

BIRCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 9th October 2024. The Meeting was held at 7.30 in Bircham Social Club.

Present: Cllrs H Rayner (Chairman), Cllr Palmer, Cllr Daniels, Cllr Spake, Cllr Kemsley, Cllr Hardiman, Cllr French, Cllr Morley

Also present, Michelle Wroth (Clerk) and 7 Members of the Public.

Before the meeting, all present introduced themselves, following a previous request.

1. Declarations of Interest (24/105)

- a) There were no declarations of interest.

2. Apologies for Absence (24/106)

- a) There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Clark, Cllr Hutchinson and Cllr Durrant.

3. Chairman's welcome and announcements (24/107)

- a) No further comments.

4. Minutes (24/108)

- a) *The minutes of the meeting held on 4th September, having been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record and duly signed.*
- b) No matters arising from the above minutes.

5. Public Participation (24/109)

- a) Member of the Public shared updated details on dates for when slots can be booked from 11th November for a recycling centre slot from 18th November and a hazardous waste amnesty will take place 2nd/3rd November at Kings Lynn and Hempton centres; these details will all be included in the Bircham Times.

6. Reports (24/110)

- a) Bircham in Bloom – no report.
- b) County Councillor – no report.
- c) Borough Councillor – Report below
Recycling Centres – booking in advance starts for deliveries from 18 November with booking on web site or telephone customer service desk from 11th. We are concerned with fly tipping but will prosecute where we can.

I have started budget round for 25/26, discussing with assistant directors, we do not receive the Government's settlement until Christmas time but whatever the offer we will have cuts to make. We will need to cut around

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 27/11/2024

£4m from our expected spend to balance the budget but naturally, nobody wants to volunteer savings. We will be forced to top slice people's expenditure plans.

A public consultation is shortly to take place seeking views on our services and which are most important etc. Results may be useful in shaping the transformation we need to reduce our cost base.

Tuesday evening an event was held in Churchill Rooms, Houses of Parliament, to lobby for Internal Drainage Board costs to be paid for by the Government. A follow up with the minister has also been arranged and we then wait to hear if the Chancellor says anything in her economic statement at the end of the month or the Local Government financial settlement in December. Something has to give as the levy on our Council Tax is too much for us. £3.5m or 44% of our Council Tax take.

Please advise any people on Careline to be aware of scammers and we need, for such residents, to follow BT's plans to move telephony to the internet. Unlike the existing telephone network which has its own power, internet routers depend upon electricity from the Grid. If there are power cuts vulnerable people will be out of touch and so they need to ensure BT know of them and provide back up.

Hunstanton Soap Box Rally was another success and some contestants came from outside the Borough. The over 50 age winners came from Hinckley. Retail and trade sales were apparently equivalent to 3 good Saturdays.

If you hear of anybody who cannot check the benefits that may be available to them, a team from our benefits unit can help. Ring 0800 731 2253 on their behalf in the first instance.

I think everybody now knows that Go Green Grants are available for up to £8K for energy efficiency, village halls etc. via Community Action Norfolk.

Notwithstanding our financial position, Fawks in the Walks bonfire night fireworks and Christmas Lights in Kings Lynn are still going ahead.

I still have £900 of my Councillor Community Grant Fund if you know of any good cause that needs a little help (need bank account).

d) Clerk – comments made elsewhere in meeting.

7. Planning (24/111)

- a) There were no Planning Applications to consider.
- b) a. No further information for land adjacent to Cherry Ridge

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b. Planning application 23/00768/FM – 12 Dwellings, Lynn Rd, changes have been made by applicant. Council discussed changes and felt that 2 of their initial concerns have been met, with their other concern being the village gateway signs and the repositioning of these. This is not a planning matter, application to be withdrawn from recall and Clerk to contact Highways regarding the village gateways.

8. Finance (24/112)

- a) Financial Report – The Clerk noted that no bank statements had been received and has started the process of changing the address for future statements.
- b) Expenditure below, was agreed.

Inv Date	To	Description	Gross £	VAT £	Budget
26/09/24	TT Jones Electrical Ltd	Electrical inspection of streetlights	321.60	53.60	SLM
20/09/24	KOMPAN	Playing Field Equipment inspection	120.00	20.00	PLS
06/09/24	Tomato	Street Lighting (Sept)	101.47	4.83	SLP
	ECS	Computer	24.60	4.10	EXP
31/10/24	Salaries inc tax	Salaries – approx.	1,264.41	0.00	CKS/EXP
09/10/24	Clerk – Expenses	March – Sept 2024	279.50	0.00	CKT/EXP

9. Highways (24/112)

- a) No reports; Speedwatch report will be provided next month and become a standing item
- b) NCC have confirmed they will not investigate the drains on Church Lane until remedial work is completed on the Playing Field to stop water running down the track. Robert Timmins from Sandringham Estate confirmed that several options had been investigated and that they propose that a soakaway system be installed. Council agreed to this, work to start imminently.

10. Delegated decisions (24/113)

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

11. Other items for consideration (24/114)

- a) Council noted that a noise complaint had been made to Borough Council relating to the outdoor gym. Whilst Borough Council investigate no further discussions will be held by Council.
- b) No update provided
- c) Remembrance - It was agreed that Council should obtain a wreath and small poppies to be place on the War Memorial fence. Clerk to purchase
- d) Council agreed that an additional two sponsorship boards can be installed on the Cricket Pavilion
- e) No comments to be made on the Renewal of the Borough Councils Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control Order) It was agreed for the Clerk to

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order new dog signs and arrange to be installed at the Playing Field and end of Church Lane

- f) The streetlights have been inspected, one light on Snettisham Road had not been converted to LED along with the others. Clerk to investigate why this light was not converted. Council agreed to the street light maintenance contract which had been received

12. Other items for discussion (24/115)

13. Correspondence (24/116)

14. Next Meeting (24/117)

- a) The next meeting was confirmed as 7.30pm on Wednesday, 27th November 2024 at the Social Club.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm

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