

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 1st November at 7.00pm – at Little Birch Village Hall**

Minutes

PRESENT: Councillors; (ND) Nick Deacon (TP) Tom Palfrey (CA) Chris Atkinson (SC) Steven Coles

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

Meeting Opened: 7.00pm

1.	Election of new chair: It was RESOLVED to elect (CA) as new chair and (ND) as new vice chair Prop (SC) Sec (TP)
2.	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. None attended
3.	To accept apologies for absence: None received
4.	Clerk correspondence: NB Stated that 2 correspondences have been received. Firstly, over the displacement of the notice board by the castle inn Also, an email from a parishioner over soil and drainage issues. NB will write to the person outlining parish council position
5.	To receive declarations of interest: None declared
6.	Reports: 6.1 Ward Councillor: (TF) articulated her stance on the planning committee decision (232106). She considered all factors when reaching a view. But felt that the existing NDP would have supported the application. She committed to source a publication of minutes of the committee for councillors to study. Further comments were made on the plan to relocate the library to the shire hall. Plus, another very disappointing Ofsted report. Primarily caused by a lack of recruitment of social workers. Which is a problem nationally. 6.2 Balfour Beatty: Report received. 6.3 Police Update: Newsletter report received. (SC)stated that he'd made contact with the police representatives and supplied the parish council with contact details 6.4 Footpath Officer report: (CF) reported that he'd completed work in various parts of the parish. He requested more way markers for further unmarked paths. He made reference to a fallen tree on Ruff Lane, causing a diversion to the current path. He stated that he was hopeful this would be resolved at some later stage. He took councillors through a series of issues re sunken footpaths, no way markers, blocked footpath, fixing posts and made an appeal for help on these. Finally, he made reference to a possible access to a grant to create a map marking all the footpaths in the parish.

7.	<p>To accept minutes of the October 4 2023 Ordinary Council meeting</p> <p>Proposed: ND Seconded: TP</p> <p>All in agreement. It was RESOLVED to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.</p>
8.	<p>Action points from last meeting: NB will write to Village hall ref EV Charger bid</p>
9.	<p>Planning matters: Nothing current to consider.</p>
10.	<p>Finances:</p> <p>Balances:</p> <p>10.1 Lloyd's account (at 01.11.23) £ 6500.07</p> <p>Payments to be agreed:</p> <p>Parish Acct</p> <p>It was resolved to pay the following</p> <p>10.2 Clerks Salary as per contract. HMRC £45.60 Expenses £ 9 Petrol £5 Broadband</p> <p>Proposed: TP Seconded: CA</p> <p>All in agreement. It was RESOLVED all payments to be made.</p> <p>10.3 Receipts – 1st half of Precept now received £3500 VAT refund £303.47</p> <p>10.4 Requests for financial aid – None.</p>
11.	<p>Lentgthsman: Confirmation of all work previously agreed</p>
12.	<p>To allow delegated powers for clerk: It was RESOLVED that ND would adapt an existing document for consideration at next meeting. This will clearly set out what the delegation of powers would entail. In accordance with Local government act 1972 section 101. Prop SC Sec TP</p>
13.	<p>Review of planning committee decision on Stables, Bowlers Lane: It was RESOLVED to recognise the decision on the interpretation of the NDP and that it respects and does not violate the document. All cases are considered on their own merits</p>

14.	Nominate a spokesperson: It was RESOLVED that CA and ND will be spokespersons for the Parish council henceforth. Prop TP Sec SC
15.	Precept discussion on Clerk proposal: It was RESOLVED to consider clerk precept proposal for decision on Dec 6 meeting.
16.	Notice board repair: It was RESOLVED to obtain a quote for repair to notice board next to Castle Inn
17.	Defibrillator: SC has committed to be point of contact for the defibrillator unit at the Village Hall. He wants to make the unit secure, publicise, establish training to use device. He will also take over the managing of the circuit register
18.	Items for next meeting (No discussion): Consideration of items needed for defibrillator with regards to Budget. Increase of contingency
19.	Date of next meeting: Next meeting is December 6 7pm at Little Birch Village Hall
	Meeting closed at 8.40pm

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....

Future Meetings

	Wednesday Dec 6 th 2023	7.00pm
	Wednesday Jan 3 rd 2024	7.00pm
	Wednesday Feb 7 th 2024	7.00pm
	Wednesday Mar 6 th 2024	7.00pm
	Wednesday Apr 3 rd 2024	7.00pm
	Wednesday May 1 st 2024	7.00pm