**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 7pm – at Little Birch Village Hall

**Minutes**

**PRESENT: Councillors**; **(ND) Nick Deacon (CA) Chris Atkinson (TP) Tom Palfrey (SC) Steven Coles**

**ALSO: Neil Barrington (NB) (Parish Clerk), Chris Fowler (CF) (Footpath Officer), 2 Police Officers, Cllr Toni Fagan (TF)**

**Meeting Opened: 7.00pm**

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| 1. | Open Session for members of the Public: None attended |
| 2. | **To accept apologies for absence:**  Cllr Kate Dillon |
| 3. | **Clerk correspondence:** None received that were relevant to the meeting |
| 4. | **To receive declarations of interest:** None declared |
| 5. | **Reports:**  **5.1 Ward Councillor**: TF raised the following points.  Correspondence had been received on local building site. TF will visit to assess.  Aconbury Parish meeting has requested a speed limit extension from Little Birch to Merrivale Farm. There is some signage available. Councillors will liaise with Much Birch.  Reminder over Parish summit meeting 8/10/24 at Plough Lane  Hard hat tours are now available for the new museum.  Nature and Landscape recovery projects.  Tentative discussions on local plan.  Possible walking route from Ross to Hereford on old railway line.  **5.2 Balfour Beatty:** Report received**.**  **5.3 Police Update:** 2 officers attended the meeting. There was nothing to report re Little Birch. They did comment on South Wye issues with speeding and some gates stolen.  **5.4 Footpath Officer report:** (CF) submitted a footpath report that will be published on the parish website.  He repeated request for an increase in Footpath budget. Clerk will follow up on footpath grant. |
| 6. | **To accept minutes of the September 10, 2024 Ordinary Council meeting,**  Proposed: ND Seconded: TP  All in agreement. It was **RESOLVED** to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meetings. |
| 7. | **Policies for consideration:** It was **RESOLVED** to adopt policies for the parish on bullying and harassment, Freedom of Information, grants and donations, model councillor regulations, financial regulations  Prop SC Sec TP |
| 8. | **Planning matters**: Nothing currently to consider |
| 9. | **Finances:**  **Balances:**  **9.1** Bank account (at 01.10.24) £8128.69    **Payments to be agreed:** To consider the following outstanding payments.  **9.2** Clerks Salary as per contract.  HMRC £118.20 (Oct)  Expenses £9 Petrol £5 Broadband =£14  Proposed: ND Seconded: SC  All in agreement. It was **RESOLVED** all payments to be made.  **9.3 Receipts** – 2nd half of Precept now received £3750  VAT refund £172.84  Lengthsman Grant £1064  Contribution from Orcop PC for Clerk training and CiLCA £350  Contribution from Little Birch Village Hall for defibrillator £375  **9.4** **Requests for financial aid** – None. |
| 10. | **Lengthsman:** Councillors commented there was still an issue with Pendant Pitch. This will be discussed as part of the precept conversation |
| 11. | **Initial Precept discussion. –** Councillors are very conscious of engaging with the general public to find their priorities for the parish. Considerations will also include Clerk salary increase, Lengthsman work, setting up a reserve fund. |
| 12. | **Website** – TP stated he now has control of the website and will start to update it to meet parish council needs |

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| 13. | Items for next meeting – Precept consultation, Lengthsman work, Policies for council |

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| 14. | Next meeting – November 4, 7pm, Little Birch Village Hall |

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|  | Meeting closed at 7.53pm |

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|  | SIGNED:................................................................ CHAIRMAN  Dated:..................................................................  Future Meetings   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | Wednesday Nov 6th 2024 | 7.00pm | |  | Wednesday Dec 4th 2024 | 7.00pm | |  | Wednesday Jan 8th 2025 | 7.00pm | |  | Wednesday Feb 5th 2025 | 7.00pm | |