

BIRCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 27th November 2024. The Meeting was held at 7.30 in Bircham Social Club.

Present: Cllrs H Rayner (Chairman), Cllr Daniels, Cllr Clark, Cllr Kemsley, Cllr Hardiman, Cllr French, Cllr Morley, Cllr Durrant

Also present, Michelle Wroth (Clerk) and 8 Members of the Public.

1. Declarations of Interest (24/118)

- a) There were no declarations of interest.

2. Apologies for Absence (24/119)

- a) There were apologies for absence from Cllr Hutchinson, Cllr Spake and Cllr Palmer.

3. Chairman's welcome and announcements (24/120)

- a) No further comments.

4. Minutes (24/121)

- a) *The minutes of the meeting held on 9th October, having been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record and duly signed.*
- b) No matters arising from the above minutes.

5. Public Participation (24/122)

- a) The Chair suggested that those wishing to discuss the Planning Application 'Well Cottage' could do so at the agenda item rather than during the public session

6. Reports (24/123)

- a) Bircham in Bloom – BIB provided a report prior to the meeting this covered activities, new initiatives, memberships, fund raising and the financial support provided by the Parish Council. Regular updates are provided in the Church Newsletter, village Facebook page and on the Parish Council website.
- b) County Councillor – No report received
- c) Borough Councillor – Cllr Morley gave an update; this included the 'Second Home Premium' and he has received 3 complaints regarding this. He explained that the Borough Council received 8% of the premium, the Parish Council 2% and County Council 80%, the Borough Council have been in contact with County Council to see if they could have a higher percentage.

They are looking to bring forward the date of the 'Empty Homes Premium'.

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 05/01/2025

The Borough Council are looking to improve their Leisure facilities; these would include building a new, modern swimming pool at Lynnsport to replace St James' swimming pool and to build a new modern Oasis Leisure Centre in Hunstanton

d) Clerk – comments made elsewhere in meeting.

7. Planning (24/124)

a) Planning Applications to consider

Application	Address	Description	Parish Council Decision
24/01960/F	Hall Farm Barn, Docking Rd, Bircham Newton	Conversion of existing barn to provide 1 x dwelling Link: 24/01960/F	<u>Object – concerns raised</u>
23/02246/F	Well Cottage, Lynn Rd, Great Bircham	Demolition of existing cottage and replacement with 4 x dwellings Link: 23/02246/F	<u>Object – concerns raised</u>

b) No applications were received after the publication of the agenda

8. Finance (24/125)

a) Financial Report – Prior to the meeting the Actual vs Budget report was issued. There are two lines that are over budget this year which are Defibrillator and Street Light Maintenance. A number of budget lines have yet to have any spend the highest of these being 'Projects' the budget £8,000 has been ringfenced for the Playing Field Project.

b) Expenditure below, was agreed.

Name	Description	Gross £	Budget
Clerk – Expenses	Remembrance Wreath and Poppies	88.99	DON
Tomato	Street Lighting (Nov)	5.04	SLP
Tomato	Street Lighting (Nov)		SLP
ECS	Computer	24.60	EXP
Salaries	Salaries – approx. (Nov)	496.60	CKS/EXP
Sandringham Estate	Recreation Ground Rent	600.00	PLR
PFK Littlejohn	External Audit Fee	252.00	
Clerk – Expenses	Dog Signs	83.10	
Salaries	Salaries – approx. (Dec)	496.60	CKS/EXP

c) Bank Reconciliation at 31st October 2024 – Total reserves of £29,841.93 of which £20,486.42 are general reserves - Noted

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 05/01/2025

- d) The Clerk had shared a report to council to move the bank to Unity Trust prior to the meeting. Council decided unanimously that the Council will move its banking to Unity Trust – Clerk to start the application
- e) It was agreed to keep the existing three signatories Cllr Daniels, Cllr Clark and Cllr Hutchinson. Cllr Rayner will also be added to the signatories – all in favour
- f) A brief discussion took place on items to be included in the 25/26 budget, there were not any additional items requested by Cllrs. Clerk will prepare the 25/26 ahead of the January meeting and it will be shared; this will be agreed in the January meeting

9. Highways (24/126)

- a) Speedwatch Report – A member of the Speedwatch team provided a verbal update which included a number of areas of the team. New members of the team have been welcomed; however, one resignation has been received the team will be advertising for a new member; if anyone is interested, please get in touch.

The team will be increasing their sessions to 6 times a month from 4, due to adverse weather conditions these targets may not be met over the coming months.

Bircham is regularly within the top 4 of villages in the statistics for most offences within an hour session.

The team have had discussions with Norfolk Police on how to help reduce the issue, suggestions include looking into a fixed safety camera like the newly install machine in Hillington, chicanes at the entrances to the village and additional signs to highlight drivers are approaching a reduced speed limit. highways will also need to be involved and the likelihood of a traffic review which comes with an additional cost.

The Chair thanked the Speedwatch Team for all the hard work to make the village safer.

- b) Reports or updates on Highway related issues – Clerk provided an update to confirm that the Village Gateway Signs on Lynn Road will be moved by Highways at the same time as the speed limit is moved due to the Avada development. This will be covered by Avada no cost to Council
- c) Update on the Playing Field flooding issues – the soakaway on the Playing Field has been installed and the bund has been created along the boundary as previously detailed by Sandringham Estate. Clerk to contact Highways to ask for the drainage on Church Lane to be investigated as previous correspondences

10. Delegated decisions (24/127)

- a) Approval was given via email agreement for the gate at the Playing Field to be replaced based on the quote received from the Contractor £560 + VAT
- b) Approval was given via email agreement for the Notice Board at Bircham Newton to be sanded and re-varnished based on the quote received from the Contractor £235

11. Other items for consideration (24/128)

- a) Update from the Playing Field Working Group – Cllr Hardiman provided an update on the work which the Playing Field Working Group (Cllr Daniels, Cllr Spake, Cllr Hardiman and Cllr Kemsley) have been working on since the last meeting.

Research has been undertaken which has included talking to member of the community, visiting local village playing fields and consider funding available. From the research a number of recommendations have been noted these include allocating a designated area for car parking, providing a picnic/seating area, re-site equipment, planting new hedging around the perimeter with BIB, create a Pétanque/Boules court, wild flower area inc small trees.

Clerk to circulate report and site drawing to Cllrs once the drawing has been received

- b) Proposal to upgrade one Football Goal – All in favour to purchase the new net for £236.72
- c) Consider quote to aerate the Playing Field All in favour to approve the quote to aerate the Playing Field for £350

12. Other items for discussion (24/129)

- a) *Matters raised by Cllrs – No matters raised*
- b) *Receive future agenda items*
 - *Agreeing meeting dates for 2025*
 - *Maintenance Contract between the Cricket Club*

13. Correspondence (24/130)

14. Next Meeting (24/131)

- a) The next meeting was confirmed as 7.30pm on Wednesday, 15th January at the Social Club.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: 05/01/2025