

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL -PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 2nd November at 7.00pm - at Little Birch Village Hall**

Minutes

PRESENT: Councillors; (KD) Kate Dillon; (MD) Mike Davies; (ND) Nick Deacon (KR) Kate Robbins

ALSO: Neil Barrington (NB) (Parish Clerk), Angela Middleton (AM) (Footpaths Officer) Toni Fagen (TF) Ward Councillor

Meeting Opened: 7.00pm

1.	Open Session for members of the Public: There will be no longer than 10 minutes allowed for any members of the public present, to speak for up to 3 minutes each. No members of the public were present
2.	To accept apologies for absence - Cllr Chris Atkinson
3.	To receive declarations of interest: None declared
4.	Reports: 4.1 Ward Councillor : (TF) Commented on the continuing difficulties experienced over children's services. Future determination is pending whether the service returns to Herefordshire. Chair asked about recruitment within the service. Issue remains very difficult, but every effort is being made to turn the situation round. (TF) mentioned that budgeting projections will be extremely challenging due to central funding cuts (TF) reported that a Health and Well being survey is available and encouraged councillors to participate if possible. She also stated that warm space facilities will be available through community hubs. 4.2 Balfour Beatty : Report received 4.3 Police Update : Nothing to report 4.4 Footpath Officer report: (AM) announced that she wished to step down as footpath officer, but kindly agreed to remain in post until a replacement is found. Chair (MD) wanted to record the council's appreciation for the absolutely outstanding work (AM) has done over the previous 5 years. Her diligence and dedication to the role were also recognised. Clarification was requested by the council over responsibilities between parish and county council on public rights of way. (TF) will inquire
5.	To accept minutes of the June Council meeting Proposed: KR Seconded: KD All in agreement. It was resolved to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
6.	Action points from previous PC meetings No action points currently outstanding.

7.	Planning Matters: Nothing currently to consider
8	Lengthsman – Regrettably the lengthsman (Terry Griffiths) was unable to attend. However, the chair reported to council that he'd been in discussion over the work that needed to be completed and an agreement was reached to split the tasks between this financial year and next. This will entail an overall cost of £2400 over the aforementioned period. The council and clerk continue to actively pursue access to grants to offset some of the costs. Parishioners are reminded of their riparian responsibilities to keep ditches clear after work is completed. It was resolved to adopt the plan for the Lengthsman Prop KR Sec KD
9.	Finances: Balances: HSBC account (at 04.10.22) £ 7453.99 Payments to be agreed: Parish Acct Clerks Salary October as per contract. Clerks expenses £ 27.54 HMRC £ 40.80 Newsletter £ 200.00 Defibrillator battery and pads £ 174.35 Bank Charges (March) pd by DD £ 8.00 Proposed: MD Seconded: ND All in agreement. Payments to be made. It was noted there will be an increase in Clerk's salary Receipts – 2 nd half of Precept now received £3300 Requests for financial aid – None. Discussion on changing banks – Delay in receiving paperwork for (KD)
10.	Defibrator: Is now fully functioning again
11.	Precept: It was resolved to look for an increase of 6% of the 23-24 precept. (NB) will supply a breakdown of the figures. Council resolved to publish the annual accounts to maintain transparency thus allowing parishioners to understand the reasoning behind the proposed increase. Prop ND Sec KR
12.	Village Hall: KD provided an update on the work re Village Hall, it was felt a new approach was needed to move the project forward. As such a decision was taken to replace building contractor.
13.	Discussion on quote for church signage – Council resolved that the quote for the signage to the church was too expensive and they wouldn't proceed with this.
14.	Training requirements: With the new HALC schedule released. It was resolved that rather than training as a group. As there was one free session outstanding. One

	of the councillors should take up the opportunity to sign up for one the sessions.
15.	Items for the next meeting: PC will discuss the possible publication of a brief summary of PC meeting in the village newsletter to better inform parishoners
16.	To note the date of the next scheduled Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 7th December 7pm

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....

Future Meetings

	Wednesday December 7 th 2022	7.00pm
	Wednesday January 4 th 2023	7.00pm
	Wednesday February 1 st 2023	7.00pm
	Wednesday March 1 st 2023	7.00pm
	Wednesday April 5 th 2023	7.00pm