**LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday 3rd Apr 2024 at 7.30pm – 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)**

**Meeting Opened: 7.30pm**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Open Session for members of the Public: No matters raised |
| 2. | **To accept apologies for absence:**  Cllr Dillon sent her apologies |
| 3. | **Clerk correspondence:** All correspondence received on the agenda. |
| 4. | **To receive declarations of interest:** None declared |
| 5. | **Reports:**  **5.1 Ward Councillor:** (TF) stated that the children’s services officer has left his post due to the continuing difficulties. A short-term replacement has been found.  Western bypass of Hereford is now back on.  Commented on the flooding issue at Wrigglebrook Pitch. It has been reported to the Environment agency and there were conversations over possible landscape recovery.  There was an update on Fibre broadband proposal  Informed Councillors of ongoing local and transport plans now online for comment.  **5.2 Balfour Beatty:** Report received**.**  **5.3 Police Update:** Newsletter report received.  **5.4 Footpath Officer report:** (CF) asked (NB) to chase up an expression of interest re footpath grant funding. (NB) stated that he had no correspondence so far on footpaths but will contact Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty.  (CF) now has sufficient way markers and some volunteers have come forward to help on maintenance.  (CF) asked if Chapel Pitch (LB01) might be considered for drainage work.  He requested information on landowners he could contact re damaged stiles.  There will be a Parish walk on Apr 7. |
| 6. | **To accept minutes of the March 6 2024 Ordinary Council meeting**  Proposed: TP Seconded: ND  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**: None currently to be considered |
| 9. | **Finances:**  **Balances:**  **9.1** Lloyd’s account (at 01.04.24) £3057.23    **Payments to be agreed:** To consider the following outstanding payments.  **9.2** Clerks Salary as per contract.  HMRC £6  Expenses £ 9 Petrol £5 Broadband  Proposed: ND Seconded: TP  All in agreement. It was **RESOLVED** all payments to be made.  **9.3 Receipts** – 2nd half of Precept now received £3500  VAT refund £303.47, £194.97  Lengthsman match funding £400  **9.4** **Requests for financial aid** – None. |
| 10. | **Lentgthsman:** (NB) will contact our Lengthsman over creating a maintenance plan. Plus, advice on what might be a high priority for drainage work. (NB) will request a drainage map. |
| 11. | **Defibrillator:** Village hall committeehave kindly agreed to contribute £375 to the cost of the defibrillator. (SC) stated that the device will need to be kept at a certain temperature, meaning it will need to be locked. However, a pin is provided for access. (SC) is hopeful a training day will be held on June 29. |
|  |  |

**.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 12.  13.  14.  15. | Appointment of Auditor – (TP) will clarify this in the May meeting  Discussion on Bank Account: It was RESOLVED to continue with current arrangements  Items for next meeting (no discussion): New website, Auditor, Acknowledgment of Orcop Parish contribution to Clerk training and qualification.  Date of next meeting: Next meeting Annual Parish and Annual meeting May 8, 2024, 7.30pm at Little Birch Village Hall  Meeting closed at 8.44pm |
|  |  |

SIGNED:................................................................ CHAIRMAN Dated:..................................................................

Future Meetings

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Wednesday Apr 3rd 2024 | 7.30pm |
|  | Wednesday May 1st 2024 | 7.30pm |
|  | Wednesday June 5th 2024 | 7.30pm |
|  | Wednesday July 3rd 2024 | 7.30pm |
|  | Wednesday Sept 4th 2024 | 7.30pm |
|  | Wednesday Oct 2rd 2024 | 7.00pm |