

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm – at Little Birch Village Hall**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Councillors; (MD) Mike Davies; (ND) Nick Deacon (CA) Chris Atkinson (SC) Steven Coles

**ALSO:** Neil Barrington (NB) (Parish Clerk), Toni Fagen (TF) (Ward Councillor)

**Meeting Opened: 7.00pm**

1.	<b>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.</b> None attended
2.	<b>To accept apologies for absence – Cllr Tom Palfrey</b>
3.	<b>Co-option of Councillor:</b> It was RESOLVED to co-opt Steven Coles to the Parish Council
4.	<b>Clerk correspondence:</b> NB reported there had been one parishioner correspondence and a reply will be sent on October 5.
5.	<b>To Receive declarations of interest:</b> None declared
6.	<b>To accept reports from -</b> <b>6.1 Ward Councillor:</b> (TF) commented on issues mentioned previously over Knotweed. Which is being dealt with. Unfortunately, the issue with ownership of the pond has reached a conclusion with no progress having been made. TF explained, that she regretted that due to change of administration and capital programme. Priorities have altered and a number of community hub initiatives will now no longer take place. They will be likely relaxed by transport infrastructure spending. She also made reference to the possibility the library will now be sited in the Shire hall as opposed to Maylord Orchard. Finally, it looked likely the proposed Pontrilas railway project will no longer transpire <b>6.2 Balfour Beatty:</b> Report received. <b>6.3 Police Update:</b> Newsletter report received. NB will update quarterly priority report for CSO <b>4.4 Footpath Officer report:</b> (CF) reported that the way marker posts have been delivered. He felt it was important that paths are clearly defined. There is still a half day work available through the Lengthsman programme. NB will clarify with Balfour Beatty whether, if possible, the half day could be used for other work. Parish walk will take place October 15. Finally, MD will write to PROW officer to clarify status of footpath (Ruff lane)
7.	<b>To accept minutes of the July 12 2023 Ordinary Council meeting</b>  Proposed: CA    Seconded: ND  All in agreement. It was RESOLVED to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
8.	<b>Action points from previous PC meetings</b> No action points currently outstanding.
9.	<b>Planning Matters:</b> None current

10.	<p><b>Finances:</b></p> <p><b>Balances:</b> Lloyd's account (at 01.10.23)      £ 7199.21</p> <p><b>Payments to be agreed:</b> <b>Parish Acct</b> <b>It was resolved to pay the following</b> Clerks Salary as per contract. HMRC £45.68 Expenses Fuel £9 Broadband £5 Notice board pins £6.74 One off Expense: Registration for CiLCA qualification £450 It was RESOLVED to accept these payments as valid Proposed: ND      Seconded: CA All in agreement. Payments to be made. <b>Receipts</b> – 2nd half of Precept now received £3500 VAT refund £303.47 <b>Requests for financial aid</b> – None.</p>
11.	<p><b>Lengthsman Work:</b> MD made reference that the first half of work had been completed. Further work is planned in. There will be clarification over footpath work.</p>
12.	<p><b>Overgrown trees at the Castle Inn:</b> MD stated he was satisfied the area had improved and a lot of work had been carried out to tidy the foliage.</p>
13.	<p><b>To allow delegated powers for clerk:</b> It was RESOLVED to obtain a document from HALC sighting the relevant legislation and will carry over until the November meeting.</p>
14.	<p><b>Initial Precept Discussion:</b> There was a brief preliminary discussion on what requirements might entail 24/25. NB will prepare a budget for discussion</p>
15.	<p><b>Paperless statements:</b> NB had received correspondence from Lloyd's bank to switch to paperless statements. It was RESOLVED to allow paperless statements. As the Parish Council will still full access and the clerk will receive email statements.</p>
16.	<p><b>To note resignation of chair:</b> MD announced that he will reign as chair due to him leaving the area. Parish Council and Clerk placed on record their gratitude for MD outstanding and dedicated service to the Parish.</p>
17.	<p><b>Items for next meeting (no discussion):</b> Election of new chair.</p>
18.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> November 1 2023 7pm Little Birch Village Hall</p>

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....

Future Meetings

	Wednesday Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> 2023	7.00pm
	Wednesday Dec 6 <sup>th</sup> 2023	7.00pm
	Wednesday Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2024	7.00pm
	Wednesday Feb 7 <sup>th</sup> 2024	7.00pm
	Wednesday Mar 6 <sup>th</sup> 2024	7.00pm
	Wednesday Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2024	7.00pm