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

Wednesday 5th February 2025 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)**

**Meeting Opened: 7.02pm**

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| 1. | Open Session for members of the Public: None in attendance |
| 2. | **To accept apologies for absence:** None received |
| 3. | **Clerk correspondence:** All on the agenda |
| 4. | **To receive declarations of interest:** None declared |
| 5. | **Reports:**  **5.1 Ward Councillor**: TF raised the following points.  Trees have started to be planted on the enforcement issue  Budget setting still to confirmed. Further grants available for Lengthsman, Drainage and Footpaths  She is pushing for Council to adopt a litter strategy  Capital budgets concerns over the £30mln earmarked for western bypass  Housing supply and Neighbourhood development plans are an issue  Will send a ward report  Shire hall now has planning for the new library  **5.2 Balfour Beatty:** Report received**.** Clerk will contact over Grit bins  **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.  Request was made for some dredging on a stream where a bridge has washed away. Clerk stated this would not be covered by Lengthsman.  More discussion on Notice board for footpath map. Village hall committee will be consulted.  Clerk will write to Steve Organ over footpath gates  There was discussion over whether Council and footpath officer priorities are aligned |
| 6. | **To accept minutes of the December 4, 2025 Ordinary Council meeting,**  Proposed: TP Seconded: SC  All in agreement. It was **RESOLVED** to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meetings. |
| 7. | **7. Planning Matters: To note Glendene, Wrigglebrook Pitch, Wrigglebrook Kingsthorne, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AR, Crows Nest, Little Birch. Hereford, Herefordshire HR28BD (no discussion) –** Clerk had submitted comments on behalf of the Councillors as local planning authority would not extend comment window.  **Crows Nest, Little Birch. Hereford, Herefordshire HR28BD –** was supported by the council  **Glendene, Wrigglebrook Pitch, Wrigglebrook Kingsthorne, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AR, -** Comment was submitted on this application |
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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 Jan, Feb £159.20  Expenses £14 (Fuel £9, Broadband £5)  Other invoices deferred to next meeting    **8.3 Receipts –**  **8.4** **Requests for financial aid** – Councillors agreed to donate £200 to Dore Transport  It was **RESOLVED** to make these payments. Parish council were advised of the current budget income and expenditure |
| 9. | **Lengthsman work:** Councillors requested clarification of latest Lengthsman work carried. Clerk will write to Lengthsman to confirm details of Drainage grant work |
| 10. | **Items for next meeting** – To consider acquiring the General Power of Competence for the Parish Council, Lengthsman work, Appoint an auditor for 2024-25 |
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| 11. | Next meeting – March 5, 2025, 7pm, Little Birch Village Hall |

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|  | Meeting closed at 8.03pm |

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|  | SIGNED:................................................................ CHAIRMAN  Dated:..................................................................  Future Meetings   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | Wednesday Mar 5th 2025 | 7.00pm | |  | Wednesday Apr 2nd 2025 | 7.30pm | |  | Wednesday May 7th 2025 | 7.30pm | |  | Wednesday June 4th 2025 | 7.30pm | |