

Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 18 January 2017

at Birlingham Village Hall

Councillors:

Councillor Hill
Councillor Morris
Councillor New
Councillor Yates

Present:

District Councillor Davis, The Clerk, Tree Warden, PACT Representative and 2 residents

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by Councillors Allen and Fitch who were aboard. Councillor Aston also sent apologies due to illness. The apologies were accepted.

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.

There were no declarations.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016, a copy of which has been circulated to all Councillors were amended at Item 4 d) x to read 'The Children's Centre (Blossom Vale) will reform and change'. The Minutes were then agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

Democratic Opening

The meeting was adjourned for public question time. [Appendix 1](#)

4. Progress Reports

- a) Footpaths – nothing to report.
- b) Tree Warden – no further updates at this time. Waiting for daylight hours.
- c) District Councillor
 - i. New Barn Lane Tree Preservation Order. The Clerk has already received a copy.
 - ii. The Joint Working Advisory Board have said that there will be integration of Planning Enforcement and the I.T. services of Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils.

- The Planning Support Teams have already been jointly authorised but will operate from their individual locations.
- iii. The current Wychavon District Council reserves are £58.3m.
 - iv. The Good Councillors Guide is available on the internet. A booklet can be obtained from Ian Marshall. This is an important guide giving advice on the Code of Conduct particularly if there are complaints against members.

d) County Councillor – no report from Councillor Hardman.

e) Clerk - [Appendix 2](#)

Note: Lengthsman reporting included in Clerk's Report.

5. Planning

a) Current applications pending

- i. Outside of Birlingham Parish - W/15/01013/OU – Field SO 9239, Eckington Road, Bredons Norton
Appeal – start date of process is 17 November 2016
Appellant name – Mr J Price
Proposal – Change of use of land from waste ground to mixed use for stable and keeping of horses and caravan site for single Gypsy family with associated development (improvements to vehicular access, internal access track, hard standing, stable block/utility block, septic tank and retain electricity junction box
The Parish Council were not notified of this application until the start of the Appeal. Councillors discussed the Appeal and supported the objections from Bredons Norton Parish Council. However, no comments were sent to Wychavon District Council. The Appeal date is notified as 1 February 2017

- ii. W16/02864/CU - The Manor House, Lower End, Birlingham WR10 3AD
Change of use of land to equestrian to include construction of stabling block and access - as approved permission W/11/00443/CU but without compliance with condition no. 4 to allow the paddock and table, or part thereof, to be used on non-commercial terms, and condition 12 to allow the parking or storage of vehicles by the owners of the site.
Applicant: Mr S Byrne

Comments due from the Parish Council. Discussion took place. This is a new application regardless of the previous history of the site. Neighbours were objecting to the change proposed to the conditions. This is a stable block and not a garage which was the principle of the approved planning permission. Aware there is a covenant at the location but this is not a material planning consideration. Councillors to have comments back to Wychavon District Council this evening in consultation with the Chairman.

b) Current applications approved/refused

- i. W/16/02396/PP - Shambles, Church Street, Birlingham WR10 3AQ -
Single storey extension to front
Applicant: Mr S Brown
Approved: 7 December 2016
Parish Council comments: No objections to the proposed porch extension

c) Procedures/guidelines – The Chairman has drafted and updated the procedures and will present the final draft at the March meeting. The Chairman reiterated that it is essential that the comments on planning applications are returned by all Councillors within a week so that they can be collated and returned to Wychavon within a couple of weeks. It is important to email any comments even if there is a 'no response'. The role of the Parish Council is to comment even if they have no powers. The process of commenting and communication between members needs to be tightened up.

6. Financial Matters

a) The Accounts for 2016/2017

i) Bank balance is £7,445.61 as at 29 December 2016 and shown on the spreadsheet.

ii) Receipts –

£198.00 – Worcestershire County Council (Lengthsman August £114.00 and October £84.00)

£180.00 – Worcestershire County Council (Lengthsman November)

iii) Payments agreed: –

£132.00 - Lengthsman (September)(cheque number 454)

£15.00 - VDS hire of BVH on 31 October for 2 hours for group review of Open Day (cheque number 459)

£73.89 - VDS / Costs for the History Group reimbursement to Bryan Horrocks (cheque number 460)

£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) (cheque number 461)

£50.00 - Pappy wreaths – Eckington and Birlingham (cheque number 463)

£114.00 - Lengthsman (August) (late submission))-cheque number 464

£84.00 - Lengthsman (October))-combined £198.00

£104.28 - Clerks standard expenses (October, November, December) (cheque number 467)

£514.90 - Clerks pay (October, November, December) (cheque number 468)

Cheque numbers 451, 452, 453 and 455 have been cancelled (incorrect invoices received from BVH)

b) Future payments for consideration

£21.00 - Birlingham Village Hall hire for VDS (2 hours at £7.50 plus projector at £3.00)

£180.00 - Lengthsman for November

£13.99 - Clerks itemised expenses

c) Savings Account

The Chairman has not heard from the bank so nothing further to report.

d) Printer/ scanner for the Clerk

It has been agreed that a printer/scanner is applied for through the Transparency Funding available. Clerk to action and bring to the March meeting.

e) Budget setting / Precept agreement

Discussion commenced on the level of balances it is appropriate for the Council to hold and the increase in the budget setting.

A draft budget was circulated which shows a total spend for the coming year of £5,890.

Further discussion and agreement:-

Clerks pay and expenses (quarterly payments as per the financial year and in line with RTI) and in line with NALC's recommended pay scale.

Poppy wreaths and insurance to continue.

CALC membership to continue.

Training, Wychavon Sports, internal audit – all to continue.
Provisions – any transfers would be carried out at the financial year end.
The Lengthsman continues until year end as per the agreement with Worcestershire County Council.
Car allowance to remain at 40 pence per mile.
ICO – to be added as expenditure at £35.00.

Precept -

There was discussion on the level to be agreed for the precept. Reserves should be £4,000.00.

Final agreement - application to be returned to WDC by 3 February 2017.
Council Tax Base 2016/17 – approximately 60 properties on Band E.

Projections - for next year's calculation to give a Band D Council Tax figure of £34.16 per household an increase of 6p a week on last year's budget.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hill for his assistance.

After much debate the precept was RESOLVED to be increased and the Clerk was instructed to complete and return the budget application to Wychavon District Council requesting £5,890.00.

7. Traffic Survey / Speeding

The Clerk gave an update on progress so far. Another traffic survey would not be considered at the moment as it is too soon after the two surveys last year. The SNT Pershore Rural South and Rural North team have noted a request for a camera. As a team, they can carry out speed monitoring/enforcement so Birlingham will be added to their list presuming that the peak times would be between 0700-0900 and 1600-1800 Monday to Friday. At the moment, due to weather conditions/daylight hours etc., this will limit the attendance.

It is unlikely that the Safer Road Partnership will position a camera van or bike in the area. They can however provide the wheelie bin stickers upon request for black and green bins.

It is hoped that the enforcement will provide statistics and these can be collated.

Councillor Aston will continue to monitor and gather further information. She advised that a speed limit sign in a red circle IS enforceable so all 20 mph zones with these signs would be legal. Further update at the March meeting.

8. New Homes Bonus

There have been no further requests. A reminder will be placed in the Birlingham email news advising of the amount of New Homes Bonus available to draw down and not just the projects. The Councillors realise that it is important to ask what the community feel it should be spent on.

9. Millennium Bench

Councillors agree that instruction should now be given for the action on the bench. The ground will be levelled and the bench raised. The legs will require propping, the plinths re-sited and the soil spread. Councillor Hill and Clerk to action.

10. Village Design Statement

Councillor Yates gave an update from the meeting on 9 January 2017. Some sections are still missing but the Group are progressing with the schedule. The final draft is being collated from group leaders to be made ready for 23 January 2017. It will then be in the editing phase and made to look nice. The target is set for 13 February 2017 with the guidelines for planning and future planning applications (section 7). Then, the draft version of the Statement (with a target date of 26 March 2017) will be available seeking input from Andy Ford at Wychavon District Council. After completion the finished document will then be shared with the village. It is a large document with an extensive appendix.

The Statement is making progress and the document should be finished by Easter if remaining on target.

Will there be a presentation? What about an Open Day?

Thank you to Councillor Yates.

A note will be put in the Birlingham News so people know what is happening as there has been no update since the Village Open meeting.

11. Information Commissioners Office (ICO)

The estimated cost for the registration with the ICO is £25.00. The Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should be registered as this could save on costs in the long term due to Data Protection and Copyright legislation. Clerk to action.

12. Village Stocks

The stocks are still in situ in St James church. There has been varying degrees of outrage regarding the removal of the stocks. It is believed the church has reconsidered its position in this matter.

13. Berwick Lane

No further update on ownership or responsibilities from the Chairman.

14. Pedestrian Route to Pershore

The Footpath Warden was investigating further. This matter was deferred and the Chairman will take action.

15. Litter Pick

Weekend dates in February, March and April were considered. It was agreed that Sunday 5 March 2017 will be the Litter Pick day and possibly starting at 9am. Clerk to action a collection of the rubbish for Monday 6 March. The Jubilee pickers are available and refuse sacks will be obtained.

16. Councillors' reports and items for next agenda

- Phone kiosk – Councillor New to update on shrubbery
- Annual Parish Meeting – encourage organisations to take part. Have a table. Update new residents. Date and time to be agreed depending on hall availability.
- The Pound – resurfacing in part. This is public (parish) land. The owner of The Old Shoppe appears to be marking a 'right of access' and should be reminded that this is village land?

- 17. Closure** - with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.41 pm.
The next Parish Council Meeting is on Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 7.00pm.

Signed: **Councillor Steve Morris, Chairman**

Date:

Appendix 1 – Democratic Opening

- i. Repairs in Church Street. The holes have been marked on the road junctions. No date has been advised.
- ii. Sludge – leaves and verges are a disgrace particularly in The Avenue and at the junction with Short Hill. Can Revills not get their brush tractor out and assist? Can the Lengthsman be tasked to clear? The village verges are a mess and worst state for some time.
- iii. Comment on planning application at The Manor. Was it not an idea to take neighbours views into account?

Appendix 2 - Clerk's Report

Parish Matters

The Communications Officer at Wychavon District Council sent an email with the latest edition of the Parish Matters magazine. This included updates from the Business and Rural Crime Team and on the work they are doing through the South Worcestershire Rural Communities Programme, there were details of the Community Recognition Awards and the Council Tax advice for 2017.

The next Parish Matters will be out in the spring of 2017. If parishioners want to suggest what news items from us that you and your parishioners would find useful, please let the authority know.

Notification of SWDP – related Consultation. [Planning for Health in South Worcestershire Draft Supplementary Planning Document](#)

An email was received from Fred Davies, Acting SWDP Project Manager at Wychavon District Council, as follows:

Notification of SWDP-related Consultation

Planning for Health in South Worcestershire Draft Supplementary Planning Document

A new eight-week consultation on a planning document supporting the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) will commence on Friday 2 December 2016.

Residents, developers, town and parish councils, and other interested parties can make their views known at www.swdevelopmentplan.org. The consultation concludes at 5:00pm on 27 January 2017.

Comments are being sought on the draft Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which covers the South Worcestershire authorities of Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council (known collectively as the South Worcestershire Councils). It has been prepared in partnership between the Strategic Planning team and Directorate of Public Health at Worcestershire County Council and representatives from Planning Policy and Development Management teams within the three South Worcestershire Councils.

The purpose of this draft SPD is to provide guidance when planning for and creating healthier developments, whilst providing communities and organisations with greater support to take positive action to improve their health and wellbeing and encourage more positive forms of participation in healthier environments. Understanding the roles of the built and natural environments and their effect on health and wellbeing can help to improve people's quality of life and provide a sustainable approach to the design and management of our environments.

The draft SPD complements the SWDP and is intended to be used by planners, health professionals and applicants/agents/investors/developers in conjunction with the policies of the SWDP.

The consultation is part of a programme of work in the Local Development Scheme 2016-2019 that will come into effect on 1 December 2016.

How to Comment

Comments can be made via the online consultation portal. Copies of the document, including response forms for alternative methods of responding, can be viewed online and downloaded via the following web address:

- http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=13121

For background context on the SWDP and all other associated evidence material, please see the SWDP website.

Comments can be made via the following means:

- On-line by submitting your response to the consultation portal at:
http://swjcs.limehouse.co.uk/portal/spd/draft_health_spd (live from 2 December 2016)
Email contact@swdevelopmentplan.org
Post South Worcestershire Development Plan, c/o Wychavon Civic Centre

If possible, please respond by using the online consultation portal. If you are responding by alternative methods, please use the response form (available via the SWDP links above).

Representations must be received by 5:00pm on 27 January 2017. Any representations made after that date and time will be considered "Not Duly Made" and will not be taken into account.

Please note that your comments cannot be treated as confidential and will be available as public documents, although your personal details (other than your name) will not be published.

If you have any questions relating to the SPD, please contact Angie Matthews (Wychavon) on 01386 565187 (email: angie.matthews@wychavon.gov.uk) or Corin Beames (Malvern Hills) on 01684 862140 (email: corin.beames@malvern hills.gov.uk).

Public Health Newsletter



An email was sent from the Health Improvement Co-ordinator, Public Health Directorate, at Worcestershire County Council, as follows:

Attached the Latest Public Health Newsletter. Included is information about two consultations which can be shared widely through your networks / social media:

- The Sustainability and Transformation Plan <http://www.hacw.nhs.uk/yourconversation/>
- The Planning for Health Supplementary Planning

Document http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=13121

Comments can be made On-line by submitting your response to the consultation portal at: http://swjcs.limehouse.co.uk/portal/spd/draft_health_spd

Please do also comment from your organisation.

We are also actively promoting the No Smoking short film competition for 11-25 yr olds (3 age categories) – please do share this widely. There is a free film making course running in Pershore from the 16th Jan (application form attached) to support the competition where young people can get support from a theatre group to be creative and innovative. <http://cutfilms.org/Wychavon> Closing date 27th Feb 2017.

Birlingham War Memorial: Notification of Designation Decision

6 December 2016

Quotes:

Birlingham War Memorial, Village Green, Church Lane, Birlingham, Worcestershire – Awarded Listed Building Status

As you will know from our earlier letters we have been considering adding the above memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

Birlingham Parish Council

January 2017

We have taken into account all the representations made, and completed our assessment of the memorial. I am pleased to inform you that having considered our recommendation, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has decided to add Birlingham War Memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The memorial is now listed at Grade II.

Please follow the link below to download a copy of our advice report, which gives the principal reasons for this decision. The List entry for this building, together with a map, has now been published on the National Heritage List for England, and will be available for public access from tomorrow. This List can be accessed through our website.

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

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.

The local planning authority will now be preparing the statutory notices required under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

Please be aware that the listing of the memorial took effect on the day that the List entry was published on the National Heritage List for England. Our guidance document, *The Conservation, Repair and Management of War Memorials*, is available from our website <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-repair-management-warmemorials/> Information about grants for war memorials is available from War Memorials Trust at <http://www.warmemorials.org/grants/>.

As of 25 June 2013, the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (ERRA) has enabled a number of heritage reforms, including an amendment to the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 that provides two potential ways to be more precise about what is listed. Whether or not the new provisions have been invoked with regard to this memorial is explained in the Advice Report. A List entry that makes use of these provisions will clarify what attached and curtilage structures are excluded from the listing and/or which interior features definitively lack special interest; however, owners and managers should be aware that other planning and development management constraints might apply to these structures, and should clarify these with the Local Planning Authority. Further information is available on our website at <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/caring/listing/listed-buildings/listing-and-the-erra>.

If you consider that this decision has been wrongly made you may contact the DCMS within 28 days of the date of this letter to request that the Secretary of State review the decision. An example of a decision made wrongly would be where there was a factual error or an irregularity in the process which affected the outcome. You may also ask the Secretary of State to review the decision if you have any significant evidence relating to the special architectural or historic interest of the memorial which was not previously considered. Further details of the review criteria and process and how to request a review are contained in the annex to this letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance. More information can also be found on our website at www.historicengland.org.uk.

Joanne Gould
Listing Coordinator - War Memorials
Historic England
The Engine House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
SN2 2EH

[For note:](#) Parish Matters June 2016 - The War Memorials Listing Project In 2014, to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, Historic England embarked upon a five-year project to add 2,500 war memorials to the National Heritage List for England. It is possible to apply for the listing of any war memorial and we are hoping to apply to list those in our towns that are not already listed. There are many war memorials throughout the district that could also be considered for listing. Anyone can make an application and information and guidance can be found through this link. For more information about the War Memorials Trust, go to www.war memorials.org.

For reference: Case Number: 1440842 - Village Green, Church Lane, Birlingham, Worcestershire

[Come and Have Your Say on Worcestershire's Local Transport Plan 4](#)

Circulated to all Councillors from Member Engagement Officer & Project Manager for Act Local Legal & Democratic Services, Worcestershire County Council.

Quotes:

As you will be aware Worcestershire County Council is looking to consult with residents on the Worcestershire's Local Transport Plan 4.

Could I please ask you to print off the attached promotional poster and place up, in any suitable location within your Parish – Primary School, Church, Village shop, Village Hall, Noticeboard, Public House – where ever the most people will see it, to encourage residents to have their say?

The Manager was contacted regarding the poster due to its lack of information, no link to the webpage for comments, no contacts numbers. It raised more questions than answers.

A letter (dated 12/1) has been received together with questionnaires for members of the parish who are unable to access the on-line version. To be returned by 17 March.

The website is www.worcestershire.gov.uk/LTP

Details to be put on the website and in BN

[Western Power Distribution Severe Weather Bulletins – register](#)

Quotes:

Western Power Distribution (WPD) operates the local electricity network of overhead lines, underground cables and substations across the Midlands, South Wales and South West England. We have created a series of new bulletins to keep stakeholders informed during severe weather incidents that could impact the local electricity network.

We will not bombard you with updates. When registered, we will contact you once in advance of an expected severe weather incident, periodically during the incident itself (e.g. every 4 hours) to provide performance updates, and once after the event has passed. These bulletins will also be available on our website.

The Parish Council are registered.

[Highways Issues](#)

- 15 December - 245271 - Near Dairy Cottage, ECKINGTON ROAD

Reported Issue was:

The ditch that carries run off water along the northern boundary of Dairy Cottage and then down the western boundary is supposed to discharge through a pipe under the B4080 where marked (X). The pipe is blocked somewhere under the B4080 or beyond its western boundary so that all water is now discharging directly into the paddock to the south of Dairy Cottage. The

subsidiary field drain is not coping and so the paddock has flooded and is now discharging onto the B4080 at the junction with New Barn Road, crossing the carriageway and affecting Brook Cottages on Eckington Road

Update:

Further to our meeting yesterday, due to the amount of water this system take, it is unable to flow out of the outlet effectively, therefore backs up the system out of the gully in the field and then across the road.

I have advised the quality of the trash grid is improved, this job will be added onto a priority based list. Works will then be programmed from the list. We are unable to confirm a date for when the works will take place. I have informed Land drainage of the identified ditch which acts as the outfall. The ditches condition will need to be improved to allow the system to drain correctly.

The Clerk has since met with the Highways Manager to discuss this matter further. Any updates will be given to the owner of Diary Cottage and reported.

Update: 16 January – the jetting crew have the job on their list and should attend the site by the end of January.

- 244385 - BERWICK LANE

Reported Issue was: blocked gully outlet leading to flooding – Lengthsman says I have dug out the gully but the outlet needs jetting

Update:

We can confirm that the jetter has visited the site and the highways drainage system is all working correctly.

- Carl Brassington has asked when the next road sweep is due by Highways. The request has been sent to WCC. Not WCC it is WDC.
Update: They take place every 3 months, therefore for the rest of the year they will take place on Thursday 9th February, 11th May, 10th August and 9th November.
- Carl Brassington has been sent details from WCC regarding contact details for Highways during severe weather warnings.
- 13/1 – Notification of Temporary Road Closure at Lower End

C2271 Lower End, Birlingham for Severn Trent Waters in order to renew short comm pipe in carriageway for approx. 3 days 22 February – 24th February 2017.

[Pershore Public Transport Forum](#)

The Clerk from Great Comberton asked that a report be passed on which was taken by a colleague at the meeting. Several action points that would be taken forward from this meeting in conjunction with the Pershore Public Transport Group with the bus/train as well as county council individuals. It was indicated that a further open forum meeting would take place possibly during March or April 2017.

[A Nations Tribute - 11 November 2018](#)

In commemoration and remembrance of the end of the First World War and chain of beacons will be lit throughout the UK at 7pm on 11 November 2018.

[Update on Council Tax reference principles and New Homes Bonus](#)

An email was received from Wychavon District Council regarding recent Government announcements about council tax referendum principles and changes that will affect your New Homes Bonus allocations.

New Homes Bonus

As some of you are aware, we have been waiting for quite some time for the outcome of the Government's technical consultation on possible reforms to New Homes Bonus. In December, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government made some announcements about New Homes Bonus in his statement to parliament on the provisional local government finance settlement for 2017/18. These included confirmation that the Government will implement its preferred option of reducing the number of years for which New Homes Bonus payments are made from six years to five years in 2017/18, and from six years to four years from 2018/19.

This will affect how much Years 2 to 5 New Homes Bonus that we will receive and therefore, the amount we are able to pass on to you. This means that parishes and towns with Years 2 to 5 allocations will not get the final year of payments for Years 2 and 3 and the final two years of payments for Years 4 and 5. These changes do not affect any New Homes Bonus that you currently have available to draw down, but they will affect your balance for future years.

We have some work to do to recalculate what this means in monetary terms for each parish and town in Wychavon before we publish the updated the figures on our website. We'll do this in the next week or so and will let you know when the updated figures are available.

The full text of the Secretary of State's statement in relation to New Homes Bonus is included at the end of this email. You will see that New Homes Bonus scheme is set to continue with a number of changes. In the coming months, we will start to look at options for spending Year 6 and Year 7 New Homes Bonus* and will develop a new New Homes Bonus Protocol, which we will let you know about in due course.

*Year 6 is for homes completed and occupied between October 2014 and October 2015. Year 7 is for homes completed and occupied between October 2015 and 2016.

[Wychavon Parish Games AGM/De-brief 2017](#)

4 January

Quotes:

Dear Parish Organiser

I attach the Agenda for the AGM/De-Brief, which, as previously notified, will take place on Tuesday 31st January 2017 at the Civic Centre, Pershore.

I also attach a list of suggestions made by the Executive Committee, which will be discussed at the AGM.

It is really important that at least one person attends from each Parish - remember this is really the only time, you the people who take part and who really matter to us, get the chance to say what you think about the Games and to put forward any suggestions.

If, for any reason, it is not possible for anyone from your Parish to attend, please let me have your apologies, views, comments and/or suggestions before 28th January.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

The details were passed to Denise McGowen who organises the team captains for Birlingham

[BVH – chasing payment for the VDS meetings - Block bookings for the next financial year](#)

An email was sent:

It would appear that the invoices for the VDS meetings are still outstanding

24/08/16 BVH2016-5 £15.00

14/10/16 BVH2016-15 £ 73.5

15/10/16 BVH2016-16 £ 7.5

31/10/16 BVH2016-50 £15.00

These had already been approved and sent to The Treasurer of the BVH for payment.

An email has been sent to the bookings at birlinghamhall.org for the financial year 2017/2018 requesting the confirmation of the block bookings for the meetings and one invoice to cover all the reservations.

Speed Awareness

An email has been sent to Safer Road Partnership at Pershore Rural South and Rural North.

A follow up email was sent to West Mercia requesting a camera in Birlingham following residents' concerns and the decision that was made at the November 2016 Parish Council meeting.

Here is an extract from the draft minutes:

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.

Tree Preservation Order Birlingham No 001 2016 – land to the north of New Barn Road

A letter has been received which confirms that the TPO was confirmed on 22 November 2016 re communication from WDC on 24 June 2016.

A copy of the Order is held on file.

Police Logs

A list of the logs for the last twelve months was received from the SNT Pershore Rural South and Rural North at West Mercia;-

- 18/11/15 – shed on Eckington Road broken into and power tools stolen
- 29/12/15 – shed broken into near the church, items removed but left nearby
- 2/1/16 – shed broken into nothing stolen
- 7/1/16 – prowler reported and garden gate had been forced
- 9/1/16 – caravan at a property on Bakers Hill had cushions stolen from within
- 18/1/16 – doors and lights stolen from a Landrover defender in Church Street
- 28/1/16 – Landrover stolen from Lower End
- 22/3/16 – shed broken into in Lower End, nothing stolen
- 21/4/16 – theft of crops from field on Eckington Road

Birlingham News

Birlingham News 120 – 30 November

As usual, there's plenty going on in December. The first batch of dates for your diary is included below.

In this issue:

1. Church Cleaning Party, Saturday 3rd December
2. St James's Church Services – December
3. Birlingham Photography Club, Tuesday 6th December
4. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 7th December
5. Christmas Wreath Making Workshop, Saturday 10th December
6. Parish Council Report
7. Village Stocks
8. Birlingham Village Calendar
9. Police Newsletter

6. Parish Council Report

At its meeting on 16th November, Birlingham Parish Council discussed a number of issues, including the following:

- Speeding in the village was debated, and a number of residents made their views known. It was decided to investigate further a number of options but in the meantime the Safer Roads Partnership will be contacted with a view to getting speed checks carried out by the police.

- The County Council are not willing to carry out a further traffic survey as they feel that the information obtained in the May survey was sufficient. The cost of a survey is £185.
- Cllr Hardman confirmed that the County Council will be resurfacing Church Street, Whitehall Lane and other areas next summer.
- The phone box will continue to be used by the Flower & Produce Show for the next year. If you have any suggestions for its use they will be pleased to hear from you.
- Historic England are proposing to include the war memorial in the National Heritage List for England. Full details at www.birlingham.org/docs/war_memorial_listing.pdf.
- The PCC have asked the Parish Council to find a new home for the village stocks (see item 7 below).
- The first draft of the Village Design Statement is being compiled and should be ready for review early in the New Year.

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

7. Village Stocks

For many years, the village stocks, dating back to 1787, have resided in a corner of the church. The Parochial Church Council now need that space for other purposes and require the stocks removed from the church. The Parish Council have been asked if they will find a new home for them. The view of the Parish Council is that the stocks are an important part of our village heritage, and indeed are older than much of the church building, and should remain within the village if possible. However, in the absence of any other suitable building to house them in Birlingham, the only option will be to donate them to the museum in Worcester.

The Bystander Issue No. 69 (Spring 2013) contained an article about Birlingham's history, which included a reference to the stocks. It reads: "The village stocks, made in 1787, once stood on the green outside the church but are now housed inside. So far as is known they were only used once. When Rev Landor, a notably hot-tempered man, was importuned by a beggar he grabbed the unfortunate by the scruff of the neck and marched him down to the stocks. But when released the man turned the tables and charged the Rector with assault, with the result that Mr Landor was fined £1 at Pershore court!"

The Parish Council would like to hear your views on the future of the stocks. Your comments will be shared with the PCC (with names removed). Please send your views to news@birlingham.org by December 15th.

9. Police Newsletter

We have received a newsletter from West Mercia Police with information on reducing the chance of burglary and car crime, along with useful contact details.

The newsletter can be read in full at www.birlingham.org/docs/police_2016_nov.pdf.

Birlingham News 121 – 14 December

Here's your final round-up of news before Christmas.

In this issue:

1. Carol Service, Sunday 18th December
2. Funeral of Anthony Porter, Wednesday 21st December
3. Swan Inn Opening Times
4. Christmas Bin Collections
5. Lloyds Bank Letter Fraud
6. Planning Applications

4. Christmas Bin Collections

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

- Thursday 29th December: green bins (plus up to two extra clear recycling sacks) & brown bins
- Wednesday 4th January, as normal: black bins (plus up to two extra refuse sacks)

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

5. Lloyds Bank Letter Fraud

We have received a warning from West Mercia Police about a fraudulent letter being sent to Lloyds Bank customers. As Lloyds is one of only three remaining banks in Pershore, this may affect Birlingham residents.

The convincing letters being sent are a replica template from Lloyds and include their logo, address and signature from a customer service representative. The letter tells recipients that there have been some 'unusual transactions' on their personal account and asks them to call a number highlighted in bold to confirm they are genuine.

Full details of the letter are given at www.birlingham.org/docs/fraud_letter_2016.pdf.

6. Planning Applications

The following planning application has been received by the Parish Council:

- [The Manor House](#), Lower End: Change of use of land to equestrian to include construction of stabling block and access – as approved permission W/11/00443/CU but without compliance with condition no. 4 to allow the paddock and stable, or part thereof, to be used on non-commercial terms, and condition 12 to allow the parking or storage of vehicles by the owners of the site. (Case No. 16/02864). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 6th January.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website.

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

- The Shambles, Church Street: Single storey extension to front (Case No. 16/02396). Approved. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website

[Birlingham News 122 – 28 December](#)

Here's a brief round-up of events to start the New Year.

In this issue:

1. St James' Church Services – January
2. Birlingham Photography Club, Tuesday 3rd January
3. Cuppa & Chat, Wednesday 4th January

[Birlingham News 123 – 11 January](#)

Welcome to the first Birlingham News of the year. We hope you all had a relaxing Christmas and we wish you a prosperous New Year.

In this issue:

1. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 18th January
2. Birlingham Church Snowdrop Season
3. The Birlingham Bystander – Spring Edition

[1. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 18th January](#)

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 18th January at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. Among other items on the agenda, there will be a discussion about speeding in the village, repairs to the Millennium bench and an update on the progress of the Village Design

Statement. During the meeting, there will be an opportunity to express your views on local issues, so please come along.

3. The Birlingham Bystander – Spring Edition

The new Birlingham Bystander Editorial Committee met last week for the first time and began planning the Spring Edition. Responsibility for the Bystander now rests with the Jubilee Committee and the new Editorial Committee includes members of the Jubilee Committee, members of the former Bystander Committee and additional residents who are keen to be involved in the production of the Bystander.

It has been decided to produce the Bystander more evenly during the year, so the Spring Edition will be published in April/May and the Autumn Edition in October/November. This means that the copy date for the next edition has moved to 30th March.

The Editorial Committee is now looking for articles for the next edition. If you would like to write something for that edition – a report of an event or an organisation, a personal story or anything else of interest to residents – please let us know as soon as possible at bystander@birlingham.org. We hope that many more people will want to be involved at this exciting point in the Bystander's life and look forward to receiving your ideas for articles.

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