

LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 1st September at 7.30pm – at Little Birch Village Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: **Councillors;** (PR) Peter Rees (Chair); (JG) Janet Gwinnett; (KD) Kate Dillon; (KR) Kate Robbins;
 (MD) Mike Davies;

ALSO: Sophie Glover (Parish Clerk), Angela Middleton (Footpaths Officer); Toni Fagan (Ward Councillor);

Open session for comments from the public:

There was a request to put the Ward Cllrs report on the website. PR will talk to our webmaster about setting up a drop down menu to access this.

Meeting Opened: 7.32pm

1.	Apologies – None, all were present.
2.	Declaration of interest None declared.
3.	Receive reports from i. Ward Cllr report (Cllr Toni Fagan): this is to be circulated electronically in the next few days. In addition TF had been looking into the overgrown hedge opposite the village hall – there is no resolution to this as yet, but it is still ongoing. Riparian responsibility has been revisited by BB. Budget consultation is currently underway, cllrs can be involved if they wish to. Courier fraud has been rife in Herefordshire – texts to say that you have missed a parcel etc. Unison have a charitable arm to help to provide school uniforms – she can direct people if they know of a family who might benefit from this. Home testing is being encouraged to reduce covid risks. Afghanistan refugees: will Herefordshire be offering assistance to them? They don't have enough empty housing stock, but they are looking into how else they can assist. ii. James Howell, Balfour Beatty - Reports sent weekly. iii. Police update – Golden Valley report had been circulated. iv. Footpaths officer- including discussion on bye ways and footpaths The broken stile at Jim Gillespies land: request if this could be a gate rather than a stile. Action: Clerk to ask for a price of a kissing gate to go here. PR did a village walk with the locality steward and it was identified that old green lanes that are now BOATs will become the responsibility of BB to maintain. AM had had a meeting with Tom Fisher to look at registering footpaths on behalf of the PC and he will keep trying to do this on our behalf. There is a fear that in the future, existing green lanes may be reduced to footpaths and will not be legally bridleways as well. Action: PC to look at this going forward – led by KD with AM bringing in the footpath knowledge. KR will circulate the link for further investigation by cllrs.
4.	To accept minutes of the July Parish Council meeting Proposed:MD Seconded: JG All in agreement. It was resolved to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

5.	<p>Action points from previous PC meetings</p> <p>All addressed, or on the agenda apart from Queens Green Canopy.</p> <p>JG has booked trees under this scheme and she will inform the PC when they are ready for collection.</p>								
6.	<p>Planning applications –</p> <p>212168 – The Sycamores, Church Rd, LB: Proposed single storey extension.</p> <p>PC had no objection to this application.</p> <p>212783 – Outbuilding at Castle Inn, LB: Proposed holiday let.</p> <p>It was thought that the identified area was currently the beer store – if this was to become a holiday let then where would the pub keep their beers? This would then have a negative impact on what is a community asset, devaluing it. It would reduce the vehicle occupancy for the pub car park by 2 spaces in an area of restricted parking capacity any way. The PC has concerns that this might affect the viability of the pub as a going concern. The PC discussed doing a site visit, PR and KR will drop in if necessary and JG will talk to a neighbour to find out if it is a beer cellar.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to e mail and arrange a visit should it be ascertained that this is infact the beer store.</p> <p>PR visited the Castle Pool to look at the damage to the hedge, it does look as if weedkiller has been used at the bottom of the hedge to kill off the underlying plants.</p>								
7.	<p>Lengthsman – update, identification of work;</p> <p>Check up on the footpath into the Duchy woods – replacement stile.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to inform Lengthsman</p>								
8.	<p>The Castle Inn</p> <p>Is still for sale, no other update.</p>								
9.	<p>Little Birch Broadband update : nothing to report. BT have bought fibre to the three new buildings at Castle Pool, but they wont deliver it to the rest of the village.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to chase up last meetings attendee who was looking into when Gigaclear might come to the village.</p>								
10.	<p>Defibrillator</p> <p>JG is checking the defib every month. Take off the agenda.</p>								
11.	<p>Finances:</p> <p>Balances:</p> <table> <tr> <td>HSBC account (at 04.08.21)</td><td>£ 4,556.35</td></tr> </table> <p>Payments to be agreed:</p> <p>Parish Acct</p> <table> <tr> <td>Clerks Salary July and August</td><td>As listed</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clerks expenses</td><td>As listed</td></tr> <tr> <td>Website domain name etc</td><td>£123.60</td></tr> </table> <p>Proposed: PR Seconded: JG</p> <p>All in agreement. Payments to be made.</p> <p>Receipts – None</p> <p>Requests for financial aid – Victim support, it was moved not to fund this.</p>	HSBC account (at 04.08.21)	£ 4,556.35	Clerks Salary July and August	As listed	Clerks expenses	As listed	Website domain name etc	£123.60
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12.	<p>Report from any training or meetings attended:</p> <p>a: including Changing to a .gov website As the PC have just paid to renew their domain name, they were not interested in doing this at this juncture. Cllrs were advised not to have a shared e mail address to receive their Parish Council information, as some of what is circulated is confidential.</p>								

	<p>B: adopting the LGA Code of Conduct: signing up was proposed, it was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to note.</p> <p>Participating Budgeting: This was discussed, and was thought for this year it was possibly not achievable, but they would look into this for next year.</p> <p>Parish Council Summit: the next summit date was given out to cllrs.</p>
13.	Matters arising between meetings. None
14.	To receive agenda items for the next PC meeting (no discussion) Footpaths and byeways.
15.	To note date of next scheduled PC meeting –Wednesday 6 th October 2021 at 7.30pm
	Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

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

Future Meetings

	Wednesday October 6 th	7.30pm
	Wednesday November 3 rd	7.30pm
TBC do the PC wish a Dec meeting?	Wednesday December 1 st	7.30pm
2022	Wednesday January 5 th	7.30pm
	Wednesday February 2 nd	7.30pm
	Wednesday March 2 nd	7.30pm