LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 15th December 2015 at 7.30pm - At Little Birch Village Hall

**M I N U T E S PRESENT: Councillors Mike Morley; Elaine Godding; Annette Wissler; Steve Naylor (arrived at 8.15pm);**

**Ben Roberts ALSO: Sophie Glover (Acting Parish Clerk), 3 Parishioners. Meeting Opened: 7.32pm**

**1.**

Apologies Steve Naylor (should arrive at 8.15pm) and did so

**2.**

**Declaration of interest None 3.**

To note resignation of parish clerk The Chair reported the clerks resignation as of 30th Nov.

**4.**

To consider clerk cover for the meeting Chair explained that he had asked SG to cover this meeting, the PC were in accord. 5

**5.i**

Open discussion To receive public comments/questions 2 Parishoners were present to tell us about their planning application in Parish Lane. Josh Reynolds told the meeting that a 3 bed dormer style cottage application which is proposed on his parents land. He showed the provisional plans. AW asked about the properties height. Josh said he was digging into the ground to ensure it wouldn’t be too high.

Chair explained that the councillors would look at the plans and then pass comments in to chair. No comments were made with the applicants present.

*Cllrs to contact chair with their comments. He will submit them.*

**6.i**

**ii**

**iii**

**Finance: including financial report and payments to be made Payments to be made: All agreed unanimously.**

To consider precept for 2016/17 The clerk took the cllrs through the finance figures from the last year and this year. Figures were discussed for the coming year. The Chair guided the discussion about the extent of the deficit that the figures showed. A suggestion was made to put the precept up by £1,000, which would be an increase of 37% or an increase from £36 per household per year to £49.33. AW proposed that house holders might find the increase easier to understand if it was a round and easily understood number, the chair added that as the precept had not been increased for a number of years, if it was raised to £4,000; then this would be £53.33 per house hold per year. An increase of £17.33 per household. Chair suggested a note in the newsletter to explain why this was happening would be a good idea. Unanimously agreed.

*Clerk to make payments.*

Clerks Salary (XS) Up until Sept 2015 £ 276.22 Clerks Salary (CR) Up until Nov 201 £ 397.27

*Clerk outlined the current*

Clerks expenses (CR) £ 24.48 Ben Roberts (web site domain name) £ 43.17 Lengthsman £ 330.00

*banking situation. Clerk is a signatory but can not sign own cheques, so ER will sign SG’s cheque, cllrs agreed that SG could on this occasion sign the other cheques as per the finance regs.*

*Clerk to submit precept request form to the Council.*

Page 1 of 2

**7.**

**The meeting went into ‘private session’ and the public were asked to leave the building. These minutes can be read by contacting the Clerk directly.**

*Chairman to draw up the Clerks contract. Start date will be 1st January 2016.*

**8.**

**To note the date of the next meeting January 6th 2016.**

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

SIGNED:................................................................ CHAIRMAN Dated:..................................................................

Future Meetings

Wednesday March 2nd 7.30pm

Wednesday May 4th Parish Council Annual Meeting

7.00pm

Wednesday July 6th 7.30pm

Wednesday September 7th 7.30pm

Wednesday November 2nd 7.30pm

Wednesday January 4th 7.30pm

Page 2 of 2