

## BIRDINGBURY ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

7.30pm Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 in The Birbury

The Chair, Cllr French, welcomed everyone to the meeting @ 19:32 hrs

**Apologies** were received from Gaynor Davey, Dallal Stevens, David Preston, Sara Kendall.

**Minutes of the 2022 AVM** held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were agreed as a true and complete record.

Cllr French gave a brief overview of the main issues for the Parish Council over the last 12 months.

### **5G Phone Mast**

A second application for a phone mast by the Marton Road entrance to the village was submitted and again it was refused. The space they wished to site the mast on is smaller than was declared in the application.

**Broadband** is still in the tendering stage and the PC is waiting to see if Birdingbury gets picked up.

**Q** Is there any help with mobile phones as in some areas of the village there is no connection.

**A** The Parish Council has suggested the phone mast company look for other sites within the village, but no feedback has been received.

**Highways** the PC's list for works to highways in and around Birdingbury remains long. Some repair work has been done on Long Itchington Road and Stockton Road has had some patching. WCC Highways budgets are very tight, hence not all work requested is completed. It has been a road-focussed year for the Parish Council, and we are currently awaiting a quote for installing kerbs in part of Main Street.

**Trees** the two rowan trees and the whips planted for the Queens Green Canopy by the copse of Frankton Hill are doing well. The Parish Council thanks those residents who came out to help plant the whips.

**Speed Surveys** are due to be undertaken on Main Street and Marton Road.

**Car Parking** The Parish Council thanks everyone who has changed where they are parking their cars, making the entry into Main Street from the Marton Road safer. The Parish Council hopes all residents remain considerate when parking their vehicle. Some further concerns were raised by parishioners and will be explored by the Parish Council.

**Parish Council Finances** The Parish Council is in a reasonably strong position and this year the Parish Council has spent just £300 more than it receives in precept. There is a small reserve for capital items. The precept has been kept the same for the fourth year running.

**4<sup>th</sup> May Elections** this year sees the introduction of photo ID being required to enable a person to vote. There was no election for Parish Councillors as there were five vacancies and four people put themselves to stand as Parish Councillors, they were all accepted. Cllr French thanked Richard Cutts for his service on the Parish Council over the last four years. There is one remaining vacancy, if anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please let any Parish Councillor or the Clerk know.

**King's Coronation** The Parish Council has considered buying a bench to celebrate the coronation. If anyone has as a suggestion as to where one could be sited, please let the PC know. Events are planned to celebrate the coronation.

### **The Birbury Management Committee**

The day to day running of the Birbury is now being dealt with by the Birdingbury Club. The constitution of the Birbury Management Committee will be amended so that there are representatives from three groups within the village: Birdingbury Club, Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council. These representatives will be responsible for holding the Birdingbury Club to account for the use of the public space. The representatives will also look after any residual funds held by the Birbury Management Committee and the Distribution Fund.

The original intention was for the Birdingbury Club to be turned into a Community Asset and for an asset lock to be created to protect the building. However, the Club was advised this is not possible. Therefore, the Club will look to register the Club as an asset of community value with Rugby Borough Council.

The Parish Council has taken legal advice regarding the Birbury lease and will not be progressing surrender of it. The current lease protects the Birbury.

The Birbury Management Committee will discuss these proposals at its AGM which is due to be held late in May.

Finally, the BMC has agreed to a £2,500 donation from the Distribution Fund to Birdsong.

### **Birdingbury Club**

There has been a change in staff/committee and prices, and the Club has been used more. The club has some reserves in the bank, however, with the increase in fuel costs and staffing it is likely to make a loss this year.

### **St Leonards**

Reverend Phil Price is now responsible for St Leonards along with 7 other churches in 11 or so parishes. This is the only way Birdingbury could have a minister. The church is making changes to allow worship to continue on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. One service is traditional and the other one is more contemporary. A short prayer service is held on Wednesdays at 9.30am. The number of people attending St Leonards is declining and the Church faces many challenges. The PCC has agreed to continue for another year and then review the situation.

### **Birdsong**

Birdsong is still produced every two months the editorial group is working on edition 116. Now there are well established social media channels providing day to day communication across the community, Birdsong remains a tangible and enduring source of village news and information. An average print run of 160 copies remains stable at around £120 with the PCC funding the Church News and Views section. Birdsong funds are currently very healthy, primarily due to a substantial donation from the village fund. This alongside other generous personal donations from readers, means Birdsong will continue for another three to four years. Thank you to everyone who contributes in any way, shape or form.

### **Website**

Dallal would like to hand the website over to someone else to look after. If anyone is interested in taking this on, please let Dallal know.

### **Swap Shop**

Continues to attract 12 – 16 people per week and serves a social need.

### **Allotments**

The allotments remain active and there is a spare plot or two half plots. A half plot costs £10 per year.

### **Sustrans Cycle Track**

Sustrans applied for £7-8m to complete the stretch of the track Birdingbury to Offchurch but were not successful. However, they do have £1-2m to do the culvert by Bondon Farm and other engineering works. This will open the path towards Leamington but not deliver a firm path surface.

### **Community Café**

Jean and Karen started the Community Café which takes place between 10.30 - 12 noon every Tuesday. Food and drink are available, and all edibles are donated by the volunteers. People attending the café are asked to make a minimum donation of £2 which covers the

cost of the energy and enables the group to make donations to charity. So far, the café has raised and donated over £700. The café is open to everyone, and the café would love to see some younger people join them.

The Community Café will move from Tuesday to Coronation Bank Holiday Monday. The theme of the Coronation Bank Holiday is The Big Help Out focused on volunteering. There will be a board on display at the Café for anyone who wishes to get involved in supporting community activity.

**The meeting closed at 20:33 hrs.**

**Approved as a true and fair record at the Annual Village Meeting on 30 April 2024.**