

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 7.30pm - At Little Birch Village Hall**

MINUTES

PRESENT: **Councillors;** (BR) Ben Roberts (Chair); (SN) Steve Naylor; (EG) Elaine Godding; (MM) Mike Morley; (AW) Annette Wissler

ALSO: Sophie Glover (Parish Clerk), Ward Councillor (DH) David Harlow (until 8pm), (AM) Angela Middleton (footpaths officer). 2 members of the public.

Meeting Opened: 7.33pm

A 10 minute period from 7.30 p.m. was allocated, before the meeting opened, to enable members of the public to address the Parish Council.

No points were raised for the PC.

1.	Apologies -	ACTIONS
2.	Declaration of interest EG for 6.2	
3..1	Police update Nothing had been sent, however, the clerk had contacted South Herefordshire Police to give them the dates of future meetings so it is hoped that we will see a police representative at future meetings. Golden Valley news has been circulated, but our own one is still not being circulated.	<i>Clerk to chase up.</i>
3.2	Ward Cllr report (Cllr Dave Harlow) Sent his report electronically which had been circulated around the cllrs. BR was concerned about his report being rather 'conservative central office'. MM asked why he had sent that report at all, as it was very much a political paper, not one for the Parish Council. The Speed drivers go on the A49 was raised, the WC was asked if there was any thing that could be done as we are always told that it is a 'highways' issue. Much Birch PC have looked at renting a SID, but we are unclear as to how this was progressing. MM said that just today the minutes for the University meetings were on the web site. He again questioned why Hereford Council had given them £300,000? DH emphasised that it was a loan, and would be paid back.	<i>Clerk to ask their clerk.</i>
3.3	Dave Atkinson, Balfour Beatty - Reports sent weekly.	
4.	To accept minutes of the November PC meeting MM queried 3.2 but the other cllrs agreed with what was in the minutes. EG; point 4 – EG wanted to clarify that parish councillors should always be open to talk to parishoners, but written correspondence should come through the clerk. Proposed: SN Seconded: AW All in agreement. It was resolved to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.	
5.	Action points from previous PC meeting (Nov) All addressed, or on the agenda:	

<p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p>	<p>Discussion on and acceptance of the LBPC Planning Procedure Policy – copy at the end of these minutes.</p> <p>All were in agreement and MM proposed to accept it, this was seconded by SN and was accepted by all parish councillors.</p> <p>EG expressed concerns about the nature of some of the e mails that had been circulated over the Sunnybank Cottage application, but she felt that this Planning Procedure Policy was a positive way forward.</p> <p>Planning applications 174578 – Shirley Cottage</p> <p>EG left the meeting. The only difference on this application is the removal of a garage and the addition of two reports. Councillors voiced concerns about the water run off from the bio disc, they wanted confirmation that this was being looked at. The chair said that the PC had supported this application last time, and there were no major changes. MM suggested that we support the application, subject to the concerns of Natural England being met, and to include the point that ‘Newton Well’ is just below this property and the PC are keen to ensure that this remains unpolluted.</p>	<p><i>Clerk to submit comment.</i></p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Footpaths officer/tree warden</p> <p>Angela was due to talk to the PC about the paths that the footpath group had wanted to list. Unfortunately, the projector was not working, so this was deferred until the next meeting.</p> <p>The snow damage had resulted in a tree coming down by Buddleia Cottage, John Dillon is aware of this one.</p> <p>AM will be organising a parish walk in Feb and will let every one know when this will be. She had organised a ‘Twig and Bud’ walk with 13 people this morning, along with an expert from the Tree Warden group.</p> <p>AW was concerned that chippings had been laid outside Model Cottages, which is officially a footpath, and she felt that it seemed odd to lay hard core along a footpath.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plan – update</p> <p>The draft plan has been sent out to all in both Aconbury and Little Birch Parishes for comments under Reg 14.</p> <p>There will also be an open NDP event Saturday 3rd Feb from 12.30 to 2.30.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Community Assets The Castle Inn</p> <p>Advice from CAMRA: Alison Clarke told the meeting about the info from Mark Haslam, the CAMRA representative. MM felt that we should follow his advice, and take no further action as new legislation has superseded the need. MM explained that it was about the right to bid, and we had had this right for a number of years. AW felt that the PC should not be seen to have changed their view on the worth of the pub as a community asset. She wished to continue to register the asset. SN felt that it was about showing an expression of support for the pub. The Chair recapped that if we did this it was as an expression of support rather than any thing else – was it really necessary to register it?</p>	

	<p>EG felt that as cllrs we would be letting the community down if we did not register it. It was proposed from the Chair to submit the Castle Inn as a Community Asset, this was supported 4 against 1 to do so as a symbol of support.</p> <p>The Community Asset form had been filled in in draft form by Elaine for the parish councillors to consider. The clerk will finalise this form and submit it for the Parish Council.</p>	<i>Clerk to submit.</i>
10.	<p>To note the contents of the information sheet and take any comments from that. All duly read and agreed to.</p>	
11.	<p>Finance</p> <p>i Balances: HSBC account (at 4.1.18) £ 5,901.65 Barclays Accounts: Closed</p> <p>ii Parish Acct Clerks Salary : £ 209.34 PAYE (HMRC) : £ 0 Clerks Expenses : £ 62.80 T Griffiths P3 inv 223 £ 218.40 T Griffiths P3 inv 224 £ 465.60 NDP expenses: £ 45.22 NDP Pip Printing Inv 65582 £ 247.01</p> <p>Proposed: BR Seconded: MM All in agreement. Payments to be made.</p> <p>iii Receipts – None iv Requests for financial aid – None</p>	<i>Clerk to make payments.</i>
12.	<p>Dobbin Cottage There had been a site visit from Scott Lowe. A neighbour has reported that the window frames have been repainted which seemed to the cllrs as a little strange given the condition of the property.</p>	<i>Clerk to chase up before the Feb meeting.</i>
13.	<p>Village Facebook page The Chair told the meeting that neighbouring parishes had a face book group, he suggested that LB could do the same – it is an interactive page that would allow people to see what was happening in the parish. It would not be a parish council page, but a village one. The Chair would be the administrator, and felt that it would help people to find out more about what was happening in the area. The councillors all supported his involvement with this.</p>	<i>Chair to action.</i>
14.	<p>Lengthsman – jobs to be done Salt bins to be filled in.</p>	<i>Clerk to inform the L'man</i>
15.	<p>To Receive Agenda items for the next PC meeting All the usual, including the footpaths discussion from this meeting.</p>	

16.	To note date of next scheduled PC meeting – February 7 th 2018 SN submitted apologies	
	Meeting closed at 8.55pm	

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....

Future Meetings

Please	Wednesday January 10 th	7.30
Note	Wednesday Feb 7 th	7.30
New	Wednesday March 7 th	7.30
dates	Wednesday April 4 th	7.30
And this time	Wednesday May 2 nd (Annual Meeting)	7.00

