

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council held on **Wednesday 15 November 2023** at 7.00pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall. (Armitage Room)

Present: Chair: Michael Barnes

Councillors: Vance Withers, Michael Licqurish-Coleman, Karen Hood and Mark Henderson

In attendance: Clerk and CCllr Tom Wells .

Public Comments: None

42/23. Apologies for Absence. Cllr Yates, Moore and DCllr Watkins.

43/23 Declarations of Interest

1. *Register of Interests. No updates*
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

44/23. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 11 September 2023 confirmed and signed as true record

45/23. Matters Arising

34/33 Members acknowledged the recent Neighbourhood Plan meeting held in Bushley. Thanks to Councillors and officers in the delivery of the information. Agreed that if any such plan be considered it ideally should be in conjunction with Castlemorton. For immediate future both councils have agreed not to pursue this line of action.

46/33 District/County Councillor Reports

CCllr report included:

- Confirmation of the deposition of the SWDP with 2 appointed government inspectors. A reminder of the principal development areas proposed with the building of a new town and a plan largely rail based.
- Looking forward in the new year to the MHDC appointment of a new director of planning.
- The roll out of the recently piloted Demand On Response bus service app. Zone area adjusted to include more immediate villages. Publicity and further clarity in detail still need improving and hopefully leaflets, aiming to support good use of the facility.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/bus-travel-worcestershire/worcestershire-demand>

47/23. Finance Report.

1.Current financial situation:

	£	£	
Balance at last meeting		6058.38	
Income pre meeting	1056.00 44.00		½ yr Precept WCC Lengthsman
		1100.00	
Expenditure pre meeting		0.00	

Expenditure at meeting	44.00 290.35 40.00		Lengthsman Clerk 2nd Quarter SCP 12 ICO
		374.35	
Balance at end of meeting		6784.03	

2. Budget and Precept for 2024/25

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.
- Restricted funding for computer equipment.
- Provision for Coombe Green maintenance.
- Confirmation of the recent. LGA Pay Increase for 2023/24 from April 2023. Clerk's pay £1100 for 2024-25. SCP12.

It was RESOLVED that the total Annual Precept for 2024/25 would remain at £2112.

48/23 Coombe Green

Report from Mrs Windle included:

- Sheep grazing the area presently.
- Arrangements in hand to plant an evergreen Oak at the top of Foxhills
- Meanwhile the appointed contractor will 'bramble bash' when weather conditions permit.

Members noted the increase in grass growth this year with the reduction in sheep grazing numbers earlier in the season this year and hopefully present sheep grazing will reduce this. Questions on potential tree management including Black Poplars.

49/23 Highways/Parish Drainage/Lengthsman

- **37/23** Potential drop down flood sign. Response - *Worcestershire County Council as Highways Authority would need to determine when a road closure is necessary due to flooding or any other highway hazard and this is not a function that is ordinarily devolved to a Parish Council. Agreed to purchase a flood sign clearly marked in Parish Council ownership and available to the chairman for immediate use when appropriate along the Marsh Road.*
- Reported to WCC Highways - loss of 30mph **speed signs along Rye Street.**
- **37/23 & 48/22** Recent flash flooding albeit briefly incurred outside Pink Cottage once again highlights problems at this area. Sadly the absence of lengthsman activity means grips are not presently maintained.
- Through the CCllr, thanks to WCC highways for the recent highway repairs along Marsh Road. Request for additional plannings would be appreciated along the vulnerable verge edges.

50/23 Nutshell

Work continues enthusiastically and could be an area for the Parish Council to consider as part of a biodiverse project in conjunction with the tenant.

51/23 Planning

M/23/00675/CLE	The Lodge Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AW	Application for an Existing Lawful Development Certificate for the erection of, and use of, a dwellinghouse.	Pending
M/23/01056/HP & M/23/01057/LB	Home Farm Rye Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AS	New first floor bathroom and doorway, removal of first floor stud partition wall, new conservation rooflight, soil stack to rear	Pending

		elevation and tennis court with demountable netting. Retrospective permission for ground floor stud wall.	
M/23/01376/CLE	Elmley Rye Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AS	Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of the property known as Elmleigh, Rye Street, Birtsmorton, WR13 6AS as forming two independent dwellinghouses (Use Class C3).	Pending
M/23/01506/HP	Red Brick Barn Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AW	Triple bay garage/solar battery store and roof mounted solar panels	Pending

M/23/01506/HP Comment raised re the proximity the battery storage area within the garage to the holiday let. The indication of insulation material is not defined in detail. How is this secure and insulated area being made safe? A site meeting would be arranged with the applicant.

52/23. Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC/NALC Updates
- Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams – Neighbourhood Matters Notifications.
- SWDP Submitted
- Potential revision of some polling stations
- Worcestershire Tree Warden Scheme
- Public Rights of Way Lengthsman Scheme
- AGE UK Energy & Safety Roadshow - Saturday 25 November 2023
- Domestic Recycling and Waste- Christmas Collection dates.

53/23 Meetings

4Cs meeting on 29 November. Cllr Yates, parish council rep, to attend.

54/23 Confirmation of Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14 March at 7pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall, Armitage Room.

The meeting closed at 9pm

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