## LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL -PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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

Proposed: TP Seconded: KD

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.	Reports:			
	<b>5.1 Ward Councillor:</b> (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 commentated 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.			
	5.2 Balfour Beatty: Report received.			
	<b>5.3 Police Update:</b> Newsletter report received.			
	<b>5.4 Footpath Officer report:</b> (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.			
6.	To accept minutes of the February 7 2024 Ordinary Council meeting			

	All in agreement. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
7.	Action points from last meeting: All on the agenda
8.	<b>Planning matters</b> : It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to support the application 240229 Walls Pool, Newtown Lane, Little Birch, HR2 8BD
9.	<b>HALC Subscription</b> – It was <b>RESOLVED</b> 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.	Finances: Balances:  10.1 Lloyd's account (at 01.03.24) £ 4753.89  Payments to be agreed: To consider the following outstanding payments.  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)  Proposed: TP Seconded: ND  All in agreement. It was RESOLVED all payments to be made.  10.3 Receipts – 2nd half of Precept now received £3500  VAT refund £303.47, £194.97  Lengthsman match funding £400  10.4 Requests for financial aid – None.
11.	Lentgthsman: 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.  His suggestion was a bi monthly schedule for the coming year. When new funding becomes available.

13.	13. <b>Defibrillator:</b> After consideration given at the Feb 7 2024 meeting item 14. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the grant match funding for defibrillator. This required a contribution of £750 to paid equally by the parish council and the village hall. SC stated that the preference was for the device to be unlocked, after extensive research into insurance implications. Research strongly indicated there is almost no incidents of theft, damage or interference. It's recommended that device should be unlocked. NB suggested it could be added to an asset register and insured through that.  Prop KD Sec ND						
14.	<b>Appointment of Auditor</b> — Consideration was given to an a Governance Audit Review (AGAR) due from April 1. This will be o	discussed at the April med	eting.				
15.	<b>To request a contribution for Clerk CiLCA course-</b> It was R contribution of £350 towards CiLCA costs and training.	RESOLVED that the cierk	would request a				
16.	Items for next meeting (no discussion): Nothing raised						
17.	Date of next meeting: Next meeting April 3, 2024, 7.30pm at Little Birch Village Hall						
	Meeting closed at 8.30pm						
12.	Feedback of Full Fibre Broadband meeting: Positive meeting, v	which it was felt had beer	n beneficial. Coupled				
		ith leafleting and conversations across the parish. The pledge quota is now at 44%. There is a commitment continue to highlight the benefits of the scheme. Pledge window closes on 31/03/24					
SIGNED	D:CHAIRMAN D	Pated:					
Future	Meetings						
ſ	Wednesday Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2024	7.30pm					
	Wednesday May 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024	7.30pm					
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Wednesday Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2024	7.30pm
Wednesday May 1st 2024	7.30pm
Wednesday June 5 <sup>th</sup> 2024	7.30pm
Wednesday July 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2024	7.30pm
Wednesday Sept 4 <sup>th</sup> 2024	7.30pm
Wednesday Oct 2 <sup>rd</sup> 2024	7.00pm