

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 7.00pm - At Little Birch Village Hall
DRAFT M I N U T E S**

PRESENT: **Councillors;** (PR) Peter Rees (Chair); (MD) Mike Davies; (JG) Janet Gwinnett;
(KR) Kate Robbins; (KD) Kate Dillon; (AM) Angela Middleton- Footpath Officer;

ALSO: Ward Cllr: Toni Fagan, Sophie Glover (Parish Clerk), 2 members of the public (departed 7.45).

Meeting Opened: 7.00pm

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

A comment

1.	Apologies -	<i>ACTIONS</i>
2.	Declaration of interest None	
3.	To accept minutes of the January Parish Council meetings Proposed: MD Seconded: JG All in agreement. It was resolved to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.	
4.	Action points from previous PC meetings All addressed, or on the agenda apart from the litter picking. MD suggested that now was the time to do a litter pick.	<i>TF will find the link to BB's litter picking kit.</i>
5.	Ward Cllr report (Cllr Toni Fagan) TF talked about 'talk communities' where the community is proactive about identifying what they think their communities need...be that addressing isolation or lack of rural transport. Clerk to circulate the link to the cllrs. She felt that Much Birch might be the 'hub' with Little Birch accessing facilities from there. 14 th Feb there will be a full council meeting where the budget and corporate plan will be presented. Current administration wishes to increase the number of council houses in Herefordshire. There is concern about the phosphate levels in the Lugg and they intend to plant large reed beds in North Herefordshire to try and reduce this. TF has been looking into 'car clubs' to try and address the lack of rural transport, Fownhope have a good system that they are setting up, linking with Malvern and Ledbury. The Chair asked TF to confirm in writing that there would be funding available for Parishes to update their NDPs in line with the new Core Strategy when it comes out. The fact that all NDPs need renewing every 2 years was discussed and found to be unfair. Police update Nothing sent but the CPSO will be at the village coffee morning on Thursday of this week should people wish to raise any concerns with her. James Howell, Balfour Beatty - Reports sent weekly.	

6.	<p>Jobs for the lengthsmen Wrigglebrook hill, the water does not run into the ditch. Can he go and look at desilting it.</p>	
7.	<p>Report from the footpaths officer; AM told the meeting that she had done 2 parish walks, one in January and one in February. She has a dawn chorus walk April 12th, from Merryvale Farm. She has also got onto the project 2026 organisation about registering the footpaths in Little Birch. AM is meeting a representative from the Ramblers society to help with this. PR offered to help with doing any paper work necessary to progress this. AM suggested putting a map in the notice board.</p>	<p><i>Clerk to e mail PR to ask for the VH to move their papers to the board around the corner.</i></p>
8.	<p>Planning applications for consideration: Land at Castle Glen: Land Registry application saying that the application had been withdrawn.</p>	
9.	<p>Ignore Sat Nav sign request for Ruff Lane: The Chair was approached by a parishioner for the PC to provide this – one at each end of the lane. It was proposed that we purchase 2 more signs by KD This was seconded: JG All were in favour. Wording to say ‘Ignore Sat Nav - impassable to all vehicles’ Clerk to purchase 2 signs for up to £100</p>	
10.	<p>Defibrillator The clerk had purchased the new batteries and pads as required and they have been fitted. It was resolved to purchase a new battery before the end date of the current battery (2023) to keep for when the current one runs out. The instruction manual is in the bar in the village hall.</p>	<p><i>Clerk to remind PR about asking VHC for contribution</i></p>
11.	<p>Feedback on any training or meetings attended, including broadband provision for Little Birch. DM told the meeting that the voucher scheme was changing which was stalling progress slightly as the steering group waited to see what was going to be on offer. HCN had told the steering group that they did not want individual customers, they were happy to provide the broadband to the community. PR has contacted ‘Airband’ who provides a similar service. It was suggested that they should form a CIC as soon as possible so that the vouchers could be applied for.</p>	
12.	<p>Comments on any correspondence None</p>	
13.	<p>To note the contents of the information sheet and take any comments from that. None.</p>	
14.	<p>Finance Balances: HSBC account (at 4.01.20) £ 4,975.51</p>	

	<p>Payments to be agreed:</p> <p>Parish Acct</p> <p>Clerks Salary : £ 286.56 Clerks Expenses: £ 12.80 HMRC PAYE: £ 27.60 Defibrillator battery £ 73.80 Pip printing – maps £ 23.94 HALC subs £ 331.51 ICO (Data protection) £ 40.00</p> <p>Proposed: KD Seconded: KR</p> <p>All in agreement. Payments to be made.</p> <p>Receipts – None</p> <p>Requests for financial aid – None</p>	
15.	<p>Meeting goes into ‘session’ members of the public are asked to leave:</p> <p>Clerks appraisal and consideration of raising her banding.</p> <p>It was resolved to increase the pay scale of the clerk of SCP 14 from February 2020.</p> <p>It suggested that it was unnecessary to outsource the payroll, with one employee, as long as HMRC are being paid as well all cllrs were happy.</p>	
16.	<p>To Receive Agenda items for the next PC meeting</p> <p>Litter pick; broadband;</p> <p>To note date of next scheduled PC meeting – Wednesday 4th March at 7pm PR sent his apologies.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 20.10pm</p>	

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....

Future Meetings

	Wednesday Feb 5th	7.00pm
	Wednesday March 4th	7.00pm
	Wednesday April 1 st	7.00pm
	Wednesday May 6 th	7.00pm
	Wednesday June 3 rd	7.00pm
	Wednesday July 8 th	7.00pm