**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 LaneHard 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: TPAll 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 regulationsProp 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: SCAll 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

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|  | Wednesday Nov 6th 2024 | 7.00pm |
|  | Wednesday Dec 4th 2024 | 7.00pm |
|  | Wednesday Jan 8th 2025 | 7.00pm |
|  | Wednesday Feb 5th 2025 | 7.00pm |

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