

BIRCHAM – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

Minutes of the meeting held at the Social Club on 23rd March 2022 at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr Gloria Daniels – Chair of the PC, Chaining meeting; Simon Bower (Parish Clerk) and approximately ten members of the Public, including Councillors.

2022.01 – Welcome

Cllr Daniels welcomed all to the meeting.

2022.02/3 – Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record, and duly signed. There were no matters arising from those minutes.

2022.04 – Chairman's Parish Council Report

Thanks – getting back to normal since relaxation of COVID rules. Nice to be able to meet in person. During year welcomed new Parish Clerk and two new Cllrs (Jonte Royall and Hugh Rayner). Farewells to Clerk Maxine Hayes and Cllrs Sylvia Langfield and Mike Carter.

Council has done its best to keep Village clean and tidy, reporting to NCC and BCKLWN as necessary, and employing Malcolm Page for grass-cutting etc., with volunteer Peter Hambly maintaining the Pond Area. Thanks to Cllr Bob Hutchinson for inspections of the defibrillator. Playing Field well used – thanks to Cllr Barry Mele for inspections of the Play Equipment, and the Cricket Club for keeping grass maintained. In May planted 15 trees on eastern boundary – all thriving.

Planning – eight applications reviewed.

Council has provided financial support for Gt Massingham Community Car Scheme and contributed to maintenance of the Church Yard. Thanks to Church for newsletter (£100 donated). Bircham in Bloom funding agreed.

No more info from Norfolk Education Department on the School.

Completed projects – installed posts at Pond and Triangle. Bought two new dog bins. Playing field entrance improvements - thanks to Cllr Darren French and Gary Page. New oak noticeboard at Bircham Newton. Meeting with Police and Highways on speeding, with two new SAM signs being purchased.

Looking forward - not possible to do defibrillator training; hopefully soon. Two trees at Lynn Rd entrance of Playing Field for Jubilee. New noticeboard on Lynn Rd.

2023.05 - Speedwatch Report

Malcolm Sargent reported. Had been concentrating on recruiting volunteers – numbers up from five to fourteen.

Now monitoring twice a week – Tuesday and Friday at varied times. As a result 100-150 people per month being contacted and Police camera officer coming twice per month – difficult to get data from this however. As yet, no confirmation of the two new SAM signs. Some discussion of the funding of these – Parish Partnership or Road Safety fund? Locations yet to be confirmed, but they will be moved regularly.

2023.06 – Bircham in Bloom Report

Chris Fellowes – update from 9/2 on since Council kindly agreed to help with funding. Several meetings had taken place. Preparing submission for Britain in Bloom.

Things done:

- Owl box installed and wildlife meadow being worked on in Churchyard.
- Railings painted at School with planters ready to install.
- Bulbs outside playing field.
- Village signs cleaned.
- Photo record by Hugh Rayner. All for in Bloom submission and being put on PC website, with reporting in Newsletter.
- Rose competition raised £132.

Criteria released for in Bloom competition – planning being done in three areas: Village, Church and Nature Conservation.

Spring and Autumn planting plans in place. Order for spring plants on 4th April. Within overall budget – order currently c.£500. Total funds available £782 (£400 from PC, £250 Community Grant, £132 from Rose competition). Galvanised water tanks donated – selling to raise funds. Economy being pursued by buying in bulk and using expertise of Darri Pattinson.

2022.07 – Other reports

None

2022.08 – Public Forum

A question was asked on the cost of playing field in accounts – this included cost of tree removal. A follow up was asked on the cost of grass cutting – did it go out to tender? No, but it did include pest control, and was very frequent. Further discussion on this including comparison with neighbouring parish, and the role of the Cricket Club, with its effects on social cohesion. Review on next contract arrangements.

Potholes – Clerk had contacted County and would forward email.

Locations for Speedwatch – Spinney, Pond, Docking Rd (not a great success – interference from fence?). Noted that appearance of speed when standing close to road does not tally with actual speed.

Meeting ended at c.7.35pm.

