

BIRCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council on Wednesday, 17th May 2023. The Meeting was held at 7.30 in Bircham Social Club.

Present: Cllrs G Daniels (Chairman), D French (p/t), R Hutchinson, C Morley, D Noon, H Rayner, P Spake.

Also present, NCC Cllr M Chenery (p/t), Simon Bower (Clerk) and five Members of the Public.

Prior to the meeting, those Cllrs present signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and other paperwork.

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair (23/043)

a) Cllr Daniels was elected Chairman for the Council Year 2023/24

Prop: Cllr Noon; 2nd: Cllr Morley; unanimous

b) Cllr Noon was elected Vice-Chairman for the Council Year 2023/24

Prop: Cllr Daniels; 2nd: Cllr Morley; unanimous

Both Cllrs signed their Declarations of Acceptance of their posts.

2. Declarations of Interest (23/044)

a) There were no declarations of interest.

3. Apologies for Absence (23/045)

a) There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Clark and Sargent, and for possible lateness from Cllr French.

b) It was agreed to allow Cllrs Clark and Sargent to sign their Declarations at a future date.

4. Co-option (23/046)

a) Following the Elections, there were two Cllr vacancies to be filled without further election. Lisa Palmer and Claire Wright-Thompson had written expressing their interest. Both Lisa Palmer and Claire Wright-Thompson were unanimously co-opted. They signed their Declarations and took their place with Cllrs.

5. Chairman's welcome and announcements (23/047)

a) Cllr Daniels thanked Cllrs for their support and pledged to do her best.

6. Minutes (23/048)

a) The minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2023, having been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

b) No matters arising from the above minutes were raised.

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 14/6/2023

7. Public Participation (23/049)

- a) A Member of the Public raised an issue of flooding due to the run-off of water from the Playing Field during a recent violent downpour. It was noted that such matters were in the remit of the County Council, and, with Cllr Chenery being present, this was raised directly with him.

8. Reports (23/050)

- a) County Councillor – Cllr Chenery noted he had sent a written report, which had been circulated. He added that he was involved in a Working Group preparing a paper on alcohol. He congratulated Cllr Morley on his election as Borough Cllr.
- b) Borough Councillor – Cllr Morley thanked those who had voted for him, and pledged to represent all. He commented on the changes at the Borough, to be led by a coalition. He would be Cabinet Member for Finance, and the Leader would be Terry Parrish. There was still no news on the hospital, with others locally having the same issues. The new administration would be lobbying for a change in financial arrangements for the Internal Drainage Board, and second-home Council Tax. [Cllr Chenery left at 7.53pm.]
- c) Clerk – The Clerk commented on the elections, he would be writing to thank those no longer on Council. He was still pursuing “.gov.uk” email addresses; though the original scheme had not progressed, a revised one was in place. The website needed changes, and he was working on this. He was attending the SLCC conference/AGM the next day.

9. Planning (23/051)

- a) PA 23/00768 had been received - Construction of 12 new dwellings, change of use of land adjoining to shared woodland/meadow outdoor space, Land South of 16 Lynn Road, Great Bircham. There was a very extended discussion of this, touching on a wide variety of planning and other matters, including safety and affordable housing. It was noted that the area was covered under the Local Plan, so the principle of development was established. Given the size of the development and the complications this implied, it was agreed to arrange a site visit, and discuss further at the next meeting, making news of the application public through the newsletter, and possibly re-ordering the following meeting should public attendance be larger than normal. The Clerk, noting that, again, documents were not all available when the consultation period started, would request an extension, and Cllr Morley would call the Application in to Planning Cttee. [Cllr French arrived early in this discussion, and signed his Declaration at that point.]
- b) There were no other Planning matters to report.

10. Finance (23/052)

- a) Financial Report – The Clerk noted balances of c.£37.5K, with just over £9,000 being CIL. He had added a line showing s.137 payments to the budget

sheet, as requested by the Auditor – this was limited to c.£3,500. Some budgets showed high spending due to payments coming early in year.

- b) Council confirmed the expenditure of £1,750+VAT for the WWI Memorial Case.
- c) Expenditure, as listed in the public pack¹, was agreed.

11. Highways (23/053)

- a) Clerk noted that the readings from the SAM speed sign continued to be monitored, though not all sites had yet been used. It was likely that a report would be made showing the percentage of those exceeding 35mph – the point at which a speeding fine would likely be imposed. To be confirmed.

12. Delegated decisions (23/054)

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

13. Other items for consideration (23/055)

- a) No new Council groups were proposed, with all things being referred to Full Council. Cllr Hutchinson to remain as rep for Jack's Wind Farm. Cllr Rayner agreed to monitor the Play Area, with appropriate advice/training.
- b) Clerk noted that some policies had been reviewed during the year, pointing Cllrs to the website, asking for any proposed changes. New NALC Standing Orders were in preparation, and he would wait until these were in place before presenting a revision.

14. Other items for discussion (23/056)

- a) Cllr Morley noted a possible planning infringement which he was pursuing. It was requested that the drainage pipes at the TROD should be "rodded" – request to NCC.

15. Correspondence (23/057)

- a) No correspondence not already forwarded to Cllrs was raised.

16. Next Meeting (23/058)

- a) The next meeting was confirmed as 7.30pm on Wednesday, 14th June 2023, at the Social Club
- b) The draft list of dates for meetings in 2023/24 was agreed².

17. Private session (23/059)

- a) It was agreed to close the meeting to public and press, under relevant legislation and standing orders. [Public left at c.9pm]
- b) There was discussion of the maintenance agreement and lease between BPC and the Cricket Club. It was agreed to pay the remainder of the invoice presented. The Clerk to produce a revised maintenance agreement, reflecting

¹ See below

² See below

changes since 2020, to submit to the Club. It was also agreed to state publicly that Council would not be pursuing the £300 Annual payment in the lease while circumstances remained the same.

The Meeting ended at c.9.30pm

Expenditure:

Inv Date	To	For	Gross	VAT	Budget
28/4/23	EAAA*	Donation	£100.00	£0.00	DON
30/3/23	Cricket Club*	Grass cutting	£725.00	£0.00	PLM
1/5/23	ECS - may	Computer	£24.60	£4.10	EXP
1/5/23	Npower - apr	Street lights	£110.30	£5.25	SLP
31/5/23	Salaries incl tax	Salary	£457.08	£0.00	CKS
INCOME					
tbc	BCKLWN	CIL	£5,861.16	£0.00	XXX

*agreed at previous meeting

Meeting dates:

2023:

June 14th
 July 26th
 August - none
 September 6th
 October 11th
 November 29th
 December - none

2024:

January 10th
 February - none
 March 6th
 April 10th
 May 15th – Annual Parish Council Meeting

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 14/6/2023