

BIRCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 14th June 2023. The Meeting was held at 7.30 in Bircham Social Club.

Present: Cllrs G Daniels (Chairman), T Clark (p/t), D French, R Hutchinson, C Morley, D Noon, L Palmer, H Rayner, P Spake, C Wright-Thompson

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

Prior to the meeting. most Cllrs and the Clerk visited the site of the Planning Application in Item 7.

Meeting started at 7.35pm

1. Declarations of Interest (23/060)

- a) There was a declaration of interest from Cllr Rayner – item 9b/c.

2. Apologies for Absence (23/061)

- a) There were apologies for absence from Cllr M Sargent, and from Cllr T Clark for possible lateness or absence.

3. Chairman's welcome and announcements (23/062)

- a) The Chairman made no specific remarks.

4. Minutes (23/063)

- a) *The minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2023, having been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record and duly signed.*
- b) There were no Matters Arising from the above minutes.

5. Public Participation (23/064)

- a) No matters raised by Members of the Public.

6. Reports (23/065)

- a) Bircham in Bloom – no report
- b) County Councillor – apologies for absence received, along with a written report previously circulated to Cllrs. Clerk noted that Cllr Chenery had been dealing with the flooding issue raised at the last meeting.
- c) Borough Councillor – Cllr Morley commented on the challenges facing the incoming administration as they developed a corporate plan. On finance, there appeared to be “two years in the kitty”, and there was concern over grants and level of Government funding. Devolution was a “worry”, but was not a “done deal”, and they would be lobbying for the status quo. He referred to plans for Hunstanton being urgent.

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 26/7/2023

- d) Clerk – nothing to report beyond agenda items. He apologised for any work not completed yet, due to number of meetings, bank holidays, training, election etc.

7. Planning (23/066)

- a) PA 23/00768 - Construction of 12 new dwellings, change of use of land adjoining to shared woodland/meadow outdoor space, Land S of 16 Lynn Road, Great Bircham. There was a very lengthy discussion of the issues arising. [Cllr Clark arrived at 7.48.] The following response was agreed:
- *Council was not in principle against the development.*
 - *It was concerned about safety for pedestrians and those using wheel-/push-chairs.*
 - *It requests a footway along the Lynn Rd ("proper" one with kerb, not a TROD) from, at least, the Southern entrance of the site to the corner of Lynn Rd/Anmer Road¹. If such a path is not included, Council would object to the Application.*
 - *It further requests that such a footway be extended South to include such access for 8-14 Lynn Rd.*
 - *It is glad that the proposal includes an extension Southwards of the 30 mph zone, and request that when signage is moved, the Village Gateways are similarly relocated.*
 - *Council notes that there is a proposed pedestrian access to Anmer Road, but is concerned that this has a 60mph speed limit (and is sometimes used as such by "off-road" vehicles). The surfacing is also inappropriate, and is impassable in bad weather². If improvements are not made in these regards, Council will object to the Application.*
 - *It also notes that the plan does not have any safe pedestrian access for Plot 2; this is "landlocked". This and the above point inform the request for the footway along the Lynn Rd.*
 - *Regarding the affordable housing, Council is happy with the BC proposal for these to be of two different types. Although Council understands the site's constraints, these should be integrated into the site layout and tenure blind. Furthermore, the egress from the site compounds this problem. It also notes that their bedrooms fall beneath the required space standards.*
 - *It was concerned with the lack of private garden space on Plot 11, especially given that these properties are likely to be lived in by families with children.*
 - *The Nutrients and Neutrality statement was mentioned – Council assumes that this will be adhered to.*
- b) No other planning matters reported.

8. Finance (23/067)

- a) Financial Report – The Clerk noted balances totalled just under £36K after proposed spending. Spending against budget only high for those areas where

¹ Unsurfaced road, aka Dersingham Lane

² Photo from member of the public to be added

spending came early in year. An explanation of Section 137 spending was requested and provided.

- b) Expenditure, as listed in the public pack³, was agreed.
- c) It was agreed to add Cllr Noon as a signatory, and that previous agreement for the Clerk to be one should be actioned.
- d) It was agreed that delegated permission to authorise payment for contractual, regular or approved works be granted to the Clerk when meetings are more than a month apart, for the remainder of this Financial Year.

9. Highways (23/068)

- a) Clerk noted that he had reported the problems with the TROD to Rangers. Additional requests were made re brambles in the Stocks Close area, and a fallen gate.

10. Delegated decisions (23/069)

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

11. Other items for consideration (23/070)

- a) There was an extended discussion of provision of gym equipment, including the level of public support, and possible other equipment. Council agreed (8-0; 2 abst) to proceed with the "adult gym" equipment, to be located approx. halfway down the West side of the Playing Field. No fencing to be needed.
 - a. Council agreed to provision of: Elliptical Cross Trainer, Cardio Combi, Chin-up Bars and Combo – SPC. These totalled c.£5.9K, with an expectation that, with fitting, surfacing and delivery this would come to £8-8.5K.
- b) Items b, c and subsections involved long and occasionally heated discussions. Council did not agree to the use of the phrase "Council instructs Bircham Cricket Club to replace the current cricket nets" for planning purposes by the Cricket Club. (0-9; 1 abst).
 - a. Plans for the nets had previously been agreed so there was no further discussion.
 - b. A proposal for a donation to the Cricket Club of £500 was seconded. An amendment was made to £400, and, having been seconded, was voted on. Council agreed a donation of £400 for the nets project, when requested by Bircham Cricket Club. (5-4; 1 abst)
 - c) Council agreed that the Clerk should write formally requesting that the Cricket Club should remove or spread the spoil from the Pavilion development. (6-0; 4 abst)

12. Other items for discussion (23/071)

- a) Cllr Rayner requested that the provision of additional children's play equipment be considered at a future date.
As time was moving on, the following items were rushed through:

³ See below

13. Correspondence (23/072)

- a) None mentioned.

14. Next Meeting (23/073)

- a) The next meeting was confirmed as 7.30pm on Wednesday, 26th July at the Social Club.

The Meeting ended at 10.13 pm.

Expenditure:

Inv Date	To	For	Gross	VAT	Budget
1/5/23	Npower - apr (adjusted fig)	Street lights	£48.68	£5.25	SLP
30/3/23	Cricket Club	Grass cutting £1445 (£725pd)	£720.00	£0.00	PLM
1/6/23	ECS - jun	Computer	£24.60	£4.10	EXP
3/6/23	Npower - may	Street Lights	£102.70	£4.89	SLP
8/6/23	Simon Bower	Expenses 7/22-4/23	£306.80	£0.00	EXP/X/SUB
30/6/23	Salaries incl tax	Salary	£457.08	£0.00	CKS

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 26/7/2023