

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 7th February 2024 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 Fagan (TF) (Ward Councillor) Chris Fowler (CF) (Footpath Officer) and one member of the public

Meeting Opened: 7.00pm

1.	Open Session for members of the Public: No matters raised
2.	To accept apologies for absence: None received
3.	Clerk correspondence: All correspondence received on the agenda.
4.	To receive declarations of interest: None declared
5.	<p>Reports:</p> <p>5.1 Ward Councillor: (TF) commented on the budget to be set for 24-25. Overall figure of £210.5mil. Council tax will increase by 4.99%. There is additional funding available for social and rural services. With a plan to address drainage issues. There will be fixed opening hours at the new library. There will be no increase in City parking fees</p> <p>5.2 Balfour Beatty: Report received.</p> <p>5.3 Police Update: Newsletter report received.</p> <p>5.4 Footpath Officer report: (CF) requested that a dedicated footpath map be shown on the Facebook page and on the website. He reported that he'd undertaken some footpath clearance and fixed a number of way markers and posts. LB29 is now fully way marked. He now has a new access point to report and action footpath issues. He has requested funding is considered for Stile repair on Duchy land. TF will attempt to provide information on this. CF wants to now include Much Birch in future parish walks. He stressed the need for voluntary assistance in the Footpath maintenance.</p>
6.	<p>To accept minutes of the December 6 2023 Ordinary Council meeting</p> <p>Proposed: SC Seconded: ND</p> <p>All in agreement. It was RESOLVED to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.</p>

7.	Action points from last meeting: All on the agenda
8.	Planning matters: Nothing currently to consider
9.	HALC Subscription – It was agreed further consideration is required to make a decision on HALC membership
10.	<p>Finances:</p> <p>Balances:</p> <p>10.1 Lloyd's account (at 01.02.24) £ 5078.39</p> <p>Payments to be agreed: To consider the following outstanding payments.</p> <p>10.2 Clerks Salary as per contract.</p> <p> HMRC £62.10</p> <p> Expenses £ 9 Petrol £5 Broadband</p> <p> HALC decision in March meeting</p> <p>Proposed: TP Seconded: SC</p> <p>All in agreement. It was RESOLVED all payments to be made.</p> <p>Prop TP Sec SC</p> <p>10.3 Receipts – 2nd half of Precept now received £3500</p> <p> VAT refund £303.47, £194.97</p> <p> Lengthsman match funding £400</p> <p>10.4 Requests for financial aid – None.</p>
11.	Lengthsman: NB will write to Lengthsman requesting which work still needs to be carried out in 23/24.
12.	<p>Review of NDP: It was RESOLVED that there will be no review of the current neighbourhood development plan document</p> <p>Prop SC Sec TP</p>
13.	Land opposite Village Hall: CA reported that he'd had contact with Welsh Water over the proposal re land opposite the village hall. It now appears this project will not now go ahead.

14.

Defibrillator: SC provided the following report for councillor consideration

Current Situation

LBPC currently provides a defibrillator which is kept in an unlocked and heated cabinet at the Village Hall entrance door. It is registered on 'The Circuit' and is available for use by anyone. The purchase date and cost is not known. However, it was manufactured on 08/11/2016 and carries an 8 year warranty (expires 11/24). It requires battery and pad replacement on every use or every two years at a cost of £180. The usage is very low and battery replacement is currently on an expiry basis.

I am currently reviewing the cost and replacement cycle along with relevant awareness training. The following options give both immediate and five year known costs. All costs will increase based on usage.

Option 1 - Retain current defibrillator and unlocked cabinet - Total £360

This option has no immediate costs and without usage battery and pad replacement will cost £360 over the next five years. The defibrillator will be out of warranty from 11/24 so will need to be replaced with an as new cost of £1500 if it becomes faulty.

Option 2 - Retain current defibrillator and replace lock on existing cabinet - Total £490

This option has an immediate cost of £130 and without usage battery and pad replacement will cost £360 over the next five years. This gives a total cost of £490. The defibrillator will be out of warranty from 11/24 so will need to be replaced with an as new cost of £1500 if it becomes faulty.

Option 3 - Retain current defibrillator and replace existing cabinet with new locking cabinet - Total £960

This option has an immediate cost of £600 and without usage battery and pad replacement will cost £360 over the next five years. This gives a total cost of £960. The defibrillator will be out of warranty from 11/24 so will need to be replaced with an as new cost of £1500 if it becomes faulty.

Option 4 - Replace defibrillator and existing cabinet for new locking cabinet - Total £750

This option has an immediate cost of £750 and without usage battery and pad replacement will be nil over the next five years. This gives a total cost of £750. This has an eight year warranty which will expire in 2032. This comes from a match funded government grant and without this the total cost of the option would be £1500.

Discussion

There are two main areas for discussion with regard to the defibrillator. I would also like to discuss awareness training but this is more straightforward.

1. Should we upgrade to a locking cabinet?

Defibrillators are a valuable asset and if stolen or damaged would need to be replaced at full cost (circa £1500). The locking mechanism does not delay use as the ambulance service would have the PIN code and be able to provide quick access at any time. It is of note that the British Heart Foundation asks that cabinets are left unlocked at all times. However, this is not usual in most unattended locations.

2. Should we replace the defibrillator?

The current one is coming to the end of its manufacturer's warranty this year. It is now an 8 year old model and has been discontinued. Due to low usage it is currently very low cost to run and may last many more years. A new defib comes with new features, ease of use and warranted longevity.

It was **RESOLVED** to pursue option 4 On SC report. SC stressed the need for training and fundraising

15: Facebook Page: SC reported that a new Facebook page is now up and running. This will have a link to the parish website. People are requested to become admins to include information deemed of interest to the parish.

16.Aconbury Funding: It was agreed that this issue requires further discussion. Council agreed to discuss at a later date.

17.Full Fibre Broadband: SC communicated to the other councillors the need to promote the project. He suggested distributing flyers, co-operation with other parishes, social media. Finally, to use the Annual parish meeting as a public forum to inform residents.

18. Items for a Parish "Wish List": Should any future Section 106 money become available. Parish council requested than NB officially document

New gates for Parish footpaths

Provision for a child's play apparatus in the area adjacent to the village hall

19. Co-option of Councillor: It was **RESOLVED** to Co-opt Kate Dillon to the parish council

20. Dates of May Meeting: Due to the forthcoming Police Crime Commissioner election in May. Meeting that month will now be on May 8. Subject to confirmation the Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday March 4 at 7pm

21. Items for next meeting (no discussion) : Nothing raised

22.Date of next meeting: Next meeting is March 4, 2024, 7pm at Little Birch Village Hall (Annual Parish Meeting subject to confirmation) Next ordinary Parish council meeting March 6, 2024 at 7pm Little Birch Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.29pm

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....

Future Meetings

	Wednesday Mar 4 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
	Wednesday June 5 th 2024	7.00pm
	Wednesday July 3 rd 2024	7.00pm