

**Minutes of the meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council  
held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in The Birbury, Birdingbury**

**Present:** Cllrs French, Preston, Kent, Kendell, de Nahlik and Mrs J Chapman (clerk)

**1 Welcome**

Cllr French opened the meeting at 19.37 hrs and welcomed those present.

**2. To receive and accept apologies for absence**

None

**3. Declarations of interest**

None

**4. Representations from the Public**

No Members of the public were present to make representations

**5. Minutes of meetings**

**5.1** **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**5.2 Action Plan**

Change July 2023 Agenda item 15 to Cityfibre and note to monitor it.  
The following two items can be closed 8.1 Hedgehog Corner, 8.2 Phone mast

**6. Reports from Borough and County Councillor**

Cllr Keeling was not in attendance.

**7. Reports from Councillors**

Cllr Kendell attended the WALC Chair's meeting on behalf of Cllr French. There was a discussion about Climate Change and a project will be coming out from WALC in the coming months. RBC will be holding a meeting about the Local Plan in July; Cllrs will be welcome to attend. There was a discussion about the difficulties contacting RBC.

Cllr de Nahlik advised new residents to the village are having difficulty obtaining a broadband connection. BT has advised them, the only broadband available is fibre to the premises, they no longer offer broadband via the original copper wire. There is no fibre to the premises in the village. Cllr Kent advised "Starlink" can provide a service in this instance. Cllr de Nahlik will let the residents know.

Cllr Preston advised another hedge, by the "Hatchery" on Long Itchington Road has been ripped out. It has been reported to Planning Enforcement at RBC, it has not been reported to the Police. Clerk advised the matter ought to be reported to the Police as well.

Cllr French referred to the complaints which had been received about the grass cuttings being in the road and potentially blocking the drains. Cllr French said the first cut was dealing with long grass and hopefully the cuts will improve as the season goes on. If there are more complaints in the future, the matter can be considered again.

Cllr Kent asked if RBC support "No Mow May" and wildflowers in verges. Cllr French has already asked Cllr Keeling.

**8. Planning Applications**

**8.1** No planning applications have been received since the last meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

## 8.2 Planning Decisions

No planning decisions have been received since the last meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

8.3 Appeals - none received.

## 8.4 Hedgehog Corner, Stockton Road, Birdingbury

RBC have advised the work to remove some of the hardcore and replace it with grass has been completed.

## 9. Financial Issues

### 9.1 Payments made since the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Payee	Amount £
Godfrey Payton – annual licence fee for The Hovel	10.00
Frank Mann Farmers – hedge on path up to church cut back	330.00

### 9.2 Payments for approval

Payee	Amount £
Hugofox website direct debit 27.03.24 paid by Direct Debit	11.99
1 and 1 internet email provision paid by Direct Debit	13.20
Clerk salary March 2024 paid by Direct Debit	
Clerk end of year 2023 - 2024 salary adjustment	
HMRC 01.01.24 – 31.03.24	131.00
WALC Membership 2024 – 2025	175.20

It was proposed by Cllr Kendell, seconded by Cllr de Nahlik and **RESOLVED** to approve the payments.

### 9.2 Income received

Precept £3987.50 - noted

### 9.4 Bank Balance Reconciliation as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Bank statement and reconciliation was signed as being correct by Cllr French

### 9.5 Budget Report as at 31.03.24 - NOTED

### 9.6 Budget 2024 – 2025 – Noted

Clerk to remove VAT figures from the Income Summary

### 9.7 Savings Account

The Clerk advised Hampshire Trust Bank closed the original application as they had not received the payment into the account. The account has been re-opened. The Clerk will pass the mandates to Cllrs French, Kendell and Kent as soon as they are received.

It was proposed by Cllr French, seconded by Cllr Kendell and **RESOLVED** to open the account with Hampshire Trust Bank with £5000.

## 10. Recreation Ground

### 10.1 Supplier Quotes

**Skate Ramp** – one quote received from King Ramps, Raddi Skatepark Repairs due to undertake a site visit towards the end of the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Cllrs are of the impression the skate ramp is constructed with Skatelight and therefore, in theory, has a lifetime guarantee. Cllr French to check the Parish Council records in the church to establish the manufacturer. Clerk believed the skate ramp was installed @ 2004/2005.

### **Slide**

Clerk to ask Playsafe for a quote for a new slide.

Clerk to chase Kompan for their quote.

Clerk to ask Sovereign if their site visit charge of £199.00 could be set against any contract if their quote is successful.

Clerk to contact HAGS and ask for quote.

### **Multiplay Area**

It is believed the Multiplay Area was installed by Sovereign. Clerk to ask Sovereign about repairs/refurbishment.

Cllr French advised he is willing to meet contractors on site if needs be.

## **10.2 Working Group**

Cllr French advised three people have volunteered for the working group, along with Cllrs French, Kent and Preston. An informal meeting will be arranged to discuss budget requirements which will be brought to May's Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Kent asked if The Hovel can be used to store wood to mend the fencing around the recreation ground. The key to The Hovel is currently held by a resident; Cllr French will retrieve it.

## **10.3 Availability of funding**

The list provided by the Clerk was noted. There are plenty of grants available, but very few available for recreation grounds.

## **11. Highways**

### **11.1 Update on drain clearance**

The drain by Stockton Road/Leamington Hastings Road has been cleared, the possibility of the culvert being blocked has been reported back to the Locality Officer and a job has been raised for this to be inspected.

Cllr French raised concern surrounding this culvert as there is no longer a proper ditch on the side nearest Back Lane. The ditch has been filled by hedge and vegetation. If the culvert is opened the water will go down the hill and into people's gardens.

Clerk to raise this concern with WCC Highways.

### **Pathways and driveways**

These repairs are on record, but there is no date as to when the work will be undertaken.

### **New "Birdingbury" sign Long Itchington Road**

Has been ordered, it needs to be manufactured individually, it will take a while to be completed.

### **Back Lane drains**

Are on the list to be jetted, no timescale when this will be done.

The Clerk will chase all these jobs again for the September 2024 meeting if not completed beforehand.

## **12. War Memorial**

Cllr de Nahlik will see if a nylon brush and water will clean the War Memorial, she will do a test spot and report back.

## **13. Section 137 Grant application**

It was proposed by Cllr French, seconded by Cllr Kent and **RESOLVED** the application be refused as the application did not sufficiently demonstrate the benefits to the residents of Birdingbury.

**14. Hedgehog Highway**

It was proposed by Cllr French, seconded by Cllr Preston and **RESOLVED** not to participate in this project. They felt the project was more suited to urban areas as opposed to a rural village.

**15. Newcomers to the village**

Welcome to the village leaflet is now available on the Parish Council's website.

**16. Items for the next Agenda**

Recreation Ground, War Memorial, Savings Account, Culvert Stockton Road

**17. Date of next meeting.**

30th April 2024 Annual Village Meeting

13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Parish Council Annual General Meeting

Meeting ended 21.00 hrs

Signed

Date