**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL – EXTRAORDINARY** PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday 23rd March 2016 at 7.30pm - At Little Birch Village Hall

M I N U T E S

**PRESENT: Councillors Mike Morley; Elaine Godding; Ben Roberts; Steve Naylor;**

**ALSO: Sophie Glover (Parish Clerk), 3 Aconbury Parishioners, 2 from Little Birch.**

**Meeting Opened: 7.33pm**

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| **1.** | **Apologies**  Annette Wissler**;** |  |
| **2.** | **To hear from Aconbury Group about their thoughts on doing a Neighbourhood Plan:**  Chair introduced Aconbury Group and gave a brief outline of the position. Mike Leigh said: we had a meeting on Wednesday; everyone in the parish was given notice of it. 10 people attended (9 parishoners and MM from LBPC). We went over what a NP was, then put to a vote, it was suggested to make it 2 votes, first was whether or not to do a NP, this was unanimous ‘yes’. Then we voted on whether to do one with LB and that was 7 in favour and 2 abstaining. Roger said that there were some, quiet, reservations. But all points seemed to be aired. ML said usual parish meetings were 7-10 people, and this meeting had bought out some new faces, he felt that was very positive. SR asked what percentage of the population 9 people were – Roger thought about 54 people were in the Parish, and that 7 out of 29 households were represented on the night.  BR: what were the reservations? Chair said that they were about whether or not to do a plan at all, not about doing one with Little Birch.  Chair: there was a discussion about the advantages and disadvantages about doing a joint NP. ML said we felt that both parishes were similar in size, whilst number of households in both areas look to contrast 29:70, the land area is similar in both size and environment. We have 2 architects who have made it clear that they would like to be part of a NP steering group, ML is also keen to be on a steering group himself. |  |
| **3.** | **To discuss Little Birch’s next steps with undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan:**  EG: very pleased that Aconbury have agreed to join us in the plan.  SN: I am asking my self what benefit is there in doing it jointly with them? But I cant see a down side either. Their experts will be really positive on the steering group.  BR: We have not got a huge pool of people.  Clerk: Do Aconbury feel that they will be able to fit into tight time lines in producing evidence as we need – yes.  EG Proposed doing a joint plan BR: seconded this  **It was resolved unanimously to do a joint plan.**  Clerk: first thing to do is to set parish boundaries as the boundaries as the NDP group. It was resolved that the clerk approach 3 planning consultants to get them to tender for the job. Presenting to an early steering committee meeting. This steering group will be chaired by an elected parishioner tbc. Who would clerk the meetings? LBPC clerk checked that she would be paid for the extra meetings and the extra hours - **it was resolved that the clerk would be paid for her additional hours of work with the NDP and the NDP steering group.**  Chair suggested that a steering group was pulled together for a first meeting, then elect a chair. ML said that there was a discussion about publicizing this joint plan. EG said to put it onto the web site.  Chair: lets look at dates that 2 parish cllrs will attend at least the first meeting. John suggested having a cllr as an acting chair for the first meeting until a chair was elected Meeting suggested as the 6th April @ 7.30pm at the village hall. Chair asked if we should get this in the newsletter – it was resolved to do so with all in accord.  The PC wanted to minute that the production of the NDP should not cost the parishioners any money, as they hope to get grants to cover the cost. | *Clerk to notify NDP dept of our intention to do a plan.*  *Clerk to approach 3 consultants to help us do the plan.*  *Clerk to e mail those interested in joining the steering group with this date.* |
| **4.** | **To consider appointment of an internal auditor:**  Chair had a volunteer: Mrs Margaret Scrivens, a parishioner who has an accounting background. She is known to be reliable and is involved with many village activities and groups. BR proposed her: EG seconded. **It was resolved to contact Mrs Scrivens to appoint her has the PC internal auditor.**  01981 540374 Marg.scrivens@gmail.com | *Clerk to contact her and make appointment for internal audit.* |
|  | **Planning:**  160575: Sunnybank Cottage: Parishoner was present and explained that he was hoping to build a property to retire to. He hopes that the new building would add to a cluster of existing houses. He is happy to discuss the entrance with the highways people to ensure that it is fully compliant.  It was resolved that the PC would submit a comment in support of this outline planning application. | *Clerk to submit comment* |
|  | **Lengthsman**  Chair told the meeting of a hole in the ground on School Lane, this was dug originally on the (historic) order of the PC, and has never worked as it was intended. He talked to the lengthsman about doing the job, who has quoted for the work. Clerk noted the possibility of this leading to other ‘unadopted roads’ coming before the PC for maintenance. It was felt that as this problem was originally caused by the PC they should make it right. Danger issue both with the hole and people falling, but also in heavy rain, the water goes right down the lane and on to Newtown Road.  SN: Chair you had a meeting with BB on site, but I am uncomfortable with setting this precedent.  BR: should we do a site visit before making a decision?  SN: Yes, I could do a site visit – Alison will meet him on 24.3.16 and comments following this meeting will be circulated to all cllrs. | *Clerk to tell AC the costs of this work.* |
| **5.** | **To note the date of the next PC meeting**  Wednesday 4th May 2016. |  |
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|  | Meeting closed at 8.35pm |  |

SIGNED:................................................................ CHAIRMAN Dated:..................................................................