

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm – at Little Birch Village Hall**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Councillors; (ND) Nick Deacon (CA) Chris Atkinson (SC) Steven Coles (KD) Kate Dillon

**ALSO:** Neil Barrington (NB) (Parish Clerk), Chris Fowler (CF) (Footpath Officer) and 1 member of the public

**Meeting Opened: 7.30pm**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Open Session for members of the Public:</b> No matters raised
<b>2.</b>	<b>To accept apologies for absence:</b> Cllr Tom Palfrey sent his apologies
<b>3.</b>	<b>Clerk correspondence:</b> All correspondence received on the agenda.
<b>4.</b>	<b>To receive declarations of interest:</b> None declared
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Reports:</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Ward Councillor:</b> Cllr Fagan will send her report. Main points were. There is a new head of children services Head of finance for the council is being replaced. There is a £3.66mil fund for work on C and U roads Nature and Biodiversity report has been produced Local plan is on hold with the change of government. Update was provided on election results. There is increased focus on the problems concerning the River Wye. There will be a white paper on funding requirements for the new government to consider Activities for children during the summer holidays Wildlife walks for disabled people. Fast Broadband will go ahead in due course. This was queried by KD as there was doubt over qualification. Clarification will be sort.</p> <p><b>5.2 Balfour Beatty:</b> Report received.</p> <p><b>5.3 Police Update:</b> Newsletter report received. NB has sent in 3 priorities for the parish</p> <p><b>5.4 Footpath Officer report:</b> (CF) submitted a footpath report that will be published on the parish website. He added that there is broken stile in Aconbury. Work on LB 21 has not been completed as yet. Also, LB 22 needs to be chased up as the footpath definition has been lost. NB will write to land owner.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>To accept minutes of the June 5, 2024 Ordinary Council meeting,</b></p> <p>Proposed: SC    Seconded: ND</p> <p>All in agreement. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meetings.</p>

7.	<b>Action points from last meeting:</b> All on the agenda
8.	<b>Planning matters:</b> None currently to be considered
9.	<p><b>Finances:</b>  <b>Balances:</b>  <b>9.1</b> Bank account (at 10.07.24)        £7453.67</p> <p><b>Payments to be agreed:</b> To consider the following outstanding payments.  <b>9.2</b> Clerks Salary as per contract.  HMRC £155.25  Expenses £13.50 Petrol £5 Broadband =£18.50  Lengthsman TGC2679 = £1276.80 (not to be paid at this time see Item 10)  DM Payroll 3697 = £60 (this item was not on the agenda.)</p> <p>Proposed: ND        Seconded: KD  All in agreement. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> all payments to be made.</p> <p><b>9.3 Receipts</b> – 2nd half of Precept now received £3750  VAT refund £194.97</p> <p>Lengthsman Grant £1064</p> <p>Contribution from Orcop PC for Clerk training and CiLCA £350</p> <p>Contribution from Little Birch Village Hall for defibrillator £375</p> <p><b>9.4 Requests for financial aid</b> – None.</p>
10.	<p><b>Lengthsman:</b> Councillors regretted that they felt the work carried out so far on Pendant Pitch and Castle Cottage had some shortcomings. They felt they need input from the Lengthsman about what work had actually been undertaken, as they felt it wasn't clear.</p> <p>NB will write to the Lengthsman to request a schedule of work and clarity on invoices for future tasks. They also request that the Lengthsman informs them before future undertaking so Councillors can liaise and be present to ensure clarity on tasks preformed. Councillors also request a clear pricing structure.</p>
11.	<p><b>Grass verges</b> –</p> <p>Unfortunately, there was no communication of a partial cut required in May. As such a fuller one than necessary was carried out. It was advised not to allow this to occur in future years.</p>
12.	Website – Cllr Palfrey was unable to attend the meeting. Update in September

13. **To consider gift made to Little Birch Village Hall:** NB will supply details for the gift to be paid to the village hall committee.

14. **To consider Castle Inn sale-** As the pub is listed as a community asset. SC will supply details on Facebook page for any local residents considering bidding. The deadline to make an offer is Aug 15 2024.

15. **Items for next meeting (no discussion):** Website, Lengthsman work,

**Next meeting: September 4, 7.30pm, Little Birch Village Hall**

**Meeting closed at 8.23pm**

**SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN**

**Dated:.....**

**Future Meetings**

	Wednesday Sept 4 <sup>th</sup> 2024	7.30pm
	Wednesday Oct 2 <sup>rd</sup> 2024	7.00pm
	Wednesday Nov 6 <sup>th</sup> 2024	7.00pm
	Wednesday Dec 4 <sup>th</sup> 2024	7.00pm