

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Minutes of an **Extraordinary Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council**
Monday 13th July 2015 at 7.30pm – Berrow Village Hall

Present:

Chair: Michael Barnes
Councillors: Roger Gillard, Mary Dowding, Vance Withers and Richard Bolton

In attendance: 2 members of the public, Clerk and Mr David Armitage representing MH AONB.

25/2015. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr: Faulkner

26/2015. Declarations of Interest

1. **Register of Interests.** Cllr Bolton updated Register.
2. **To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and/or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) in items on the agenda and their nature.** None
3. **To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)**
None

27/2015. Coombe Green Common

The chairman explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss means of access to potential funding towards maintenance of Coombe Green Common in association with Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The chairman outlined the history of present ownership and management of the Common - CL9 (which has 200 registered grazing rights) and the reasons for seeking funding towards a more defined and timetabled management programme following parishioners' interest.

The land although accepted in ownership of the occupants of Birtsmorton Court, documents are not available to confirm this. The present owner has confirmed approval for Birtsmorton Parish Council to pursue any funding for practical maintenance and has authorised a parishioner to act on his behalf to form a committee to co-ordinate said plan.

AONB in appreciating this situation expressed concerns about entering into a complex Countryside Stewardship Scheme (with additional comments including the Parish Council investing money in land in private ownership) and after discussion it was agreed this would not be pursued. As it was not part of the Malvern Hills Conservators RPA claim it was unlikely to receive financial support from this body.

So in undertaking the AONB's objective of conserving natural beauty a financial sum up of 50% of the costs incurred in clearing the thistles was offered for this year.

For the future, based upon AONB recommendation, it was considered more productive to establish a separate association which would prepare a management plan in conjunction with the offer of support of former FWAG (Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group) consultant. This would be instigated by the local parishioners who have registered interest in Coombe Green Common.

It was **RESOLVED:** For those parishioners/graziers indicating an interest, to pursue a common association and consider a management plan in conjunction with AONB with the opportunity to seek funding from the Parish Council.

28/2015 Planning

15/00820/HOU

PC Recommend Approve following site meeting.

Single storey rear extension and first floor side extension.

Old School House, Rye Street, Birtsmorton,
Worcestershire, WR13 6AS

29/2015. Any other Business and Items for next Agenda

Repairs to notice board by Farmers Arms to be actioned.

30/2015. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date **Monday 14th September** at 7.30 pm at Berrow Village Hall.

Following provisional date: Monday 23rd November

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed..... Date.....

DRAFT