

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL -PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 8th February at 7.00pm – at Little Birch Village Hall**

Minutes

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

ALSO: Neil Barrington (NB) (Parish Clerk), Chris Fowler (CF) (Footpaths Officer)

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. Number of members of the public attended specifically to discuss Planning application 224301. (MD) suggested this item was discussed first. Other councillors agreed to the suggestion
2.	To accept apologies for absence - None
3.	To receive declarations of interest: On Planning application 224301 Interests declared by Mike Davies (MD) and Chris Atkinson (CA)
4.	Reports: 4.1 Ward Councillor: (TF) reported on the following points. That there was due to be a meeting to set the council tax for the year. Proposal 4.99% It was articulated that to have a continued balanced budget some charges would increase Transformation strategy was highlighted Social care continues to be a big issue. With a possible 2% increase in funding. Decisions are pending on children's services She described some of the initiatives mooted regarding the grant of £20mil from the stronger towns fund. Also, there was decarbonise plan 2050. With Park and Ride, extra railway capacity with new station. While making reference to the large amount of travel in Hereford within a small radius Finally, there is a drive for recruitment for public rights of way officers. 4.2 Balfour Beatty: Report received. (MD) commented on some very good work that had been done by the Lengthsman. 4.3 Police Update: Nothing to report 4.4 Footpath Officer report: (CF) Parish council welcomed new footpath officer. He expressed the need for way marker signs (NB) will contact Terry Griffiths on this. (CF) explained there was a number of stiles in need of repair and some overgrown footpaths. There is also an issue with a fence compromising a footpath. It was agreed that a Parish walk needs to be arranged at some stage. (MD) will write to public right of way officer. Highlighting issues raised in report 4.5 Discussion on combining Footpath Officer for Little Birch and Aconbury: It was resolved to combine the 2 areas.
5.	To accept minutes of the January 4 2023 Council meeting

	<p>Proposed: KD Seconded: CA</p> <p>All in agreement. It was resolved to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.</p>
6.	<p>Action points from previous PC meetings No action points currently outstanding.</p>
7.	<p>Planning Matters: 224244 Green Willow, Wrigglebook, Kingsthorpe. Parish Council resolved to support this application</p> <p>(MD) and (CF) left the meeting at 7.08pm having declared an interest in 224301</p> <p>224301 Land North West of St Mary's Church Little Birch: Parish Council resolved to oppose this application. It was deemed not to meet the criteria of the current neighbourhood plan</p> <p>(MD) and (CA) returned to the meeting at 7.41pm</p>
8.	<p>Finances: Balances: HSBC account (at 04.12.22) £ 6744.18 (NB) Stated he hadn't been able to obtain a current bank statement</p> <p>Payments to be agreed: Parish Acct Clerks Salary as per contract. Clerks' expenses £ 41.36 HMRC £ 58.29 Bank Charges (March) pd by DD £ not known as no current bank statement</p> <p>Proposed: ND Seconded: KR All in agreement. Payments to be made. Receipts - 2nd half of Precept now received £3300 and £87.18 from Village Hall for Defibrillator Requests for financial aid - None.</p>
9.	<p>Discussion on dates for Parish Council meeting 2023: It was resolved to formalise dates in the March 1 meeting. Around availability of the Village Hall. There needs to be consideration of the election in May</p>
10.	<p>Discussion on Much Birch school parking issue: Council acknowledged this has been an ongoing issue. (MD) has contacted Much Birch Parish Council. It was felt this was as much as could be done at the current time.</p>

11.	Gritting on Barrack Hill: There was concern that this hadn't been done in the recent bad weather. (MD) will contact Balfour Beatty on this
12.	Implementing new bank account: (MD) added further signatories to the account. It was resolved that (NB) will put cheque received from Village Hall for Defibrator into the new account.
13.	To Note date of next scheduled Parish Council meeting Wednesday 1st March 2023 7pm.

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....

Future Meetings

	Wednesday March1 st 2023	7.00pm
	Wednesday April 5th 2023	7.00pm