

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm – On Zoom online**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

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

ALSO: Sophie Glover (Parish Clerk),

**Open session for comments from the public:**

None present.

**Meeting Opened: 7.33pm**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies –</b> Toni Fagan (Ward Councillor); Angela Middleton (Footpaths Officer);
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declaration of interest</b> None raised.
<b>3.</b>	<b>To accept minutes of the March Parish Council meeting</b> Proposed: MD      Seconded: JG All in agreement. It was resolved to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Action points from previous PC meetings</b> All addressed, or on the agenda.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Receive reports from</b> <b>Ward Cllr report (Cllr Toni Fagan)</b> Sent her apologies, but submitted the following comments:- I have spoken to Balfour Beatty about the planned diversion for proposed works on 14 <sup>th</sup> after Alison Cook was in touch. Hopefully they will arrange a more suitable diversion as per 2019 when works were done on Barrack Hill.  Also, thanks so much to everyone who has been involved in litter picking – the response has been fabulous! Here is the link to a Hereford Community Cleanup facebook page where there are a couple of clips from BBC H&W around the topic over the last couple of days. We are hoping to be able to have access to litter picking kits much more locally (perhaps through village halls) so that people can get more active and Elisabeth Taylor is keen to get more education around the issue. I did note on social media recently a local council advising people ‘don’t be a tosser and take your rubbish home’ which many have suggested as a good slogan for a litter campaign.  Recent discussions around drainage have highlighted the need for ditches to be kept clear and for homeowners to be aware that they should not be putting garden clippings into ditches. A fellow councillor has identified Fownhope as a great example of cleared ditches and beautifully laid hedges and this has been achieved through a concerted campaign by the parish council. I believe that the CPRE is working on a hedgerow manifesto for Herefordshire and there is some interesting information about rural issues on their website <a href="https://www.cpreherefordshire.org.uk/">https://www.cpreherefordshire.org.uk/</a>

	<p>Also, a reminder that the Environment Agency number for any pollution or soil run off incidents is 0800 807060</p> <p>And finally, the Balfour Beatty request for one cut or two is based on the desire by many parishes to save their wild flower hotspots – obviously without compromising safety. If there are areas that are known to be rich in wildflowers these can be identified to Balfour Beatty or <a href="https://www.herefordshirewt.org/projects-0/verging-wild">https://www.herefordshirewt.org/projects-0/verging-wild</a> Verging on Wild which is run by volunteers who are supporting the increase in wild flower rich verges in the county as a way of compensating the dramatic loss of wild flower meadows experienced over the past 50 years (97% lost). Anything we can do to redress the situation would be enormously beneficial.</p> <p><b>ii. James Howell, Balfour Beatty</b> - Reports sent weekly.  <b>iii. Police update</b> – None submitted.</p>
6.	<p><b>NDP</b>  Take off the agenda until the core strategy is set.  Proposed: Chair                      Seconded: KD    all were in favour of this plan.</p>
7.	<p><b>Balfour Beatty Contract</b>, Chair will sign.  <b>verge cutting</b>, following a discussion it was resolved to ask for 2 cuts at any junctions in the parish but every where else leave it at one cut. The PC asked for the single cut to be later in the year. All were in favour of this.  <b>Action: clerk to inform BB and Jobs for the lengthsman</b>  None.  <b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Report from the footpaths officer;</b>  Nothing to report</p>
9.	<p><b>Planning applications for consideration:</b>  210849 – Ruff Lane, An application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of an agricultural building to one larger dwellinghouse (Class C3)  It was proposed that the PC note that we ensure that no additional entrances will be created to service the property now or in the future.  <b>Action: Clerk to submit planning comment.</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Report from any training or meetings attended:</b>  Parish Council summit: clerk had attended and the relevant slides have been circulated.  We have 2 slots available for free training and the Chair asked all to consider what they might like to attend.</p>
11.	<p><b>Village Hall Committee:</b>  Selecting a representative for this committee. KD was Proposed by KR    seconded by MD  <b>Action: Chair to inform Ben Roberts of this appointment.</b></p>

<b>12.</b>	<b>Finances:</b>
<b>12.1</b>	<b>Balances:</b> HSBC account (at 4.03.21)      £ 3,023.91
<b>12.2</b>	<b>Payments to be agreed:</b> <b>Parish Acct</b> Clerks Salary March              As listed Clerks expenses                      As listed HMRC PAYE                            £ 61.20  Proposed: PR                          Seconded:
<b>12.3</b>	All in agreement. Payments to be made. <b>Receipts – None</b>
<b>12.4</b>	<b>Requests for financial aid – None</b>
<b>12.5</b>	<b>Internal Auditor</b> The LBPC have approached Geoff Young as an internal auditor, he has kindly agreed to take on the role. Clerk to liaise with him.
<b>13.</b>	<b>To Receive Agenda items for the next PC meeting</b> None raised.
	<b>To note date of next scheduled PC meeting and annual Parish Meeting –Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b> Annual Meeting will start at 7pm with the Parish Council meeting starting after this.
	Meeting closed at 7.55 pm

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....

Future Meetings

<b>Annual Meeting</b>	Wednesday May 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm
	Wednesday June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm
	Wednesday July 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
	Wednesday September 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm
	Wednesday October 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
	Wednesday November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm