

Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 16 November 2016
at Birlingham Village Hall

Councillors:

Councillor Allen
Councillor Aston
Councillor Fitch
Councillor Hill
Councillor Morris
Councillor New

Present:

County Councillor Hardman, The Clerk and 7 residents

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by Councillor Yates and accepted. Apologies were also given by the Footpath Warden, the Tree Warden and resident.

2. Declaration 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.
- d) Written requests for the Council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the Clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting.

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. Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may be a criminal offence.

It was noted that Councillor Allen was a member of the Birlingham Village Hall Committee. His dispensation form had declared his interest in this and therefore there was no declarations of interest from him or from other Councillors.

Signing of Dispensation*

All Dispensation forms were up to date and members are covered for the time- period up to May 2018. Any further dispensation that is sought by a member, to participate in a discussion of a specified business, in a future meeting(s) must be given to the Clerk prior to that meeting (as d) above).

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2016, a copy of which has been circulated to all Councillors, were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman. The draft minutes were not showing on the website. This will be rectified straight after the meeting.

Democratic Opening

The meeting was adjourned for public question time. *Appendix 1*

4. Progress Reports

a) Footpaths

The following is a summary from Bruce Hayward:

- i. Footpath 503 (near Dairy Cottage) – fingerpost cleared;
- ii. Footpath 517 (near The Manor) – fingerpost cleared.

The Warden has attended a Tool Maintenance workshop at the Countryside Centre.

b) Tree Warden – not present.

c) District Councillor – not present.

d) County Councillor

- i. Councillor Adrian Hardman said there is no speed monitoring planned. The average speed from the Highway measuring strips is where it should be. The Highways do not have an engineering solution to speed issues.
- ii. There is a higher percentage of traffic between 11am and 2pm. Is this residents? Agreed that there are larger vehicles now on narrow roads. Flashing warning signs or vehicle activated signs are expensive. Councillor Hardman said he would hesitate using these as people get used to them.
- iii. Councillor Hardman suggested following up all ideas.
- iv. There is a deluge of requests for the traffic measuring strips.
- v. The narrowing of the highway is only feasible where there is street lighting.
- vi. The red marked boxes at the village entrance signs will be repainted. Councillor Hardman has spoken to Gerry Brienza (Highways Liaison Officer) to agree this. Both parties will meet on 17 November 2016 to measure the red boxes. The County Council will not pay for the works but Councillor Hardman will use his 'local members fund' to get this actioned.
- vii. County Councillor Hardman is aware that Western Power are carrying out works in Church Street and therefore the re-surfacing is delayed due to their action. He forecast that Church Street and the continuation of roads will take place in the Spring.
- viii. The 382-bus service is proposed to have a 'hopper' village service to support it. The 382 has failed to turn up on occasions in Birlingham and one was seen in the Lower End. Any failure in service or complaints should be addressed to the Regional Manager in Worcester at First. Users are losing confidence in the service.
- ix. A4014 Upton upon Severn Road still needs to be 30mph not 40mph in Birlingham and into Defford.
- x. The Children's Centre (Blossom Vale) could close.

Councillor Hardman was thanked for his attendance particularly concerning the highway matters.

Councillor Hardman wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

e) Clerk - *Appendix 2*

5. Planning

a) Current applications pending

- i. W/16/02396/PP - Shambles, Church Street, Birlingham WR10 3AQ
Single storey extension to front

Councillors had no objections to the planning application as it was deemed to be almost permitted development.

b) Current applications approved/refused - none

- c) Procedures/guidelines – The Chairman is progressing with this and will present to the next meeting as a final draft.

6. Financial Matters

- a) The Accounts for 2016/2017

i) Bank balance is £7,561.30 as at 30 September 2016 and shown on the spreadsheet.

ii) Receipts –

£2,676.00 – Wychavon District Council Precept
(Grant 2 - £89.00 and Precept 2 - £2,587.00)

£132.00 – Worcestershire County Council (Lengthsman September)

iii) Payments agreed: –

£15.00 – charged at village rate – hire of BVH for VDS on Monday 5 September 2016 for Group Leaders (*£18.00 as considered in September minutes*)

£7.50 – charged at village rate – hire of BVH for VDS Open Day set-up 1 hour – 8.30pm to 9.30pm

(*£9.00 as considered in September minutes*)

£73.50 – charged at village rate – hire of BVH – Open Day for VDS (7 hours - 8am to 3pm + kitchen facility)

(*£84.00 as considered in September minutes*)

Up to £100.00 VDS – presentation / displays (to have good quality)

£144.00 – Lengthsman (July)

£514.70 - Clerks pay

£128.80 - HMRC

£13.99 – Clerks itemised expenses (July, August, September)

- b) Future payments for consideration

£50.00 - Pappy wreaths – Eckington and Birlingham

£114.00 - Lengthsman (August) (late submission)

£132.00 - Lengthsman (September)

£84.00 - Lengthsman (October)

£73.89 - VDS / Costs for the History Group reimbursement to Bryan Horrocks

£15.00 - VDS hire of BVH on 31 October for 2 hours for group review of Open Day

£21.00 - VDS hire of BVH by Group members on 9 January 2017 review of document

£128.80 - PAYE HM Revenue & Customs (October, November, December)

£514.70 - Clerks pay (October, November, December)

£104.28 - Clerks standard expenses (October, November, December)

- c) Savings Account

The Chairman and Councillor Yates have drafted a letter and this has been sent. There has been no reply. The Chairman will chase this up.

- d) Printer/scanner for Clerk – action is needed through the Transparency Fund. The application will be sent to CALC for consideration. There is also the website development to be included and a charge made through this to the web developer. More detail should be available at the next meeting.
- e) A closing letter has been sent to Grant Thornton for the Audit for 2015/2016 concluding the Annual Return and matters noted regarding the Opinion.

f) Budget setting

There has been no contact from Wychavon District Council.

Discussion took place on the level of balances it is appropriate for the Council to hold.

- Precept request / application to be considered for February submission with the question of the percentage increase
- CALC's fees - Currently 47.39 pence per elector this financial year. AGM to increase subscriptions by 11%

Included discussion–

- Clerks pay, PAYE and expenses – quarterly payments as per financial year and in line with RTI
- Charities
- Car allowance – 40 pence per mile (Adoption of Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003
- Insurance due in May
- ICO
- Village Design Statement
- Millennium Bench

- Provisions:
Tree provision (from litter pick includes Annual Tree Forum)
Litter pick
Plane tree
Election
Community
Lengthsman (WCC)

The general reserves needed to be got back to a reasonable figure. The Councillors agreed unanimously that a 10% increase in annual expenses was required. The Councillors will wait for Wychavon District Council to supply the tax base calculation which will allow the Band 'D' precept percentage increase to be calculated so a final decision can be made. An extraordinary meeting would be held if necessary.

Thanks, were given to Councillor Hill for his assistance.

7. Standing Orders and Council Procedures

- Standing Orders
- Handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Data Protection Act 1998

There was no further updates at the moment.

8. Traffic Survey / Speeding

The Traffic Survey that has been carried out by Worcestershire County Council has been analysed further by the Chairman, both at Upper End and New Barn Road. Both areas have issues with the narrowness of the highway as well as the amount of traffic and speeding.

Councillor Aston gave a report on her investigations regarding speeding in the village. There is a need to demonstrate community concern and this needs to be recorded in the minutes. This issue has been raised regarding the Upper End but the village as a whole is affected. What solutions are there?

- Police speed camera.

- Do a speed gun trap which then becomes 'villager against villager' as an 'us versus them' scenario.
- Raise awareness – have a sign for example 'please drive safely'.
- Stickers for wheelie bins

All the points considered appear to be for raising awareness of the issues. There is a core of people who will speed but most villagers are concerned about speeding and don't exceed 30mph.

It was agreed to consider all the options and bring back to the next meeting. Councillor Aston and Clerk to action.

9. New Homes Bonus Request

An enquiry has been received from the Birlingham Cricket Club regarding the New Homes Bonus and the possibility for the renovation of the toilets. The Clerk has forwarded information. No form has been completed returned.

10. Millennium Bench

Three quotations had been received for the repairs to the Millennium bench on the village green. The oak bench needed to be re-seated and given a thorough wood treatment. One quotation covered the ground works and the treatment and another quotation was very thorough in the treatment procedures. However, the later could not carry out the works until the late Spring. Could there be a compromise? Further quotes may be required and then a decision made.

11. Dates for next Parish Council meetings 2017/2018

2017 - 17 May / 7pm and 7.30 pm, 19 July, 20 September, 15 November
2018 - 17 January and 21 March

The dates were agreed. Clerk to action a block booking with BVH.

12. Birlingham War Memorial

The correspondence from Historic England was included in Clerks Report. Councillors felt that the actions by the Historic England considering the war memorial for addition to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, as part of our response to the centenary of the First World War, is good. It will be protection of the memorial for the future. Preservation is needed and the Parish Council supported this decision. There may be grants available in the future. The Clerk is to acknowledge the letters and additionally mention that there is a name missing from the memorial and that it is proposed to be added at some stage.

13. Village Design Statement

All Councillors agree that the VDC Open Day has given an enormous amount of feedback. The large data/template for the VDS document has been produced and given to each work group so that they can complete their sections. The whole document will then be edited and the important section on planning guidelines added. When the final document is in draft for it must be approved by the Parish Council before submission to Wychavon District Council. It will require a further round of public consultation.

A thank you is to be placed in the Birlingham News.

The public have been involved and it is agreed that they should be kept informed on the progress of the VDS.

All the processes are going well. It is proposed that the VDS should have its own section on the website.

It was further agreed that a committee meeting, chaired by Councillor Yates should be held again by January 2017 to consider the sections produced by the working groups and to agree a plan for finalising the VDS document.

Further involvement of residents will be necessary.

14. Councillors' reports and items for next agenda

- Village Design Statement - update
- Transparency Fund – Chairman and Clerk
- 'Footpath' between Birlingham and Pershore (Marina side)
- Speeding
- Millennium Bench
- ICO professional
- Stocks – village heritage. They are still in situ. Maybe an issue in The Bystander regarding their removal
- Cheque signatory
- Apologies from Councillor Fitch for next meeting

15. Closure - with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Wednesday 18 January 2017 at 7.00pm.

Signed: **Councillor Steve Morris, Chairman**

Date:

* Any payment of, or liability to pay, council tax does not create a disclosable pecuniary interest as defined in the national rules; hence being a council tax payer does not mean that you need a dispensation to take part in the business of setting the council tax or precept or local arrangements for council tax support.

If you are a homeowner or tenant in the area of your council you will have registered, in accordance with the national rules, that beneficial interest in land. However, this disclosable pecuniary interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest in the matter of setting the council tax or precept since decisions on the council tax or precept do not materially affect your interest in the land. For example, it does not materially affect the value of your home, your prospects of selling that home, or how you might use or enjoy that land.

Accordingly, you will not need a dispensation to take part in the business of setting the council tax or precept or local arrangements for council tax support, which is in any event a decision affecting the generality of the public in the area of your council, rather than you as an individual.

Appendix 1 – Democratic Opening

Traffic and speeding. The residents were in attendance regarding discussions on the traffic issues. There was much debate. Residents said that cars are getting faster and quieter. It is dangerous to walk or cycle. They would like the speed camera to be actioned by West Mercia and wheelie bin stickers with speed limit 30mph be obtained.

Information Centre (red phone box). The phone kiosk is not as tidy as it used to be. However, the Flower and Produce Show committee is planning to use it again next year for various schemes. It will be tidied up. The shrubbery from The Old Shoppe needs to be cut back. Councillor New volunteered to contact the owner to ask for assistance in this matter. The Flower and Produce Show will carry on using the Information Centre but are aware that the kiosk can also be used as a noticeboard.

Appendix 2 - Clerk's Report

Lengthsman/ road issues

11 Oct – Lengthsman report

Some of 30mph repeaters are damaged. Some signage is showing its age and has faded but is still readable. The 'Upton' direction sign has fallen off. I'll see if I can re-fix it.

The footway on Eckington road is becoming narrower and could do with spraying but I am not qualified to spray on public areas. I have strimmed and cut back but there is a considerable amount of encroachment from the grass verge.

Highways have repaired the damaged manhole covers in the verges which I reported.

The lack of rain this year has not tested our drainage systems but I have not seen or heard anything about the issue outside The Old Coach House so presume that it is still in need of attention.

Clerk - Reference Number 233624

Report Type: Highways, Overgrown Shrubbery issue

Location: ECKINGTON ROAD – Dairy Cottage

Reply: In the spirit of keeping things local, would you be able to write to landowner of the said hedge and ask them to cut it back. If you are unable to get a response, or indeed do not wish to do this, please contact us again. This was referred back to WCC:

Reference Number 236302 new reference

Report Type: Highways, Overgrown Shrubbery issue

Location: ECKINGTON ROAD

Reply: 27/10 - The trees and shrubs are not causing a safety issue on the highway, they are well back from the road edge and height is above minimum level.

Reference Number 233628

Report Type: Highways, Overgrown Shrubbery issue

Location: DEFFORD ROAD – Bakers Hill hedge makes path narrow

Reply: as above

Reference Number 236308

Report Type: Highways, Overgrown Shrubbery issue

Location: DEFFORD ROAD

233601

Further reply: Thank you for your enquiry a job as been ordered

Reference Number 233736

Report Type: Highways, Other Road or Pavement issue

Location: ECKINGTON ROAD (western side) – grass encroaching onto footway

Result (21/10) - This location has been inspected and does not currently warrant action as there is not a safety issue. the moss and weeds will die back as the winter commences, the location will be added to the weed spraying schedule for next spring.

Reference Number 233797

Report Type: Highways, Overgrown Shrubbery issue

Location: DEFFORD ROAD Tiddlesley Wood / Marina - cut back the hedge so that there is a 'path'

NO ACTION

Report again - Reference Number 236604

27 / 10 - There has been an update to your reported Highway issue in Birlingham

Thank you for your enquiry, a referral to our footway team to have the path sided out has been raised after an inspection.

Pershore Public Transport Group

A notice of the public transport forum with representatives from bus and rail operators on 13 October 2016 was put on the noticeboard.

Archiving Parish Records

Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service – Accession Form

A deposit (loan) of the signed minutes from January 2010 to November 2013 and audited Annual Returns for the years ending 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 were taken to The Hive on Friday 14 October. The public have immediate access to the records. The Accession Form will be retained on file with any current minutes.

Pershore High School Invitation

An email was circulated with the invitation to the Re-dedication of the Roll of Honour for 10 November 2016.

Parish Litter Picks

An email was received from Wychavon District Council and a return completed following a request as follows: *"Further to the equipment which was given to you as part of the Clean for the Queen campaign, please find attached a general disclaimer. I should be grateful if you could complete and return to me at your earliest convenience"*.

Adoption of Affordable Housing SPD & Developer Contributions SPD

Notification was received from the SWDP Project Manager at Wychavon District Council of the following:

Adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

- Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Following public consultation earlier this year, the three south Worcestershire Councils (Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District) have now adopted the above two Supplementary Planning Documents at their relevant committee meetings. The Affordable Housing SPD was adopted on 26th October 2016 and the Developer Contributions SPD was adopted on 20th October 2016.

Notification of Consultation on the Wychavon District and Malvern Hills District Draft Shop Front Design Guide Supplementary Planning Documents

An email was received as follows:

Notification of Consultation on the Wychavon District and Malvern Hills District Draft Shop Front Design Guide Supplementary Planning Documents (September 2016)

In order to make progress on the implementation of the policies within the recently adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan, the three South Worcestershire Councils (Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District) would welcome your comments on the following planning documents:

** Malvern Hills District Draft Shop Front Design Guide Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) (September 2016)*

The SPD was originally adopted in April 2011. The SPD is still considered very relevant, but the policy background has changed, and since its adoption, the Local Plan policies it refers to have been superseded by the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) policies, and nationally, the National Planning Policy Framework. Thus, as it stands, the existing SPD carries very little, if any weight. As a result, we are consulting on a revised Shop Front Design Guide SPD for Malvern. The SPD has been amended to reflect the current policy position but the substantive design advice in the SPD remains.

** Wychavon District Draft Shop Front Design Guide Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) (September 2016)*

Birlingham Parish Council November 2016

The Shop Front Design Guide was initially published in 1995. A new SPD has been produced to update the guidance to reflect our aspirations for shop front design and to reflect current South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) policies, and nationally, the National Planning Policy Framework as well as current planning advice, with the aim of achieving attractive shopping streets that appeal to both locals and visitors.

The overall aim of the SPDs is to explain the vision for the design of shop fronts and signage, including the installation of signage, lighting and security measures to retail units, catering, financial and professional service businesses located within our historic shopping areas. The main towns of Malvern and Wychavon benefit from Conservation Area designations within their central shopping areas, which place greater restrictions upon unacceptable forms of development. For this reason, we consider that more detailed and comprehensive guidance should be available for these areas.

The above SPDs are being formally consulted upon for a six week period which will run from Monday 24 October until 5pm on Monday 5 December 2016. The Draft Shop Front Design Guide SPD consultation is in line with Regulation 13 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Transparency Fund Application

CALC have acknowledged receipt of the application form.

Birlingham War Memorial

Forwarded to all Councillors for information.

Notification of Designation Application received 27 October 2016, as follows:

Birlingham War Memorial, Village Green, Church Lane, Birlingham, Worcestershire

I am writing to let you know that Historic England is considering the above war memorial for addition to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest ('The List'), as part of our response to the centenary of the First World War. We understand that you are the owner of the memorial and would be grateful if you could let us know if this is not the case.

War memorials are among the most tangible and precious reminders of the sacrifices made by communities during the First World War, and the government is committed to seeing all the nation's memorials placed in a good state of repair by 2018. As part of this, Historic England, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has resolved that over the period 2014-18 it will greatly increase the number of memorials which are listed.

You can learn more about listing and the different types of war memorial on our website at <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/types-of-war-memorial/>

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has a duty to compile and maintain the List, and Historic England acts as the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment with responsibility for listing. It therefore falls to us to assess whether Birlingham War Memorial holds special architectural or historic interest, before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to whether the memorial should be on the List.

Listing helps us to mark a building's significance and celebrate its special architectural and historic interest. It brings specific protection so that its special interest can be properly considered in managing its future. Listing does not mean, however, that no alterations can be made - in fact in the vast majority of cases applications to make changes to a listed building are approved. Further information about listed buildings can be found on the 'Your Home' pages of our website.

We are now beginning our assessment of the memorial. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this process. If you would like to provide information or comments about the architectural or historic interest of the memorial at this stage, please send these to me by email or post.

Once we have carried out the preliminary assessment we will be in touch again to send you a copy of our consultation report. This report will set out the factual information on which we will base our Birlingham Parish Council November 2016

recommendation. At that stage you will again be invited to make any comments you wish to about the architectural or historic interest of the memorial. We will consider all representations made before finalising our assessment and making our recommendation to the Secretary of State. We will notify you of the Secretary of State's decision in due course.

Please click on the link below to download additional supporting information.

<http://services.historicengland.org.uk/webfiles/GetFiles.aspx?av=CCA3CF94-1376-4E27-A4F2-3FEF05153871&cn=3DDB0268-6D76-4C43-BED6-A02549734C8B>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 01793 414725, quoting our reference 1440842. Further information can also be found on our website at www.historicengland.org.uk.

Joanne Gould
Listing Coordinator - War Memorials

Historic England
Our Ref: 1440842
Direct Line: 01793 414725
Email: joanne.gould@HistoricEngland.org.uk

INVITATION TO COMMENT - Invitation to comment on Consultation Report received 31 October 2016

Further to our previous correspondence, I am writing to advise you that we have completed our initial assessment of the above memorial to consider whether it has special architectural or historic interest.

Please follow the link below to download a copy of our consultation report, which sets out the factual information upon which we will base our recommendation to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

<http://services.historicengland.org.uk/webfiles/GetFiles.aspx?av=016A5DE6-7AC3-4CA3-80C7-F709B0BE100A&cn=3DDB0268-6D76-4C43-BED6-A02549734C8B>

If you have any further information or observations on the consultation report which you believe might be relevant to our assessment, we would be pleased to hear from you. You can send these to us by email or by post within 21 days from the date of this email. If you do not intend to send us any further comments, we would be grateful if you could let us know so that we can proceed with the case. We will consider all representations made before finalising our assessment and making our recommendation. We will notify you of the Secretary of State's decision in due course.

If you have any questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting our reference 1440842. Further guidance on how to respond to this consultation and the type of information we are interested in can be found on our website at www.historicengland.org.uk.

Carrie Cowan
Listing Coordinator, Casework and Analysis Team
Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square
138-142 Holborn
London
EC1N 2ST

Our Ref: 1440842
Direct Line: 020 7973 3116
Email: Carrie.Cowan@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Flower and Produce Show members

The members of the Show have been contacted informing them that the phone kiosk is to be tidied up but they are still welcome to use it.

Birlingham Parish Council November 2016

Age UK

A letter was received from Age UK, as follows:-

Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire Reconnections Programme Are you or do you know someone who might be feeling lonely?

We can all feel lonely from time to time, even when surrounded by people and activity. With help loneliness, can be something that you leave behind. With support to improve your mood, rebuild your confidence, and get you back on track, you can start to enjoy life again. Reconnections is a service that's already helping people all over Worcestershire. We offer friendly, practical and emotional support to those who feel lonely or isolated, bringing the fun back into life. We also offer volunteering opportunities for those who want to help others. It's a great way to get to know people and give something back to your community.

If you know someone who might benefit from our service, please get in touch. If you'd like to help us to support people when loneliness affects them, we'd love to hear from you too.

Call us on 01905 740954 or email reconnections@ageukhw.org.uk

from Sophie Pryce

Reconnections Project Manager

Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire

To be placed in the email news

TPO 87/001 Birlingham

Another Tree Preservation Order – Birlingham No 1 1987 signed 7 October 1987 O.S reference 9332 / 4322 in The Avenue near junction of Church Lane.

Village Design Statement - update

Councillor Yates is leading the Village Design Statement. Groups are concentrating on the Existing Village and its History (Bryan and Christina), Village Architecture (Steven), Landmarks and Monuments (Steven), Landscapes and Views (Dan), Protected Areas and Natural Heritage (Dan), the Consultation Process (Mary-Anne) and Designing for the Future (Guidelines for development) (Ian and Steve). There will be further information in the new year.

Cotswolds AONB Update – Autumn 2016

An email was received from the Cotswolds Conservation Board regarding the latest edition of their eNewsletter, a quarterly update on the Cotswolds Conservation Board's latest activity, news and insights from across the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Birlingham News

Birlingham News 116 – 28 September

The traditional Pram Race is back – so start thinking about your wheels!

In this issue:

1. St James's Church Services, October
2. Birlingham Photography Club, Tuesday 2nd October
3. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 5th October
4. Swan Inn Closure, 8th–19th October
5. Pram Race, Sunday 30th October
6. Parish Council Report
7. Race Night Thanks
8. New Homes Bonus
9. Village Design Statement – Landscape Views

6. Parish Council Report

At its meeting on 21st September, Birlingham Parish Council discussed a number of issues, including the following:

- A number of residents came to the meeting to discuss their concerns over speeding in the village. It was decided to investigate the possible options for speed reduction and to make a decision on the action to be taken at the next meeting in November. If you have any views on speeding in Birlingham, the Parish Council would be pleased to hear from you. The Millennium Bench around the plane tree on the village green is in need of repair. The Parish Council will be obtaining quotes for getting the work done but if you would like to help in any way.
- The Council are investigating options for a new parish noticeboard, including the possibility of making better use of the phone box.

Full minutes of the Parish Council meeting will be available shortly.

8. New Homes Bonus

Birlingham Parish Council is again looking for ideas on how to use this year's New Homes Bonus. This fund, which is allocated according to the number of new homes occupied in the parish each year, is intended to be used for the benefit of the local community. In the current year, £1999 is available. The Parish Council will look at any ideas for using this money and, working with Wychavon District Council, consider those that fall within the guidance issued.

In previous years, some of this money has been used by Birlingham Village Hall for roof repairs and a new microwave, by Birlingham Cricket Club for a new roof for their machine shed and improved security, and by the Jubilee Committee for the purchase of village trestle tables. If you have any ideas for using this money, please email the Parish Clerk at birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk.

9. Village Design Statement – Landscape Views

Dan Stratford writes:

Thank you to everyone who entered the photography competition. We had a great response from the community and I am confident your views will be well represented in the relevant section of the VDS.

[Birlingham News 117 – 13 October](#)

This Saturday is the Village Design Statement Open Day – your chance to have your say on the future of our village. Please come along and make your views known.

In this issue:

Village Design Statement Open Day, Saturday 15th October

Pram Race, Sunday 30th October

Road Closure – Pram Race, Sunday 30th October

Musical Moments at Birlingham Church, Saturday 12th November

Repairs to Millennium Bench

1. Village Design Statement Open Day, Saturday 15th October

The Open Day for the Village Design Statement takes place this Saturday, 15th October, in Birlingham Village Hall from 10.00am until 2.00pm. This is your chance to vote for your favourite aspects of the village and have your say on the statements being made that could affect future planning proposals.

Tea and coffee will be available, so please call in for 15 minutes or so and make your views known.

If you are unable to attend, please contact one of the Residents' Views committee and we will be happy to visit you.

4. Repairs to Millennium Bench

Please note that a mound of topsoil will be placed on the Village Green over the next few days. This will be used during the levelling and repair of the Millennium Bench.

[Birlingham News 118 – 26 October](#)

It's time to get your entries in for this Sunday's Pram Race – full details below.

In this issue:

Pram Race, Sunday 30th October
Road Closure – Pram Race, Sunday 30th October
Birlingham Photography Club, Tuesday 1st November
Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 2nd November
Birlingham Cake Club, Thursday 3rd November
St James's Church Services – November
Remembrance Services, Friday 11th & Sunday 13th November
Village Design Statement Open Day

7. Remembrance Services, Friday 11th & Sunday 13th November

There will be a short Service of Remembrance on Friday 11th November at Birlingham War Memorial, during which a wreath will be laid. The service starts at 10.45am and will be followed by refreshments in the Church.

On Remembrance Sunday, 13th November, there will be a Remembrance Service with Communion, beginning at 10.30am, with two minutes' silence at 11.00am. The service will be conducted by Rev. Janet Robbins.

There is also a ceremony at Eckington on the Sunday, beginning at Eckington Cross at 10.45am. A wreath will be laid by John Hill on behalf of Birlingham Parish Council and the ceremony will be followed by a service in Eckington Church.

8. Village Design Statement Open Day

Ian Yates writes:

On Saturday 15th October, an Open Day was held in the Village Hall to allow residents to view the information that is being gathered for our Village Design Statement and to comment and provide feedback to the working groups. The organisers were very pleased with the turnout as 93 residents attended on the day. If you were one of them then I hope you found it interesting. We certainly found all the comments useful. If you missed it then here is a brief summary.

A Village Design Statement describes the distinctive character of the village by reference to its landscape setting, the settlement shape and the nature of the buildings themselves. It is more than just about housing design as it also describes the things that are important such as open spaces, features and views as well as architecture. It draws up design principles based on these characteristics and it is used to work with planners and developers to ensure that the agreed principles are observed wherever possible. It does not describe where development should or shouldn't go but it will be used to guide planning decisions and when finalised will be adopted by Wychavon and sit under the design policies of the South Worcester Development Plan (SWDP) as a supplementary residential housing policy.

The next step in the process is for the working groups to write up the various sections of the VDS, taking into account the comments and feedback obtained at the Open Day. From this the section on 'Designing for the Future' (Guidelines for Development) will be drafted and the whole document will be made available on the village website for any comments by residents before being finalised.

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There is still time to buy tickets for this Saturday's Musical Moments concert at St James's Church – full details below.

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6. Age UK Reconnections Programme
7. Planning Applications

1. Remembrance Services, Friday 11th & Sunday 13th November

A reminder that there will be a short Service of Remembrance on Friday 11th November at Birlingham War Memorial, during which a wreath will be laid. The service starts at 10.45am and will be followed by refreshments in the Church.

3. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 16th November

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 16th November at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. Among other items on the agenda, there will be a discussion about traffic and speeding, and an update on the Village Design Statement. During the meeting, there is an opportunity to express your views on local issues, so please come along.

The agenda for the meeting is available at www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2016-11-16.pdf and the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 21st September can be viewed at www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2016-09-21.pdf.

5. Shrubs and Trees Overhanging the Public Highway

The Parish Council has been asked to remind everyone that it's the time of year for pruning shrubs and trees, particularly those that overhang the public highway. The owner or occupier of a property has a legal responsibility to ensure that the public highway adjacent to a property is not obstructed by vegetation from their property. Local Authorities also have a legal duty to ensure that public highways are unobstructed, so usually inspect roads regularly and often receive complaints from members of the general public.

The public highway is defined by law as consisting of any verge, footway, carriageway, bridleway or footpath that is maintained at public expense and over which the public has a right of way.

When Local Authorities become aware of such obstructions, they will usually advise the property owner or occupier of the problem. They may sometimes raise the issue with an owner/occupier even if the vegetation only overhangs the pavement/roadway by a small amount.

If the owner/occupier does not take corrective action within a reasonable time, the Local Authority can issue a formal notice for the work to be undertaken and, if that is ignored, they can do the work and charge the owner/occupier.

So please check your hedges and if any are starting to obstruct roads, verges or public footpaths, cut them back!

7. Planning Applications

The following planning application has been received by the Parish Council: The Shambles, Church Street: Single storey extension to front (Case No. 16/02396). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 2nd December.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at www.e-wychavon.org.uk/pl/pl.exe?cs=16/02396.