

**Minutes of the virtual meeting of Birdingbury Parish Council  
held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Present:** Cllrs Preston, Morton, and Cllr Mrs Kendell

**In attendance:** Jackie Chapman (Clerk)

**1. Welcome.**

Cllr Preston opened the meeting at 19:32 hrs and welcomed those present.

**2. To accept apologies for absence**

Cllr French – apologies accepted.

Cllr Cutts – apologies accepted.

**3. Declaration of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Representations from the public**

No public were present.

**5. Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were agreed as a true and complete record.

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

County Cllr Roberts was not present.

District Cllr Mrs Crane was not present.

**7. Reports from Councillors**

Cllr Mrs Kendell advised the grass verges by the telephone in Main Street have been damaged by vehicles. Cllr Kendell will send photos to the Clerk, who will raise the matter with WCC Highways.

Cllr Preston - annual litter pick to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021, subject to the prevailing law at the time in relation to Covid19. Volunteers will be encouraged to collect at different times.

Dog Bins at the following locations are full and in need of emptying:

Bus Shelter - Main Street, Popehill Lane, Draycote and Bourton End. The Clerk will report this to RBC.

**8. Planning Applications**

**8.1** The following planning applications have been received since 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

| Number   | Address  | Proposed   | Comments due by   |
|----------|--|--|-------------------|
| R21/0055 | Unit 12 Munro Business Park, Marton Road, Birdingbury CV23 8EH | Variation of condition 2 of planning permission R19/1539 (Conversions of existing barn to form two new dwellings and associated parking) dated 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 for fenestration changes and elevation alterations. | No representation |

- 8.2** The following planning decisions have been received since the last Parish Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

| Application Number | Address                              | Decision  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| R20/1076           | Springside, Main Street, Birdingbury | Approved  |
| R20/1077           | Springside, Main Street, Birdingbury | Withdrawn |

- 8.3** Appeals - none received.

- 8.4 R20/0611**  
No further information has been received.

## **9. Financial Issues**

### **9.1 Approval of cheques –**

| Payee   | Amount £ |
|---|----------|
| Clerk Salary January 2021   |          |
| Mrs J Chapman reimbursement of Zoom costs, one third of Zoom costs for January 2021 (£14.39 divided by three per month = £4.79) | 4.79     |

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Kendell, seconded by Cllr Morton and **RESOLVED** the payments be made.

- 9.2 Bank Balance Reconciliation**  
Bank statement as at 31.01.2021 – noted.

- 9.3 Budget Report as at 31.01.2021** – noted.

### **9.4 Approval of Grass Cutting Quote for 2021 (April – Nov)**

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Kendell, seconded by Cllr Morton and **RESOLVED** the payments be made.

The Parish Council will go out to tender for grass cutting quotes for 2022 season.

### **9.5 Internet Banking**

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Kendell, seconded by Cllr Morton and **RESOLVED** internet banking be implemented.

- 10. Recreation Ground**  
Deferred as Cllr Cutts was not present.  
Sign for recreation ground to have Clerk's email address on it, along with location details for the defibrillator.

- 11. Birdingbury Village Club**  
There was no update.

- 12. Broadband**  
Cllr Mrs Kendell provided a summary of the zoom meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 re Fibre To The Premises (FTTP).  
The meeting was very well attended and thanks to all who participated so fully in it.  
• Cllr French (Guy) updated on the story so far: following some great work done by Carmel, an application was made on behalf of the village by Guy to Openreach to

ask them to investigate a jointly funded fibre broadband solution, on an FTTP basis. That application named 28 addresses, which had responded to the request for expressions of interest in Birdsong. On the basis of that, Openreach's computer mapped a design and produced a computer-generated quote. This would cover a core of 128 premises and was at an initial estimate of around £1000 per property.

- Cllr French, Cllr Mrs Kendell and the Clerk, Jackie Chapman had a follow-up meeting with the Rural Engagement Manager at Openreach in January who explained how the process would work, and also the availability of voucher funding from DCMS and, potentially, top-up funding from Warwickshire CC, to help pay for it. That funding was identified as being up to potentially as much as £4k per property, meaning that the costs of that proposed scheme could be met by commitments on the part of around 32properties (commitment meaning pledging that the property would take up a FTTP service, once that was available).

- That meeting concluded with a request from Openreach to check the list of properties identified by Openreach for anomalies, exclusions, omissions, duplicates etc. and to then revert to them. They would then create a new design on the back of the "correct" list, make an offer on that basis, and we would then move to work with them to create a pledge website, where people could express an interest. If there was sufficient interest, a contact could then be entered into to carry out the works, which would take 6-9 months. The PC had been working on that basis and checking the list.

- However, it had very recently (in the 36 hours prior to the meeting) been suggested through another source (not our Rural Engagement Manager) that the DCMS voucher scheme was to be withdrawn in respect of postcodes that were not "hard to reach" as defined, this would exclude Birdingbury and mean the funding was not available. Given the potential this has to stop the scheme entirely, attempts had been made to clarify this with him, but he is not available due to family illness and his substitute contacts had not responded by the time of the meeting. We have received NO direct confirmation of the withdrawal of the voucher scheme, although we were aware it was under review, and no information to this effect appears on any of the potentially relevant websites.

- Following the meeting, further contact was made by email with the substitute contacts at Openreach, explaining that we have proceeded as agreed in our meeting in January and would like to discuss further progressing of the application. A response to this email has not yet been received but an update will be given when there is one.

- Other discussions at the meeting were the variability of service in different parts of village, whether there is a current infrastructure issue with the existing fibre (to the cabinet) or other wires that are causing intermittency issues, whether 5G might help improve the service to the village (would require another mast), whether the quote included businesses/businesses run from home (it did), whether Rugby councillors might be able to support with the application and the value of having a fast reliable service(including in terms of property values), especially with so many people working from home.

- Further explanation was also given around how the service would be delivered –the technical/engineering side of the installation. It was explained that this would be completely new fibre –it did not re-use the fibre to the cabinet. In terms of how it would get to people's homes, this would usually use the existing ducts or overhead lines. This might therefore involve some digging up, but this would be made good by Openreach. There may be need in some cases for new ducts, usually where there were very old, buried cables. The estimate we had received was a global cost and the majority of the cost is usually the global cost but there is a second part of the cost that depends on where the property is located. Finally, people who did not join the original pledge could still opt into FTTP later, if the scheme went ahead (dependent on the ultimate scheme design and if, e.g., it went past their door).

- 13. Hedge boundary around the Glebe Field**  
Clerk to write to Godfrey Payton to ask for the hedge to be maintained.
- 14. Newcomers to the Village**  
None
- 15. Correspondence received and action required**  
Noted.
- 16. Items for the next Agenda**  
Clerk to check with Warwickshire County Records Office re storage of previous minutes.  
Website and e-mail  
Broadband
- 17. Date of next meeting** 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
  
Meeting ended 20:31  
  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_