

BIRCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 7th September 2022. The Meeting was held at 7.30 in Bircham Social Club.

Present: Cllrs G Daniels (Chairman), T Clark, D French, D Howell, R Hutchinson, C Morley, H Rayner, M Sargent, P Spake

Also present, Simon Bower (Clerk) and 1 Member of the Public.

1. Declarations of Interest (22/074)

- a) There were no declarations of interest

2. Apologies for Absence (22/075)

- a) There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Mele and Noon.

3. Chairman's welcome and announcements (22/076)

- a) Cllr Daniels commented on the success of Bircham in Bloom [BiB]. At the awards earlier in the day, the Team was awarded an Order of Merit for the Churchyard, Gold for the Nature Conservation Area, and Silver Gilt for the Village as a whole. She thanked those involved and a round of applause ensued. She also noted, given the number of new people in the Parish, that she had observed a tree being cut which had a TPO in place. To make sure that this was included in the Parish News to increase awareness, she thought it should be mentioned at the PC meeting. [Clerk to get copies of all TPOs and make available.]

4. Minutes (22/077)

- a) *The minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2022, having been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record and duly signed.*

5. Public Participation (22/078)

- a) There were no issues raised by Members of the Public.

6. Reports (22/079)

- a) Bircham in Bloom – Council looked forward to a future report.
- b) County Councillor – Cllr Chenery had sent a brief note, with apologies for absence. This stated he would be in touch re Members' Fund information in due course. [It was noted that this funding in 2021/22 had been included in the NCC funding for the entrance to the Playing Field.]
- c) Borough Councillor – Cllr Morley noted the group purchasing of solar panels which was on offer – not all had received info. He expanded on some budget figures from the Borough regarding support received from the Government, adding that information about the uses of the remainder (e.g. free cookery

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 12/10/2022

lessons) were on the Borough website. He was planning to introduce a motion to use some of the Borough reserves to increase support to householders in lower brackets. He noted the large amount of funding which went from Council Tax to the Internal Drainage Board, adding his regret at not having been elected to that body. Funding was being reduced at County and this may affect the mobile library. [It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Cllrs Chenery and Jamieson, plus the leader, at NCC to note that Council was concerned about this.] He was concerned at the time and effort being spent on Hunstanton, much of which was "window-dressing", and concluded with reference to the possible move of the library in Lynn to the Argos building, and concerns over heritage issues and the future of the Carnegie building.

- d) Cricket Club – this item included for public info. Cllr Rayner noted that the provision of grants had allowed the installation of the new artificial wicket, which was now in place and "bedding in". The Club was looking at the provision of a mobile net to go with this. The second phase – provision of new training nets – would cost around four times as much. He noted that 72 children (including 13 girls) were enrolled on the Friday sessions. The question of removal of the spoil was raised.
- e) Clerk – The Clerk noted that there had been a change in the delegation procedures for planning applications at the Borough – this meant that PC objections were not guaranteed to go to sifting. He was pursuing elsewhere, and would keep Cllrs informed. He noted an email relating to traffic issues at the Angling Club – to refer them to NCC. There was reference to recent accidents at the site, and the need to chase Highways engineer regarding survey promised last year

7. Planning (22/080)

- a) A late application (PA 22/01503 - variation of condition 2 of planning permission 17/01390: Long Meadow, Great Bircham) had been received. *It was agreed that Cllr French would look at the detail of this, report to Cllrs, and the Clerk would respond to the Borough if necessary¹.*

8. Finance (22/081)

- a) Financial Report – The Clerk noted current balances [total c.£26,910] and spending against budget, covering progress over the first half of the financial year.
- b) *Expenditure, as listed in the public pack², was agreed unanimously.*
- c) *It was agreed to accept the recommended External Auditor from 2022/23 onwards.*

¹ It was noted later in the meeting that this also involved changes from semi-detached to detached properties in one case.

² See below

9. Highways (22/082)

- a) It was noted that the SAM2 speed sign would be arriving soon. Though one of the posts was slightly out of place, there was no need to move it.

10. Delegated decisions (22/083)

- a) No decisions had been taken under scheme of delegation.

11. Other items for consideration (22/084)

- a) Project Group – it was agreed that the Clerk should invite each Cllr to submit three "pet" projects for consideration. These could then form the basis of discussion relating to the budget setting for 2023/24. It was also agreed that the Clerk should feel free to submit grant applications at any time, to allow for funding which may be time-limited.
- b) Play Area inspection – it was agreed that Cllr Sargent should contact a contractor to look at the rust problem highlighted and to realign the bird protection spikes. Also to look at a seat not being level on the swings.
- c) Outdoor gym equipment – this to be part of the process in a above. More info to be gathered.
- d) Civility and Respect Pledge – as the Clerk was to be attending a networking session where this was on the agenda, this item to be deferred until further info available.
- e) The Clerk presented a draft Document Retention Policy, based on NALC model and used elsewhere. Council agreed to accept this draft³.

12. Other items for discussion (22/085)

- a) It was noted that the Social Club had received CIL funding from the Borough for the car park, and that with contributions from the Church, Sandringham and the PC this was sufficient to go ahead with works, anticipated to start on 14th Sept; it would then be available for public use.
- b) It was suggested that an agenda item be included to recommend that Bircham in Bloom become independent of Council - this to assist with funding applications etc. Clerk also to write to the Team.

13. Correspondence (22/086)

- a) Council considered the application for increased funding from the Church for maintenance of the Churchyard. Concern was raised over the removal of the ivy, and that without this, the amount requested exceed the expected costs. Tree Protection Orders to be sought and further consideration to take place.

14. Next Meeting (22/087)

- a) The next meeting was confirmed as at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 12th October at the Social Club.

³ Once reformatted, will be sent to Cllrs for info and posted online.

15. Private session (22/088)

- a) It was agreed to close the meeting to public and press, under relevant legislation and standing orders.
- b) [The Clerk left the room]. Cllrs discussed the Clerk's appraisal. It was agreed that this should be conducted by Cllrs Daniels and Sargent.

The Meeting ended at c.9.20pm

Expenditure:

Date	To	For	Gross	VAT	Budget
4/8/22	Gt Massingham Car Scheme	Donation	£300.00	£0.00	CCS
3/8/22	nPower - July	street lighting	£92.62	£4.41	SLP
31/8/22	Salary/Tax	Salary - August	£534.41	£0.00	CKS
7/9/22	M Page - 2021	Grass/Bus Shelter	£350.00	£0.00	MNT
7/9/22	M Page - 2022	Grass/Bus Shelter & Spinney	£380.00	£0.00	MNT
?	nPower - Aug	awaiting invoice			SLP
30/9/22	Salary/Tax	Salary - September	£417.56	£0.00	CKS

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 12/10/2022