

**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 7.00pm – at Little Birch Village Hall**

Minutes

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

ALSO: Neil Barrington (NB) (Parish Clerk), Toni Fagan (TF) (Ward Councillor) Chris Fowler (CF) (Footpath Officer) and Terry Griffiths (TG) (Parish Lengthsman)

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) stated that questions raised about Aconbury. That any funding issues would be covered by Herefordshire Council. There will be a push to get a public meeting on Broadband proposal for Much Birch. She commented that the debate over Hereford bypass road proposal was still ongoing. There had been a positive announcement of new homes in the North of the county due to funding from Phosphate credit scheme. Asylum seekers have now left the 3 counties hotel site. New planning enforcement register to be introduced. There has been a successful upgrade of the Beryl bikes scheme. Finally there will be grants available for festivals and events.</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) has made further appeals for voluntary help in the parish. Commented on work carried out to move fallen trees. Furthermore, that the footpaths are currently in very reasonable condition. Reference was made to cost of changing stiles to gates currently on the parish “wish list” for any Section 106 monies received in the future. There is now a public rights of way volunteer development officer who is meeting with footpath officers across the county. Finally, there are Parish Walks on Mar 24 and Apr 7.</p>
6.	<p>To accept minutes of the February 7 2024 Ordinary Council meeting</p> <p>Proposed: TP Seconded: KD</p>

	All in agreement. It was RESOLVED to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
7.	Action points from last meeting: All on the agenda
8.	Planning matters: It was RESOLVED to support the application 240229 Walls Pool, Newtown Lane, Little Birch, HR2 8BD
9.	HALC Subscription – It was RESOLVED to continue HALC membership. Though the clerk did point out some issues that would be need to be addressed in the next 12 months. Website, Policies amongst them.
10.	<p>Finances:</p> <p>Balances:</p> <p>10.1 Lloyd’s account (at 01.03.24) £ 4753.89</p> <p>Payments to be agreed: To consider the following outstanding payments.</p> <p>10.2 Clerks Salary as per contract. HMRC £62. Expenses £ 9 Petrol £5 Broadband HALC £444.26 inc. Vat Village Hall Hire £205 (Not included on the agenda)</p> <p>Proposed: TP Seconded: ND</p> <p>All in agreement. It was RESOLVED all payments to be made.</p> <p>10.3 Receipts – 2nd half of Precept now received £3500 VAT refund £303.47, £194.97 Lengthsman match funding £400</p> <p>10.4 Requests for financial aid – None.</p>
11.	<p>Lengthsman: TG gave an overview of work carried out this year 23/24 so far. Emphasis will be on Pendant Pitch to finish this year’s work.</p> <p>His suggestion was a bi monthly schedule for the coming year. When new funding becomes available.</p>

