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

Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 7pm – at Little Birch Village Hall

**Minutes**

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

**ALSO: Neil Barrington (NB) (Parish Clerk), Chris Fowler (CF) (Footpath Officer), Cllr Toni Fagan (TF), 2 members of the public**

**Meeting Opened: 7.01pm**

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| 1. | Open Session for members of the Public: Comments were made about the condition of Parish Lane after heavy rain. Concerns were made regarding the deterioration of the road |
| 2. | **To accept apologies for absence:**  Cllr Kate Dillon, Cllr Tom Palfrey |
| 3. | **Clerk correspondence:** On agenda |
| 4. | **To receive declarations of interest:** None declared |
| 5. | **Reports:**  **5.1 Ward Councillor**: TF raised the following points.  On the closure of case re work at Castlepool Cottage. Issues remain over the Orchard and entrances on this site.  Regarding the speeding issue from Merrivale farm. She encouraged the council to proceed with available signage. Sited as deemed appropriate.  **5.2 Balfour Beatty:** Report received**.**  **5.3 Police Update:** Newsletter report received  **5.4 Footpath Officer report:** (CF) submitted a footpath report that will be published on the parish website.  He discussed the possibility of a parish noticeboard to show a map of the footpath network. Cllr Fagan advised to seek grant funding. |
| 6. | **To accept minutes of the October 2, 2024 Ordinary Council meeting,**  Proposed: ND Seconded: SC  All in agreement. It was **RESOLVED** to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meetings. |
| 7. | **Parish Lane:** As discussed in public comments. Parish council will provide assistance in this matter |
| 8. | **Policies for consideration:** It was **RESOLVED** to adopt policies for the parish on Health and Safety, Reserves, Equality, Complaints, Press and Media  Prop SC Sec ND |
| 9.  10. | **Planning Matters –** Nothing currently to consider  **Finances:**  **Balances:**  **10.1 Balance (at 01.11.24) Lloyds Account £7613.11**  **10.2. Payments to be agreed:** To consider all outstanding payments  **Clerk Salary as per contract:**  HMRC Nov £77  Expenses £14 (Fuel £9, Broadband £5)  Little Birch Village Hall – Newsletter invoice 201024/1 £200    **10.3 Receipts –** Precept 2nd half now received  VAT Returns - £172.84  Lengthsman Grant £1064  Contribution from Orcop PC for Clerk training and CiLCA £350  Contribution from Little Birch Village Hall for Defibrillator £375  **10.4** **Requests for financial aid** – None.  It was **RESOLVED** to make these payments. Parish council were advised of the current budget income and expenditure |
| 11. | **Lengthsman:** Councillors were informed of the drainage grant award. Areas identified as priority are Pendant Pitch, School Lane crossroad and Bannertree. |
| 12. | **To have Precept discussion. –** Clerk presented Councillors with an increase in current Precept request. This will formally be adopted at the December meeting. |
| 13. | **To consider Annual pay increase for Clerk** – It was **RESOLVED** to increase clerk contractual pay in line with national pay award. |

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

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

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|  | Meeting closed at 8.20pm |

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