

BIRCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Bircham Parish Council held on Wednesday 28th July
at 7.30pm at Bircham Social Club

Present: Councillors G Daniels (Chairman), M Sargent,
T Clark, R Hutchinson, J Royall, B Mele, D Howell & S Langfield.
M Hayes Parish Clerk & 3 members of the public

21.059 To receive and accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Carter, French & Morley.

21.060 Chairman's Welcome and Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

21.061 Declarations of Interest

None.

21.062 To approve the Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: It was Proposed and Seconded and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2021 as a correct record.

21.063 Matters arising from previous meetings (*For information only*)

- Conifers at entrance to playing field - The large conifers at the entrance to the playing field had now been removed.
- Posts Bircham Tofts Pond - Depending on the weather the posts around the pond would be installed within the next week.
- Geese – Bircham Tofts Pond - The Parish Council had met with Sandringham Estate, and they had agreed to erect a fence at the back of the pond to try and stop the geese in the field from coming into the pond area. The pond was now very overcrowded with geese.
- Entrance to the playing field – After receiving an email from the County Council Highways department outlining the estimated costs which had doubled to almost £16,000 members were asked for their views on this and whether the Parish Council should consider spending a further £4000 on the scheme. Councillor Royall put forward her concerns about the proposed new zig zag entrance scheme on safety grounds and felt that less money could be better spent on tidying up the existing entrance and installing a gate. Remaining money could be spent on improving the vehicular access from Church Lane. As the vehicular access land belonged to the Sandringham Estate, they would be asked to consider making improvements. Councillor Langfield expressed her wish to abstain from the vote. Following lengthy discussion the following proposal was put to the meeting PROPOSED: The Parish Council would not proceed with the plans for the entrance at an approximate cost of £16,000. Vote: 7 For 1 abstention.
It was agreed that the Parish Council would start again and could look at tidying up the entrance and consider installing a gate on the field side. Councillor French would be asked to get costs for this work and it was agreed that a site meeting should be held to discuss this with the contractor. It was

agreed that whilst the entrance was very narrow it did stop anyone being able to ride out of the playing field on bikes without having to dismount.
The funding already paid to the County Council would be refunded.

21.064 Public Participation relating to the agenda

No items.

21.065 Ward Reports: County Councillor and Borough Councillor

No reports.

21.066 Planning Matters

Planning Applications

9.1 Planning Applications

21/01183/F – Extension of dwelling house 31 Lynn Road – **The Parish Council had no objections to this application**

Further amendments to 21/00713/F – Demolition of existing cottage and Construction of 4 no. dwellings at Well Cottage, Crow Lane – **the Parish Council had no objections to the amendments**

Amendments to 21/00208/F – Proposed extension and alterations to form Family accommodation at Church Farm Cottage, Docking Road – **The Parish Council had no objections to this application**

21/01367/F – Garage Conversion including replacement window – 2 Church Farm Barns, Back Lane, Great Bircham. The reply date was 3rd August and Councillors were asked to send their comments to the Clerk before that date. It was understood that there were restrictions placed on the planning approval for this residence and the Parish Council would include in their comments to the Planning Department that these should remain in place. The Chairman read a letter of concern from a neighbour relating to this application to the meeting.

Other relevant Planning matters

None

21.067 Finance

The following accounts had been circulated and were Unanimously approved for payment: 21.067.1

Payments	Heading	Gross	Cheque no
Eon	Street Lighting electricity	£ 73.51	dd
Maxine Hayes	Salary July	£ 249.17	101046
Maxine Hayes	Office allowance	£ 10.00	101046
Maxine Hayes	Expenses, mileage, printing, postages July	£ 56.82	101047
Malcolm Sargent	Reimb reflectors for posts	£ 79.80	101048
Tree Work & Surveys Ltd	Removal of conifers at pf entrance	£ 660.00	101049

Bircham Social Club	Donation towards upkeep of car park	£ 400.00	101050
TOTAL		£ 1,529.30	
Income	Cricket Club reimb for legal fees	£ 720.00	

21.067.2 Financial Statement 1st Quarter to 30th June 2021

The Clerk had circulated the Financial Statement, Balance of Reserves, CIL Balances and Bank Balances to 30th June 2021.

These were noted by the Council and it was agreed a discussion would take place on which projects would be funded in this financial year. A Project Team meeting would be arranged to discuss this further.

21.067.3 Bircham Social Club

As approved at the June Parish Council meeting a donation of £400 would be made to Bircham Social Club to help towards the cost of maintaining the car park.

APPROVED.

21.068 Highways

To receive reports or updates on Highway related issues

The Clerk had chased all outstanding highways issues which were being looked at by the County Council. The Clerk was asked to chase the owners of the Old Rectory to get the foliage cut back which was overhanging the pavement.

The Clerk had received a complaint about the green Lane opposite the Bircham Tofts pond which was now very overgrown. This had previously been cut by the County Council and the Clerk was asked to report this.

Other overgrown areas to report were:

Bagthorpe/Syderstone Road very overgrown with nettles

Speed restriction signs along this road were now covered in overgrown foliage

Speed restriction sign on the road from the CITB to Bircham were also covered in foliage

The Clerk was asked to check when the Highways Rangers would next be visiting the Parish.

21.069 Items for Discussion

21.069.1 Bircham in Bloom

The Clerk had circulated information on various In Bloom groups were set up. After discussion it was agreed that it would be a better option to keep the In Bloom group under the umbrella of the Parish Council. The Clerk would email all In Bloom members to inform them of the decision.

21.069.2 From the ground up – an acre per village update

Discussion took place over the planting of a meadow strip alongside the Trod in Bircham Tofts and the Clerk had circulated details of the cultivation licence requirements from the County Council as this was their land. Councillor Clark had produced an action/maintenance plan to submit with the licence.

It was agreed that although the In Bloom group had not planned to meet until September the Clerk would email all members to try and set an earlier date in

August to discuss the meadow strip plan for approval. A further meeting would take place in September to discuss planting plans for 2022.

21.069.3 Village Walks leaflet

Councillor Langfield agreed to lead on this project and she would submit details of various walks and places of interest to be included to the Clerk who would put the information together in the form of a leaflet.

It was agreed to include an item in the next newsletter asking if any local businesses would like to sponsor the leaflet.

21.069.4 **ROSPA Play area inspection**

A few minor points had been raised which the Parish Council would monitor.

Councillor Mele informed the meeting that one of the swing seats appeared to be bent in the middle. This would be investigated.

21.070 Correspondence

- Norfolk ALC Wellbeing notice of three webinars
- Petition for replacement to Queen Elizabeth Hospital
- Norfolk ALC Wellbeing Safer Norfolk Plan
- Norfolk CC Temporary Road Closure Stanhoe Road 27th July 2021
- Norfolk ALC Bulletin
- Go to Town & West Norfolk Community Transport Ltd – Expansion of bus service no 21

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.