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

Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 7pm – at Little Birch Village Hall

**Minutes**

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

**ALSO: Neil Barrington (NB) (Parish Clerk), Chris Fowler (CF) (Footpath Officer), Cllr Toni Fagan (TF) (Ward Councillor), Terry Griffiths (TG) (Parish Lengthsman) 1 member of the public**

**Meeting Opened: 7.00pm**

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| 1. | Open Session for members of the Public: Member of the public was new to the parish and wanted to introduce themselves. |
| 2. | **To accept apologies for absence:** None received |
| 3. | **Clerk correspondence:** None received |
| 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.  Settlement due shortly for 25-26  Request that people are aware of vulnerable individuals in their locality  **5.2 Balfour Beatty:** Report received**.**  **5.3 Police Update:** Newsletter report received**.** Clerk will submit 3 priorities  **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 and will forward quote information to clerk with a view to obtain grant funding. |
| 6. | **To accept minutes of the November 6, 2024 Ordinary Council meeting,**  Proposed: SC Seconded: ND  All in agreement. It was **RESOLVED** to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meetings. |
| 7. | **Planning Matters –** Nothing currently to consider |
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| 8. | **Finances:**  **Balances:**  **8.1 Balance (at 01.12.24) Lloyds Account £7014.18**  **8.2. Payments to be agreed:** To consider all outstanding payments  **Clerk Salary as per contract:**  HMRC Dec £101.40  Expenses £14 (Fuel £9, Broadband £5)  DM Payroll £60 Inv 3995    **8.3 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  **8.4** **Requests for financial aid** – None.  It was **RESOLVED** to make these payments. Parish council were advised of the current budget income and expenditure |
| 9. | **Lengthsman work:** (TG) discussed with Councillors remaining Lengthsman work and tasks for Drainage grant. It was **NOTED** that (TG) committed to undertake 2 full days and 2 half days to fulfil Lengthsman work for 24-25. Drainage work to be arranged. Will entail 3 segments including survey of the drains/ ditches in the parish. Lengthsman will liaise with clerk on availability for work commencement. |
| 10. | **To confirm Precept request 2025-26. –** Clerk presented Councillors with an increase in the current precept from £7500 - £8000. This reflects increased Clerk and reserves costs. As Lengthsman grant awards are never guaranteed. It was felt prudent to request the extra funding. It was **RESOLVED** to request this increase. |
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| 11. | Items for next meeting – To consider acquiring the General Power of Competence for the Parish Council |

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| 12. | Next meeting – February 5, 2025, 7pm, Little Birch Village Hall |

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|  | Meeting closed at 8.21pm |

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|  | SIGNED:................................................................ CHAIRMAN  Dated:..................................................................  Future Meetings   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | Wednesday Feb 5th 2025 | 7.00pm | |  | Wednesday Mar 5th 2025 | 7.00pm | |  | Wednesday Apr 2nd 2025 | 7.30pm | |  | Wednesday May 7th 2025 | 7.30pm | |