

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm – at Little Birch Village Hall**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Councillors; Mike Davies (MD); Chris Atkinson (CA), Kate Robbins (KR)

**ALSO:** Neil Barrington (NB) (Parish Clerk), Toni Fagan (TF) (Ward Councillor); Angela Middleton (AM) (Footpaths Officer) Terry Griffiths (TG) (Lengthsman)

**Meeting Opened: 7.30pm**

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Open Session for members of the Public:</b> There will be no longer than 10 minutes allowed for any members of the public present, to speak for up to 3 minutes each.</p> <p><b>2 members of the public declared that they might have an interest in the Castle Inn and made comments supportive of being a major part of the community</b></p> <p><b>Another member of the public raised a point concerning problem with Parish Lane Road. Herefordshire Council have been contacted and so far, haven't responded. Ward Councillor (TF) said she'd follow this up.</b></p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>To accept apologies for absence – Councillor Kate Dillon, Councillor Nick Deacon</b>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>To receive declarations of interest:</b></p> <p><b>None declared</b></p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>To accept reports.</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Ward Councillor report (TF) Informed the council of an update on faster shire roll out. There was some comment from public on experiences with the 4G Broadband</b></p> <p><b>There was also an expectation that the upcoming Ofsted report on children's services was unlikely to be positive. There a still some systemic issues that will take time to address. Progress will be slow and some staff are under considerable pressure.</b></p> <p><b>TF talked about the work on the contraflow cycle path in St Owen Street Hereford. She acknowledged there are views on the merits on both sides of the debate. Herefordshire council is committed to encouraging active travel promotion.</b></p> <p><b>Also, her report included the collaboration with Talk community to secure funding for events in village halls etc to help people with the cost-of-living crisis. To provide warm places for people to go.</b></p> <p><b>Finally, reference was made what criteria would be needed to for a proposed river protection zone. Gratitude was expressed for the efforts made in the farming community to address this problem</b></p> <p><b>5.2 Balfour Beatty- Weekly report received.</b></p> <p><b>5.3 Police update – NB will complete and update quarterly Police charter. Report sent to Community Police Officer.</b></p> <p><b>5.4 Footpath Officer- AM requested information on a meeting of footpath officers being held at HALC. NB will write to HALC to get details</b></p> <p><b>AM brought to the attention of the council the need for additional signage on footpaths MB 17 where it meets LB 23. Request for way marker and public footpath signage. NB will contact lengthsman to secure quote for work.</b></p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Minutes -: It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of meeting 06/07</b>



	NB received a reply from Balfour Beatty (BB) over requested signage. NB re-sent message from BB for Councillors to consider. It was resolved to revisit this item at the next meeting.
13.	Defibrillator -: Chair (MD) had obtained various quotes on recommissioned and new for a replacement defibrillator. Current one needs a new battery and that model has been discontinued. It was resolved to approach the Village Hall to inquire if the costs of purchasing a new model could be shared.
14	Community Asset -: As discussed on the open to the public section. 2 members of the public have expressed an interest in possibly purchasing the Castle Inn. Their contribution was welcomed by the Parish Council.
15.	Items for next meeting - mentioned earlier.
16.	To note date of next scheduled PC meeting –Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm  Meeting concluded at 21.05

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....

#### Future Meetings

	Wednesday September 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
	Wednesday October 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
	Wednesday November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm
	Wednesday December 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm