

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 7.00pm – On Zoom online**

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors; (PR) Peter Rees (Chair); (JG) Janet Gwinnett; (KD) Kate Dillon; (MD) Mike Davies; (KR) Kate Robbins (from 7.20pm)

ALSO: Sophie Glover (Parish Clerk), Toni Fagan (Ward Councillor) to 7.30 pm;

Open session for comments from the public:

None present.

Meeting Opened: 7.02pm

1.	Apologies - Angela Middleton (Footpaths Officer);
2.	Declaration of interest None
3.	To accept minutes of the November Parish Council meeting KD wanted to clarify that on item 9, the pole on the new entrance would need to be moved, not on the existing entrance. Proposed: KD 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: Siting of a SID on Barrack Hill: still needs to be discussed by Much Birch PC.
5.	Receive reports from i. Ward Cllr report (Cllr Toni Fagan) reported that the university has been validated by the Open University. They will be taking their 1 st cohort of 50 students next year. Jessie Norman is excited about the idea of Herefordshire becoming part of the national park schemes – joining the Malvern Hills to the Black Mountains. More will come out about this in the coming months. This should give Herefordshire’s countryside more protection. This is still in the early stages of development, but looks exciting. NDP review : is very important as once the NDP is more than 2 years old it does not hold much sway with the Planning department. Care leavers: work is being done to keep care leavers in the county when they leave care to offer continued support to them in the 18 to 25 age range. The council are aiming to provide 2,500 council houses. These should be of good quality and environmentally sound. Vaccination programme is going to start in December, being led by Talk Community. Review into the planning service, how it works, does enforcement work at the moment etc. Resident and business surveys going out on the waste plan. Can respond on line, by post on social media.

	<p>The minerals and waste plan has been presented to the cabinet, and will go out for consultation in the New Year. This has quite a lot about agricultural waste to try and reduce the amount of phosphates going into our rivers.</p> <p>Cabinet meeting tomorrow at 2pm will be looking at the transport review. This looks to be suggesting an eastern link and at scrapping the SLR and the ring road idea.</p> <p>She indicated that reopening the Pontrilas Station looked very likely , possibly in the next 3 years which it was hoped would reduce the amount of wood being transported around south Herefordshire.</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 The lengthsman's report indicates that he fixing the stile at the Chestnuts on his list, clerk was asked to tell him that this will be done by the land owner.</p>
7.	<p>Report from the footpaths officer; Nothing to report.</p>
8.	<p>Planning applications for consideration: Crossways Cottage: Aconbury LBPC were not informed about this application.</p>
9.	<p>Report from any training or meetings attended: None attended.</p>
10.	<p>Finances:</p>
10.1	<p>Balances: HSBC account (at 4.11.20) £ 5,602.47</p>
10.2	<p>Payments to be agreed: Parish Acct Clerks Salary November £ 205.52 Clerks expenses £ 8.60 HMRC PAYE £ 137.20 Bespoke Visual Solutions £ 36.00</p>
10.3	<p>Proposed: MD Seconded: KD All in agreement. Payments to be made. Receipts – None</p>
10.4	<p>Requests for financial aid – Dore Community Transport requested any financial support that the PC could offer. Action: <i>It was resolved not to support them this time, but to wish them success in the coming months.</i></p>
10.5	<p>Precept setting discussion Figures had been circulated for cllrs to assess where they felt they wanted to position the precept for next year.</p> <p>MD had been looking at the figures before this meeting. He fed back that we are looking at having an overspend of up to £1,400. Whilst the PC do have reserves to assist absorb this, it is not ideal not to have a budget that does not cover its expenditure.</p> <p>It was proposed to bring the clerks hours down to 5hrs per week, PR Seconded by MD all others were in favour. It was agreed that Ben Roberts would continue doing the website for the Parish Council, and they thanked him for letting them benefit from his expertise.</p>

	Based on these figures, MD will continue to work with the numbers and the PC will make a decision on the precept at the January meeting. Action: Clerk to tell HC that we will be submitting the precept request at the end of the first week in January. Also to check that BR is happy to continue as webmaster, and to ask him to link the LBPC web site with the facebook page.
11.	To Receive Agenda items for the next PC meeting
	To note date of next scheduled PC meeting – Wednesday 6th January at 7.30pm
	Meeting closed at 7.55 pm

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

Future Meetings

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