year of inclusive communities. (£10,000 is the maximum that can be bid for and only in exceptional circumstances; most bids are likely to be lower.)

Tracy Grubb, Community Development Officer at Wychavon, said, "We always have a lot of interest in our grants, so we encourage people to get in quickly with their bids. Bids need to come from charitable and voluntary groups that are based in the Wychavon area and can be for any aspect of community life. We look forward to seeing groups' ideas on what inclusive communities mean to them."

Bids can be for all aspects of community life: community buildings, sports, arts – in fact any project that benefits the community, includes people from different backgrounds or differing abilities, and helps to make a lasting contribution to the local community.

More information on how to apply is available on Wychavon's website at <http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/grants> or by calling 01386 565168. The deadline for applications is 27th March at midday. The District Council's leaflet on community grants can be viewed at www.birlingham.org/docs/community_grants_leaflet_2015.pdf.

The pot for these grants was £50,000 last year, with £45,000 awarded for community grants and £5,000 for centenary World War One grants. 33 projects benefitted from the grants, with projects ranging from parish hall refurbishments to community shops and youth clubs.

[7. Planning Applications](#)

The following planning application has been determined by Wychavon District Council:

- [The Old Stables](#), Upper End: Change of use from offices and workshop/lab and stable/garage to 2 no. dwellings (Case No. 14/02266). Approved.

[Neighbourhood Plan](#)

Non prejudicial statement and not binding on any authority: The fundamental question that the parish council/community need to ask is why do we need to produce a neighbourhood plan? It is unlikely as a Category 4 village that we would support an application for significant housing development in the village, and in 12 month's time when the SWDP is adopted we will be in a strong position to head any appeal off in any eventuality. A neighbourhood plan would take approx. 2/3 years to complete so if there are concerns that a speculative application may be forthcoming then a neighbourhood plan would not be ready to have any influence on the decision.

A further point is that neighbourhood plan content is not aspirational. Perhaps the parish council may want to allocate a site for affordable housing or some commercial/community development, e.g. fulfil the neighbourhood plan aim to identify sites for development. However this would need to be supported by evidence and in any event this type of development could be delivered via policies in the Local Plan/SWDP anyway through a planning application.

Neighbourhood plan content can include design guidance, open space allocations/management policies but again is there a need. The limited numbers of infill dwellings that may appear can be considered against the historic environment, design policies and guidance produced by Wychavon.

[Invitation](#) sent to Policy Planner at Wychavon District Council. Available 22 January or 5 February but preference for 2 February. Quotes "ball is very much in the Parish Council's court should they wish to produce a plan and Wychavon are more reactive in terms of responding to any initial activity".

[Request to Bookings Secretary](#) Quote "Just to confirm our conversation. The Hall is booked from 6pm to 9pm on Monday 2 February on behalf of the Parish Council @ £7 per hour".

[Register of Electors](#)

The list of Electors was circulated to all Councillors. This is not to be redistributed.

[Tax Base 2015-2016](#)

Letter received from Wychavon District Council regarding the tax base circulated to all Councillors.

Birlingham Parish Council January 2015

[Dates for hire of BVH](#)

Mary Sadler has requested the dates for the Parish Council meetings in 2015. A response was sent on 14 December 2014:

The dates for the Parish Council meetings, starting at 7.45pm, for next year are:

21 January

18 March

20 May - 2 meetings so starting at 7pm

15 July

16 September

18 November

[Free NHS Health Checks](#)

Circulated to all Councillors.

Email received from Chris Murphy of Ice Creates

Quotes "My name is Chris, I am a healthy lifestyles adviser for a company called ICE Creates. We are commissioned by WCC to delivery Free NHS Health Checks to people between the ages of 40-74 years and a Smoking Cessation (12+ Yrs) service to people in Worcestershire.

Within the setting of the parish council, we could offer these services to both staff and members of the local community.

We have worked with district councils in the past and have completed around 2,000 checks to date. If there is any interest in either of these services in the New Year, or if you would like further information, please feel free to contact me."

It was confirmed by Councillor Hardman that this is being provided by Worcestershire County Council.

[Statement from Local Government Minister re Increases in Precepts](#)

Email circulated to all Councillors. Quotes, I'd like to bring to your attention an extract from a statement made yesterday, 18 December 2014, by Local Government Minister, Kris Hopkins, on the subject of increases in Council Tax precepts.

Any council proposing an increase of 2% or more will need to allow local people the opportunity to approve or veto the increase in a referendum. This threshold will apply to all local authorities, including the Greater London Authority, fire authorities and police and crime commissioners.

Parishes are an important part of local government, delivering valuable and valued local services. However that is not a reason for them to impose inflation-busting increases on their taxpayers. The average Band D council tax in England has risen by 2% since 2011 to 2012 - the equivalent figure for the parish element is 14.7% over the same period.

That is why I would welcome views on whether the highest spending parishes should be subject to the same referendum principle as the rest of local government. There is also a question about whether town and parish councils whose failings have been highlighted in a Public Interest Report should be included.

Kind regards

Julie Jones

Senior Accountancy Assistant

[Request](#) made to Julie Jones for the Tax Base for 2014-2015 as a comparison for the next financial year 2015-2016.

[Request](#) to Democratic Services regarding election administration costs. An extract figures is impossible to calculate at this time but an estimate or forecast at the moment is less than £1,000 (£696) which would be an average for a small parish

[CALC](#) Issue 1 Precept Consultation

Circulated to all Councillors. News from NALC Local Government Financial Settlement - Government Consultation

Birlingham Parish Council January 2015

The Government is currently consulting on the local government financial settlement with responses sought by 15 January 2015. Here is a link to the consultation.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389113/Local_Government_Finance_Settlement_2015-16_-_Consultation.pdf

NALC's chief executive would like to encourage as many councils as possible to respond; the volume of responses really does matter and it is important the Government hears from many councils and county associations. Please do also put pressure on your MP(s) and seek their support. Although there is no explicit reference to parish and town councils in the consultation paper the proposals build on the oral statement to the House of Commons on 18/12/14 by the Local Government Minister Kris Hopkins. The relevant extract of his statement concerning parishes, which mentions council tax referendums but not council tax support funding, is below:

"Parishes are an important part of local government, delivering valuable and valued local services. However that is not a reason for them to impose inflation-busting increases on their taxpayers. The average Band D council tax in England has risen by 2% since 2011 to 2012 – the equivalent figure for the parish element is 14.7% over the same period.

That is why I would welcome views on whether the highest spending parishes should be subject to the same referendum principle as the rest of local government. There is also a question about whether town and parish councils whose failings have been highlighted in a Public Interest Report should be included."

We would like to encourage you to write opposing this . Parish elements might have increased but they do not receive the same support as principal councils.

. Introducing referenda principles undermines local democracy and councillors elected to make decisions on spending priorities.

. We want more people getting involved in local decision making and their communities and get involved in this year's elections. This sends out a clear message from central government that it does not trust locally elected citizens to make decisions

. It will affect the delivery of services by local councils and put into question whether they will be able to take on a bigger role including taking on services from other tiers of local government, or indeed take advantage of new community rights such as saving local assets and neighbourhood planning

. Practical problems caused by timing and lack of notice and need to redraw budgets

You may also want to make reference to the fact that this is made worse as a result of the situation regarding council tax support funding remaining totally unacceptable. Around ten billing authorities refused to pass on any funding last year, with over thirty doing so this year, leaving communities short-changed to the tune of £9 million. More principal councils are planning to stop passing on this funding next year because they have seen others get away with it. As a result many local councils will be forced to cut back on services and/or increase the precept to meet this shortfall. If they do of course they may be hit by the referenda principles and all the associated costs. You may want to urge the Government to resolve the problem:

. by taking steps to identify this funding in the settlement for 2015/16, or
. by issuing statutory guidance to billing authorities to ensure money is passed on,
. or indeed by passing this funding on to parish councils directly.

You can E-mail your response to: settlement.consult@communities.gsi.gov.uk

NALC's Chairman, Ken Browse, will be pressing these points in our response and in meetings

New Homes Bonus

15 December - letter received from Wychavon District Council stating that the £900 from the New Homes Bonus allocation as a contribution towards the replacement of the roof and towards the security of Birlingham Cricket Club building was approved. Further contact would be made in three months time to find out how the project was progressing.

Awaiting the BACS payment and then give to Mark Yeomans.

Response:

Dear June

The Cricket Club Committee have asked me to express their thanks to Parish Council for supporting the Clubs recent application for NHB funding.

A particular thank you to you personally for helping with the completion of the forms and liaising with WDC.

The success of this application is most welcome and it will provide a major improvement to the facilities that support the maintenance of the ground. The replacement roof and improved security and access will mean the Club can keep the machinery dry and more readily access equipment. At the same time improved security will hopefully reduce our insurance costs.

The work will commence towards the end of March, once the weather improves. I will be in touch later in the Spring to invite the Parish Council to come and see the improvements made.

Best Regards

Mark Yeomans

On behalf of Birlingham Cricket Club Committee

Copied to Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer BCC

Reply: Thank you for your email. The next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 21 January and I will forward the Cricket Club comments on to the members. It's good to get a successful outcome to the application and we all look forward to seeing the improvements to the Club in the Spring.

Eckington Road – highway issue

From Resident. Quotes "I finally have a response from WCC. It took them 7 weeks to "action". I assume this means that something will be done in the New Year".

Reference Number 6423469

Land Drainage – notifications from Wychavon District Council

Reference 00001 Pentwyn (plant nursery) Eckington Road – a letter has been sent to the owner following investigations by Highways.

Reference 00002 Woodfield Farm, Broadway Road – a letter has been sent to the owner.

Reference 00004 Upper End – a letter has been sent following investigations by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

Wychavon Sport

Letter received from the Secretary of Wychavon Parish Games. Quotes "I am pleased to attach the Agenda for the AGM/De Brief Meeting, to be held at the Civic Centre on Monday 26th January 2015, and we look forward to seeing someone from your Parish there. The main item on the Agenda is the revised rules, copies of which can be found on the website – www.wychavongames.org. If anyone is unable to access these on the website and requires copies, please let me know; copies will also be available at the AGM. We have also been asked by Droitwich Town Council to look at the possibility of merging wards.

This is the one opportunity that Parish organisers and Parish Councils have to comment on the Games, so we do hope that your Parish will be represented at this Meeting.

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If, for any reason, no one from your Parish is able to attend, we would appreciate your comments – in advance of the AGM please.
I also attach a results sheet”.

Information passed to Kristian Mills and Denise McGowan.

Wychavon 2015 Community Grants

Email received from Shawn Riley, Evesham Business Partnerships Manager, with poster and leaflet advertising the 2015 Wychavon Community Grants scheme for any groups interested. Grant Application Packs are available and the closing date for all grant applications is NOON on Friday 27th March 2015.

Circulated to all Councillors and notice put on board.

Councillor Davies asked that the Parish Council ensure the Grants are reported to the next PC meeting advising him of any applications the PC wish to make.

Neighbourhood Development Planning and Sustainable Development

Email circulated to all Councillors from Policy Planning at Wychavon. A technical seminar event at Cheltenham Racecourse on 15 January. Contact Alex Perry direct if interested.

Parish Matters – December 2014

News from Wychavon District Council circulated to all Councillors.

Electronic Agendas

News from NALC - Email agendas

The department of Communities and Local Government laid a legislative reform order on 12th January in Parliament to allow local (parish and town) councils to use electronic communications to send agendas.

Local Government Minister Kris Hopkins MP said: “We have been encouraging can-do councils to adapt to the digital age to modernise the services they deliver to local people and deliver savings. This Government is determined to bust barriers to modernisation in local government therefore it is only right councils should be able to issue agendas electronically, whilst ensuring councillors continue to have access to hard copy papers if they wish. This is a great opportunity for town halls to use modern digital communications to conduct business in the most efficient way possible and it will help reduce costs and provide better value for money for local taxpayers.”

Cllr Ken Browse, chair of NALC, said “This reform to rules, which are over forty years old, is long overdue but very welcome and will help parish and town councils operate more efficiently and effectively. NALC welcomes the Government’s announcement that allows local (parish and town) councils to be able to send agendas electronically rather than in the post; ending a budgetary burden on councils and enabling them to benefit from 21st Century technology.”

The Government’s Legislative Reform Order can be found at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/5/pdfs/uksi_20150005_en.pdf Please go to the NALC website for more information which is available at <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/news?view=entry&id=138>

Neighbourhood Plan – correspondence

Emails and letters sent to interested parties notifying them of the confirmed date of Monday 2 November for a meeting.

Appendix 3 – 2015 Precept

	2014	2015	
		<u>Option 1</u>	<u>Option 2</u>
Budget requirement	5000	5200	5061
Less Grant	-179	-179	-179
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Precept	4821	5021	4882
Divide by tax base	162.93	161.78	161.78
Band D levy	29.59	31.04	30.18
Increase over 2014 %age		4.89	1.99
Projected budget	5000.00	5572.50	5572.50