

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council held on **Wednesday 9 November 2022** at 7.30pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall. (Armitage Room)

Present: Chair: Michael Barnes

Councillors: Mary Dowding, Julie Moore, Vance Withers, Michael Licqurish-Coleman, Simon Yates and Mark Henderson

In attendance: Clerk. County Councillor Tom Wells and District Councillor Mick Davies.

Public Comments: None

41/22. Apologies for Absence. None.

42/22 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

43/22. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 13 September 22 were confirmed and signed as true record

44/22. Matters Arising

None from the minutes. Discussion about some highway matters and addressed later in minutes.

45/22 County/District Cllr Reports

CCllr Tom Wells reported on the following:

- Apologies for recent meeting absences with often other meetings calling on his time.
- Consideration to the potential constraints and pressures in forthcoming WCC budget determinations. There are reserves but not sustainable into the future. Efficiency savings will have to be considered in all areas as far as is possible and especially if there is no government support.
- Response to question - Confirmation of MHDC's 5 Year Housing Land Supply after a thorough re check of the figures initially presented.

DCllr Mick Davies reported on the following :

- The **Boundary Commission** has published the findings of its review of Malvern Hills District Council's (MHDC) electoral arrangements and has determined that Castlemorton will be included in a ward with Welland, Malvern Wells and Little Malvern. There will be two members representing the CASTLEMORTON, WELLAND & WELLS ward. The change will take effect from the elections on 5th May 2023. **Birtsmorton will be moved into the Longdon ward with one councillor. The polling station will also change for Birtsmorton parishioners from Castlemorton Parish Hall to Berrow Hall.**
- The **draft SWDPR** has been published for a six week consultation that started on 1st November. Consultation responses go directly to the Inspector who will be examining the plan next spring and summer. This is a huge piece of work designed not only to allocate sites for an extra 13,000 new homes but to help shape the economic, cultural and environmental development of South Worcestershire over the next 20 years. Link to the consultation site:
<https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review>
- As part of the heightened response to rising energy costs the MHDC is looking to support households with a **Sustainable Warmth Fund**. More information to be posted on Castlemorton Hub castlemorton.org.uk/. Consideration as to how to identify those in need. Agreed to also send notification in parish email.
- **Sustainable Tourism grants** on offer to help local businesses to adopt greener business practices.
- MHDC is financially helping leisure services provider, Freedom Leisure for the next 2 years who are being seriously affected by the rise in energy costs, especially for facilities with swimming pools.

- MHDC looking to provide support to communities in the district, support that can come in many forms, from advice and signposting through to grant funding. Mick is happy to talk about community initiatives in the parish and to help explore opportunities for MHDC assistance.

46/22. Finance Report.

1. Current financial situation:

	£	£	
Balance		6,800.31	
Income pre meeting ½ year MHDC Precept	1056.00	1056.00	
Expenditure pre meeting	64.97	64.97	RRR Farmers Arms
Expenditure at meeting	265.70 40.00 160.00		Clerk 2 nd Quarter July/Aug/Sept Information Commissioner Office Ditching – Coombe Green
		510.70	
Balance at end of meeting		7325.64	

Minute 21/22 3. Request for Rural Rate Relief for 2022/2023 received from Farmers Arms and payment made to MHDC as agreed with sum requested £64.97.

The Small Authorities' Audit Appointments have published the External Audit Contract information. Worcestershire External Auditor continues as **PKF Littlejohn 2022-2027**

2. Budget and Precept for 2023/24

The draft budget was presented to the Parish Council for its consideration and agreement.

A number of matters were raised in discussion and included:

- Reserves
- Consideration to any Section 137 applications maybe if any village activity to celebrate the forthcoming coronation
- Restricted funding for computer equipment and agreed that this figure be increased to £500 to allow for any future requirement for new equipment.
- Provision for Coombe Green maintenance.
- Confirmation of the recent. LGA Pay Increase for 2022/23 from April 2022. Clerks pay £1100 for 2023-24. SCP12.

It was RESOLVED that the total Annual Precept for 2023/24 would remain at £2112.

47/22 Coombe Green Common

Mrs Windle provided an update on activity. Contractor booked to commence bramble clearance. Thistles are kept in check. Hopefully a native tree can be planted next year as an acknowledgment to the Coronation of King Charles III. Considerations as to how to maintain livestock numbers to maintain the ongoing management of excess vegetation.

Other matters:

- Recent drainage work has been carried out near the junction of Birts Street and the B4208.
- Suggest monitoring the condition of the foot bridge on the opposite side of the main road.

48/22 Parish Drainage/Lengthsman

- 36/22 Highways - Worcestershire County Council has recently carried out further clearing of the kerb gullies outside **Brook House**.

- Clerk to establish a site meeting with WCC to discuss the installation of **drainage pipes under the driveway of Pink Hall** to hopefully reduce some flash flooding on Watery Lane
- Discussion as to how to discourage the parking of vehicles on the **triangle of land opposite the Duke of York pub**. They can create a visibility hazard for those exiting Rye Street and entering the A438. Thoughts on increasing the area of kerb edging or CCIr suggested use of Post Masters. Clerk to contact highways engineer liaison officer for advice. Idea for a low planter to be established on the site.
- **Signage for south end of Birtsmorton poor**. Agreed it was difficult to put up signs when the left hand side of approach road A438 is in the Parish of Berrow.
- **Signage to M50 Motorway poor**. Clerk to contact WCC highways engineer liaison officer for advice.
- The matter was again raised of **stones/boulders** sited along verges outside some properties in the village. Although considered by home occupiers as a sense of personal protection to the property they are potential hazardous obstructions on the highway. Advice to be sought from highways liaison officer with a note to residents published in the parish magazine.
- Continued acknowledgment to councillors in their time periodically moving the Vehicle Activated Sign.

49/22 Nutshell

Appears to have been a success for the new tenant this year.

50/22 Planning

M/22/00442/HP	The Old School Rye Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AS	2 Storey Extension	MHDC Approved
---------------	---	--------------------	------------------

51/22. Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC/NALC Updates Log in details. New website.
- Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams – Neighbourhood Matters Notifications.
- Community Action – New Shuttle Bus Services into Upton on a Friday
- Workers Educational Association Charity - Adult Education Charity
- Statement from Chief Constable Pippa Mills on support for victims of burglary
- Winter Provision Mapping. MHDC Financial Wellbeing partnership
- SWDPR consultation and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople - both documents now out for 6-week public consultation period.
- School Uniform Recycle/Reuse schemes in Malvern Hills District

52/22 Meetings

To take place – CALC AGM 28 November 7pm Hawford
4 C's meeting. Wednesday 30 November 8pm.

53/22. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date: **Monday 13 March 2023 at 7.30 pm** in Castlemorton Parish Hall

Next meetings: Annual meetings Wednesday 17 May 2023 (Election Year)

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

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