11/2015

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Parish Council held on Wednesday 4 November held in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors: Mike Morley (Chairman), Elaine Godding, Steve Naylor, Ben Roberts.

In attendance: 6 members of the public, Ward Cllr David Harlow, David Atkinson (Localities Officer, Balfour Beatty), Terry Griffiths – Lengthsman, Christine Rees – Parish Clerk.

**1. To accept apologies for absence: Cllr Annette Wissler**

**2. To receive Declarations of interest: There were none.**

**3. Open discussion, public forum:**

3.1 Ward Cllr David Harlow has spoken with the planning department and changes to the classification of Little Birch cannot be made at present. The Core Strategy has been adopted and it is important for parishes to think about writing a neighbourhood plan. Cllr Harlow has spoken with the Cllr for Much Dewchurch and he has confirmed there is asbestos on the site of Kingsthorn bus stop. Cllr Harlow to obtain this report and circulate. 3.2 No police update received. 3.3 There are areas of Japanese knotweed within the parish, which are being

monitored by Balfour Beatty.

**4. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2015.**

The minutes where agreed and signed.

**5. Finance.**

5.1 To consider the clerks expenses – RESOLVED to pay. 5.2 To consider part payment of clerks CiLCA Qualification – RESOLVED to

support this. 5.3 To consider payment to Ben Roberts for the setting up a Parish website –

RESOLVED to pay. 5.4 To consider salary and expenses for previous clerk Sophie Glover –

RESOLVED to pay. 5.5 To consider using the services of Autela for calculation of clerks salary and

PAYE – clerk to speak with HALC. 5.6 To consider the purchase of a memory stick – supported. 5.7 To consider the changes to bank signatories – Cllr Mike Morley, Elaine

Godding and Steve Naylor to become signatories.

**6. Planning:**

• Application P152527/F – Land off Bowlers Lane, Little Birch, Herefordshire – proposed stable block – application supported.

• Application P152991/F – Land adjacent to Village Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire – Mr John Dillon discussed his application at the meeting – application supported by Little Birch Parish Council, but

11/2015

some aspects to be discussed, especially parking. Mr Dillon to further discuss with the Village Hall Committee.

**7. To consider the Precept for 2016/17.**

Further meeting on Wednesday 2 December, 7.30pm in Little Birch Village Hall to set Precept.

**8. Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Planning.**

Cllr Morley attended a meeting regarding The Core Strategy as well as Neighbourhood Planning where the importance of Neighbourhood Planning was stressed. It was decided to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan and inform the community of the benefits. The clerk to draft an article for the newsletter and Cllr Roberts to discuss with Much Birch at their next meeting.

**9. Community Governance Review.**

This is an opportunity to look at the parish boundary and consider any changes.

**10. Neighbourhood Watch.**

Cllr Roberts to put contact numbers on parish website and Cllr Morley to put numbers in newsletter.

**11. Footpaths.**

Nothing to report.

**12. Lenghtsman.**

Terry Griffiths introduced himself and gave an overview of the services he will provide. The green lanes are covered by P3. He will commence work on 13 November 2015.

**13. Dobbin Cottage.**

Cllr Godding has met with Charles Jones, Head Surveyor of Herefordshire Council, who has listed Dobbin Cottage on the dilapidated buildings register.

**14. To note information items.**

None.

**15. To consider the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 6 January 2016,**

**7.30pm Little Birch Village Hall.**

Signed ..................................... Chairman Dated .......................