

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 7th October 2020 at 7.30pm – On Zoom online**

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors; (PR) Peter Rees (Chair); (JG) Janet Gwinnett; (MD) Mike Davies; (KR) Kate Robbins;
(KD) Kate Dillon;

ALSO: Sophie Glover (Parish Clerk), Toni Fagan (Ward Councillor); Angela Middleton (Footpaths Officer); left the meeting at 8.30pm after item 12.
Russel Pryce (left the meeting after item 8), 1 parishoner.

Open session for comments from the public:

A parishioner has requested a 'no satnav' sign at the bottom of Bullings Pitch (next to Fern Field and Fernleigh) Cllrs all agreed that as they have funded other similar signs they would support this suggestion. Clerk to order.

Russel Pryce was on the meeting to talk about planning application 202991. He confirmed that the Orchard was still to be delivered, he clarified that the means of access was by one access point to the new application, using the existing field access. PR; Condition 4 on the original application said that the hedge row was to be filled in across the gate way so he suggested that this was a departure from the original outline permission. RP agreed.

PR said that the building can not be seen from a footpath, but it clearly can be. RP explained that this was a miss interpretation of the planning rules.

PR; the application states that 'existing access will not be altered in any way': in the new application the access is at a different angle. KD was concerned that the drawing was not as it actually is on the ground – she was worried that the existing access should not be altered in any way. She suggested that the current drawing needed to be changed and RP agree to revisit it. RP clarified that he was trying to ensure that the minimum impact on the hedge was achieved.

Meeting Opened: 7.55pm

1.	Apologies - None
2.	Declaration of interest None
3.	To accept minutes of the September Parish Council meeting Proposed: KD Seconded: MD 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: KD: to talk with landowner – she went to find him but failed, she will try again before the next meeting. JG: to draft a letter to send to TF about the buses. TF explained that there was a 'rural mobility' fund, and HC is looking to apply to the Dept of Transport for funding to address the points that LBPC had raised through TF. The council have said that they are looking at using a modified bus service, but it is one to watch over the next months as we see if there are opportunities for funding for these ideas. The Chair had talked with the chairs of Much Birch and Hentland PC's to ask for their support.
5.	Receive reports from i. Ward Cllr report (Cllr Toni Fagan): A written report will be circulated later this week. Talk community have been meeting. It was suggested that a parish resilience plan might be a good idea if we did create one... this time they are being called Community Champions.

	<p>The work near Stone Cottage has started. This work has started late, as there has been a review into Balfour Beatty (under value for money). Full council next meets on Friday.</p> <p>MD; questioned whether the footpath at Fownhope was going to be closed as is the suggestion. TF was not sure but she will find out and will feed back to the PC.</p> <p>ii. James Howell, Balfour Beatty - Reports sent weekly. iii. Police update – Golden Valley report had been circulated.</p>
6.	<p>Jobs for the lengthsman Wrigglebrook pitch, the water runs down the lane and needs grips putting in. Action: Clerk to ask the Lengthsman to look at this.</p>
7.	<p>Report from the footpaths officer; Angela reported work for the Lengthsman: The stile at LB13 still needs looking at, KD will get this done. The newsletter for FO's had been circulated.</p>
8.	<p>Planning applications for consideration:</p> <p>202991 – land East of Castle Pool: proposed detached dwelling with garage. KD, there are no planning notices posted at the moment. Clerk to ask for a deferment until the signs have been put up. It was resolved that at this time the PC would not submit a comment until the proper public consultation had been achieved. KD: this is a completely new application; it has no ties to the other buildings on the site. This was agreed by RP. Outline planning still stands from the original application. MD recapped that in the original application there was a condition that the hedge row be closed off to compensate for the new access point. This was confirmed, and this new application was to address this new access point. MD; The 3rd house would mean further hedge loss then? Yes this was confirmed. PR; The NDP indicated that we should be looking at 2 and 3 bedroom houses in the village, why now was there a decision to build a 4 bed home when this was against the NDP? RP, we are working with the new clients who have bought the site and they are keen to introduce a 4 bed property to this site. He felt that this was still a smaller property than others that had been allowed to be built in the village. The Chair suggested that the PC should refuse this application on the grounds that it does not conform to the NDP and it disregards the conditions of the original application. He also asked the Ward Cllr to push for this to go to the Planning Committee should this be possible. He moved that we requested a deferment first to see if we can revisit this application at the November meeting. MD; if there is no deferral, will we need a suplimentary meeting? Yes we would hold an extraordinary zoom meeting to allow members of the public to have their opportunity to make a comment. Action: TF to ask for an extension for comments on this application until 2 weeks after the correct notices are posted on the site.</p> <p>Application for a premises licence at Maryland. It was felt that this might be counter productive to reopening the pub. The applicant had approached the pub to see if they could relocate to there – but the rent was prohibitive for this</p>

	<p>to happen. Concerns about the noise that would be potentially an issue, but the possible benefits to the villagers might outweigh this. MD had been there and felt that it did offer a great social opportunity to villagers.</p> <p>Proposed by PR that the PC doesn't object to this application. Seconded by MD. All were in agreement.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to make the response.</p> <p>Daneswood has been approved.</p>
9.	<p>Becoming a smartwater village PR approached the Village Hall committee, who were not interested in part funding this. The PC have no budget for it this year, so this will be put on a back burner for now.</p>
10.	<p>SID placement on Barrack Hill It had been decided that the SID would actually be sited in Much Birch parish.</p> <p>Action: PR will talk with the Chair for Much Birch to see if they will put a SID on Barrack Hill.</p>
11.	<p>Report from any training or meetings attended: None attended.</p>
12.	<p>Finances: Balances: HSBC account (at 4.09.20) £ 4, 578.26</p> <p>Payments to be agreed: Parish Acct Clerks Salary August: £ 408.45 Clerks Expenses: £ 8.60 £ 417.05 HMRC PAYE: £ 0</p> <p>Proposed: Seconded:</p> <p>All in agreement. Payments to be made. Receipts – 2nd Half of precept (not showing on bank balance above) £2,850 Requests for financial aid – None</p>
13.	<p>PC Goes into 'session'. Anyone who was not a cllr left the meeting.</p> <p>Agreement for clerks annual salary increase as suggested by NALC and listed in the HALC papers; also discussion on clerks annual salary SCP incremental increase. Both to be back dated to April 2020.</p> <p>Cost of living increments in line with the NALC suggestion was proposed, to be back dated to April 2020. Proposed: KD Seconded: JG This was agreed by all</p> <p>Incremental increase was also approved, going up from SCP 14 to 15 back dated to April 2020. Proposed: JG Seconded: MD Agreed by all.</p>

14.	To Receive Agenda items for the next PC meeting Foot path registration. Precept setting budget (outline to be sent to all cllrs prior to the next meeting). Broadband.
	To note date of next scheduled PC meeting –Wednesday 4 th November at 7.30pm The PC will decide if they want to have a meeting in December at the November meeting.
	Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....

Future Meetings

	Wednesday November 4 th	7.30pm
2021	Wednesday January 6 th	7.30pm
	Wednesday February 3 rd	7.30pm
	Wednesday March 3 rd	7.30pm