

# Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council held on **Tuesday 22 March 2022** at 7.30pm in Armitage Room, Castlemorton Parish Hall.

**Present:** Chair: Michael Barnes  
**Councillors:** Mary Dowding, Julie Moore and Mark Henderson

**In attendance:** Clerk, District Cllr Mick Davies and 1 parishioner.

## **Public Comments:**

**01/22. Apologies for Absence.** Cllrs Withers, Yates, Licqurish-Coleman and County Cllr Wells

## **02/22 Declarations of Interest**

1. *Register of Interests.*
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

## **03/22. Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of meeting of 9 November 2021 were confirmed and signed as true record

## **04/22. Matters Arising**

46/21 The clerk advised of the preliminary proposals by the Boundary Commission re Local Government reorganisation. The proposal is for Birtsmorton and Castlemorton parishes to move from present Morton Ward to revised rural ward, Longdon.

It was also noted that there is some fly tipping between Rye Cross and Coombe Green. This would be reported on District Council website.

## **05/22 District Cllr Report**

Report included:

- Households in receipt of council tax bills. MHDC increase of £5.00 per year for a Band D property. Able to invest new money into community and environmental services, mainly aimed at supporting local initiatives.
- The Boundary Commission has issued preliminary proposals and the consultation closed on 21 March.
- Grant support available for community, business and environment projects. Grants are modest and are always associated with matched funding and also possible support from ward funding.
- The SWDPR process continues apace with some disruptions and difficulties. The internal and external Plan Making resources have been strengthened recently and there is confidence that the draft plan will be published on schedule in July this year.
- Struggling to maintain service levels with MHDC Planning (Development Control as opposed to Policy) given the continuing high level of applications and the industrywide difficulty of recruiting and retaining staff. The Validation backlog sorted and now working hard with additional contract labour to improve in other areas, particularly householder applications. Meanwhile, in February 6 appeals were concluded with 5 dismissed and 1 allowed.
- Re start of weekly 'surgery' sessions previously derailed by Covid. DCllr at the café in the church at Welland – Harvey's @ St James – most Thursdays from 9.00 – 10.00.
- MHDC will be active in support for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal as it unfolds.
- Malvern Theatres may receive a funding boost of £1million to extend its educational and community space from MHDC. Second most visited attraction in the Malvern Hills District. The extension project will cost up to £2.25million. A decision awaited on this possible financial contribution.

## 06/21. Finance Report

### a) Current financial situation:

	£	£	
<b>Balance</b>		<b>6980.55</b>	
<b>Income pre meeting MHDC</b>	112.20 166.00 146.25	<b>424.45</b>	WCC Lengthsman Ward Funds for Coombe Green WCC Lengthsman
<b>Expenditure pre meeting</b>	0.00		
Clerk Oct - Dec Lengthsman Clerk Jan – March Hall Hire WCALC Training Contractor	278.36 146.25 286.63 42.00 36.00 360.00		Clerk SCP10 and Admin   Whistlestop Tour Coombe Green
		<b>1149.24</b>	
<b>Balance at end of meeting</b>		<b>6255.75</b>	

- b) Farmers Arms tenant has asked for support with business rates. It was acknowledged that this has always been supported in the past but assistance was not required during the Covid pandemic.  
**Agreed** in principle to assist this tenant in the event of receipt of an application for financial support.

### 07/22 Update of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Model Publication Scheme.

Councillors **agreed** to adopt the updated and reviewed as necessary Parish Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Model Publication Scheme.

### 08/22 Coombe Green Common

Thanks to Mick Davies for the ward funding support. Agreed to discuss with Mrs Windle how to move forward with the voluntary help available. Advice would also be sought from the Malvern Hills Trust about how to manage including small independent vegetation clearance.

### 09/22 Parish Drainage/Lengthsman

- Highways - . Worcestershire County Council (WCC) advice to be sought on clearing drainage grids in kerbing outside Brook House and the flooding on Watery Lane particularly looking at extending the culvert under driveway.
- Enquiries to be made to WCC about the siting of drop-down flood signs along the Marsh Road.
- VAS Update – Continued thanks to Cllrs Henderson and Withers for support with VAS rota in addition to recent negotiations re a replacement battery with positive assistance from Westcotec.

### 10/22 Nutshell

The present tenant had contacted the clerk and indicated his decision to not continue his annual tenancy of The Nutshell . The clerk had acknowledged this decision and thanked him for his care and attention of the property during his tenancy. Interest has already been expressed by a prospective new tenant keen to consider a horticultural use in growing vegetables. It was **AGREED** to accept this new tenant and a revised annual agreement would be arranged with a rent to be collected.

## 11/22 Planning

21/01575/HP	Pigeon House Rye Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AS	Use of existing attached outbuilding as habitable accommodation in connection with pigeon house.	Application Approved
21/02203/FUL	Birtsmorton Court Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6JS	Stationing of 2 Shepherd Huts	Pending Decision

## 12/22. Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC/NALC Updates Log in details. Whistle-stop Tour for new members. An informative event for attendees.
- SNT – Upton updates, New Neighbourhood alert scheme.
- A Nature Recovery Plan for the Malvern Hills AONB – Consultation
- Malvern Hills Electoral Review: Draft Recommendations
- Malvern Hills District Council Connected Communities Themed Transport Summit - 17th February.
- Destination Zero Crowdfund PR – MHDC. The £100,000 fund, which is aimed at community groups, charities, local councils, schools and individuals, is to help bring forward projects that would have a wider community benefit.
- Natural Networks Webinar- 30th March 2022, 6.30pm-8.30pm. *Cllrs book own tickets.*
- 4Cs meeting 16 March at CPH No matters to report pertaining to Birtsmorton.
- Update on Police Charter
- MHDC Parish and Town Councillor Conference - 17 May 6-8pm
- Heartstart Malvern training sessions at Castlemorton Parish Hall June or July. Birtsmorton can join Castlemorton for this training.
- As-One Community Project. "As One" campaign, with c 600 large vinyl banners gradually going up around the county, supported by WCC and backed by a large group of schools, churches and others (see list at [www.as-one.uk/worcestershire](http://www.as-one.uk/worcestershire)).
- Castlemorton Environmental Action Group. Launch 24 March at 7pm at Parish Hall. All welcome.

## 13/22. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date **Tuesday 24 May 2022 at 7.00 pm** in Castlemorton Parish Hall (Annual Meetings)

The meeting closed at 9pm

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