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

Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 7pm – at Little Birch Village Hall

**Minutes**

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

**ALSO: Neil Barrington (NB) (Parish Clerk), Chris Fowler (CF) (Footpath Officer), Cllr Toni Fagan (TF) (Ward Councillor) and 28 members of the public**

**Meeting Opened: 7.00pm**

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| 1. | Open Session for members of the Public: All to discuss Item 2 |
| 2. | **To discuss future of Castle Inn:** 2 members of the public attended the meeting specifically to discuss the Castle Inn as their bid to purchase has been accepted. They outlined some speculative plans they have including crafts and food growing. They stated the following  We just wanted to reiterate as discussed at the end that it would be great to have feedback sent to us, in particular anything which would be in significant opposition to any planning application for change of use as outlined this evening. We need this in order to be able to fully consider how we want to proceed.  For clarity this would be a change of use from a mixed-use property comprising a public house with ancillary accommodation to mixed use property comprising Class E, F1 and F2 usage with ancillary accommodation where the current "restaurant" and former commercial kitchen are part of the domestic floor plan.  Residents were able to put a number of questions and encouraged to raise concerns with Parish clerk. |
| 3. | **To accept apologies for absence:** None received |
| 4. | **Clerk Correspondence:** All pertinent to Item 2 |
| 5.  6. | **To Receive declarations of Interest:** None received  **To Accept reports from -**  **6.1 Ward Councillor**: TF raised the following points.  Multiple roadworks being undertaken  Encourage people to report all road issues E.G pot holes, Fly tipping etc  Council currently addressing overspend  Pressures on School transport finances particularly special needs  Full Council meeting on Friday 07/03  Plan to establish housing development company.  **6.2 Balfour Beatty:** Report received**.** No discussion  **6.3 Police Update:** Newsletter report received**.**  **6.4 Footpath Officer report:** (CF) submitted a footpath report that will be published on the parish website.  There were some queries over footpath routes. Countryside code will be published in the newsletter |
| 7. | **To accept minutes of the February 5, 2025 Ordinary Council meeting,**  Proposed: TP Seconded: SC  All in agreement. It was **RESOLVED** to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meetings. |
| 8. | **7. Planning Matters: To consider commenting**  **250185 Dobbin Cottage, Crows Nest, Little Birch. Hereford, Herefordshire HR28BD –** was supported by the council |
| 9. | **To consider HALC membership renewal –** It was **RESOLVED** to renew membership of HALC for 2025-26 |
| 10. | **Finances:**  **Balances:**  **10.1 Balance (at 01.03.25) Lloyds Account £5623.25**  **10.2. Payments to be agreed:** To consider all outstanding payments  **Clerk Salary as per contract:**  HMRC Mar £79.60  Expenses £14 (Fuel £9, Broadband £5)  Terry Griffiths (Lengthsman) TGC 3064 - £559.20 Inc Vat  HALC H5045 - £489.91 Inc Vat  Village Hall Hire = INV306 (no meeting in January) = £200  Dore Transport = £200 agreed donation    **10.3 Receipts –**  **10.4** **Requests for financial aid** –  It was **RESOLVED** to make these payments. Parish council were advised of the current budget income and expenditure |
| 11. | **Lengthsman work:** Councillors agreed that Clerk advert could be circulated. Clerk will write to Lengthsman to confirm details of Drainage grant work |
| 12.  13.  14. | **Verge Cutting** – It was **RESOLVED** to ask for both cuts to be in poor visibility areas  **Grit Bins –** Councillors will attempt to create map of all Grit bin locations  **Appoint an Auditor –** It was **RESOLVED** to appoint FMS Hereford as Auditor for the 2024-25 Annual Governance Audit Review (AGAR) |
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| 15  16  17. | To adopt Civility and Respect Pledge – It was RESOLVED to adopt the pledge.  Items for next meeting – Castle Inn Asset of Community Value, New clerk equipment  Date of next meeting – April 2nd 2025, Little Birch Village Hall, 7.30pm  Meeting closed at 8.27pm  SIGNED:................................................................ CHAIRMAN  Dated:..................................................................  Future Meetings   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | Wednesday Apr 2nd 2025 | 7.30pm | |  | Wednesday May 7th 2025 | 7.30pm | |  | Wednesday June 4th 2025 | 7.30pm | |  | Wednesday July 2nd 2025 | 7.30pm | |  |  |

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