

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council held on **Monday 9 September 2024** at 7.00pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall. (Armitage Room)

Present: Chair: Michael Barnes

Councillors: Vance Withers, Julie Moore, Simon Yates, Mark Henderson and Karen Hood

In attendance: Clerk County Councillor Tom Wells & DCllr Jennie Watkins

Public Comments: None

29/24. Apologies for Absence. PCllr Licqurish-Coleman.

30/24 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

31/24. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 13 May 24 confirmed and signed as true record

32/24. Matters Arising.

Ref: Min 25/24 Exploring Improved mobile signal connectivity covering both Birtsmorton and parts of Castlemorton.

Representatives from Birtsmorton Parish Council recently attended a presentation by Atlas Tower Group and WCC to hear more about the process and identification of potential sites for consideration for improved mobile connectivity. The topography and geography of the area mainly limits the potential for an improved service, within Castlemorton, to the village centre and St Gregorys end of Church Road and Birtsmorton. Improved reception would enhance or enable future developments in mobile technology including 4G and 5G. A potential mast site (with a height in the region of 23m and sited close to a 3 phase power supply) would need to be located on lower lying land in Birtsmorton and requires planning permission. To be viable Atlas would aim to serve several village centres from one mast.

The chairman addressed historical reaction on former such applications for mobile masts being of detriment to the village. Varied discussion ensued on recent changing times and the increasing need for the mobile signal. Consideration to reasons for choice of land site and the potential level of support or not from the village. It was agreed that the Parish Council will act as facilitator in exploring further with landowner and village.

1. Refer back to Atlas to identify the site in order that the matter can be introduced to the potential landowner by a representation from the Parish Council.
2. Consider the process of communication with the village via a public meeting in conjunction with Castlemorton.

33/24 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

DCllr Watkins was keen to discover any matter requiring her attention following a quiet summer period with the District Council. Prior to the general election she had had an opportunity to introduce Dame Baldwin to the village and meet residents.

CCllr Wells reported especially on the SWDPR.

- This review is at a stage that it needs to proceed to adoption and is presently due to be resubmitted (with amongst other matters transport date updated), hopefully in December with public enquiry in the Spring. However, this present SWDP indicates an increase of 14,000 houses with the creation of a new town and housing on Throckmorton Airfield. A huge task in identifying the infrastructure. But the recent change in Government demands a requirement for a further increase in new homes and so present SWDP once adopted will immediately be up for review to facilitate this increase in house numbers. The exceptions for housing in open countryside such as Birtsmorton include:

Housing Need Survey, Agricultural Need (24-7), Worthy Conversions, House extension and Holiday Let.

- On Demand Bus working well. Looking for further publicity to increase use.
- County Hall still out of bounds as officers use facilities at Wildwood and work from home. Alternative venues sought for full council meetings.
- The directive for collection of food waste by 2026/27 may be an ambitious target for the councils. District Council manage collection and County Council the waste. Financial assistance will be needed as new collection vehicles will be required but only when County have identified the means of disposal. It is noted that the present residual waste is low for this area.
- Creation of Well Being Hubs. Additional note: CALC recent appointment of Health & Well Being Officer, Lucy Bird.

34/24. Finance Report.

Current financial situation:

	£	£	
Balance		6742.86	
Income pre meeting	111.18		HMRC VAT
Expenditure pre meeting		111.18	
Expenditure at meeting	291.85		Clerk 1 st Quarter
		291.85	
Balance at end of meeting		6562.19	

Financial Regulations: Agreed to adopt the NALC updated model financial regulations 2024

35/23 Parish Drainage/Lengthsman

- Purchase a new battery for VAS
- Forthcoming road closures for WCC highways repairs in Welland along B4208 and 3 Shires Rally

36/24 Nutshell

Nothing to report

37/24 Planning

M/24/00901/FUL	The Birches Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AW	Proposed conversion of existing outbuilding to holiday accommodation with single storey extension.	Approved
M/24/00822/CLE	Barn Cottage Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AP	Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use of a building as an independent dwellinghouse in breach of condition 3 of planning permission 97/01117/FUL	Pending Decision
M/24/00373/HP	The Old Post Office Coombe Green Malvern WR13 6AN	Proposed demolition of previous extension and erection of two storey rear and single storey side extensions	Refused

38/24 Coombe Green Common

- Contractor has been bramble bashing.
- Looking to hold a raffle at forthcoming Summer Bash to raise further funds and share ideas for establishing working groups and how to identify areas to clear.

39/24. Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC/NALC Updates
- Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams – Neighbourhood Matters Notifications.
- Worcestershire VCSE Alliance Understanding and Strengthening the VCSE Sector in Worcestershire Survey
- Malvern Hills District Children and Young People Partnership
- NALC EVENTS – Interest in Navigating rural realities 29 January 2025 - 12.00 – 13.15
- Malvern Hills National Landscape Management Plan review - consultation draft
- Worcestershire CALC - Annual General Meeting (AGM) 26 September 2024 in Pershore.

40/24. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date: **Monday 18 November at 7.00 pm** in Castlemorton Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

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