

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council held on **Monday 18 November 2024** at 7.00pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall. (Armitage Room)

Present: Chair: Michael Barnes
Councillors: Michael Licquish-Coleman Julie Moore, Simon Yates, Mark Henderson and Karen Hood

In attendance: Clerk and 1 Parishioner

Public Comments: Parishioner seeking advice on drainage matters.

41/24. Apologies for Absence. PCllr Withers and DCllr Watkins.

42/24 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* Hood and Withers re planning
3. *To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)* None

43/24. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 9 September 24 were confirmed and signed as true record

44/24. Matters Arising.

Ref: Min 32/24 Exploring Improved mobile signal connectivity covering Birtsmorton and parts of Castlemorton.

1. Atlas (Telecommunication provider) have suggested a potential site and landowners advised.
2. Members discussed taking this forward for residents with preliminary information in a flyer to every household including those likely to benefit in Castlemorton with an opportunity to respond. This was considered more viable than a public meeting in seeking parish responses. Working party with Cllrs Hood, Henderson and clerk.

45/24 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

DCllr as advised:

- Looking to improve broadband for those in more rural areas and raising awareness about improved mobile connectivity.
- Update on SWDP Review.

46/24. Finance Report.

Current financial situation:

	£	£	
Balance		6562.19	
Income pre meeting	1056.00 104.50	1160.50	MHDC ½ year Precept Lengthsman
Expenditure pre meeting		0.00	
Expenditure at meeting	960.00 104.50 109.80 40.00 302.97	1517.27	Contractor Coombe Green Lengthsman Westcotec Battery Information Commissioners Office (Direct Debit) Clerk 2nd Quarter

Income Coombe Green Friends	300.00	300.00	
Balance at end of meeting		6505.42	

- a) Confirmation of ICO now Direct debit annual payment
- b) **Lloyds Bank charges as of January 2025.** £4.25 per month plus any extra admin costs. Update online mandate with another authoriser to reduce some of these costs. Cllrs Hood and Henderson agreed to support as authorisers in addition to Barnes and Withers.
- c) **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
- Increase in admin to cover impending bank charges
- **Consideration to any Section 137 applications and Coombe Green maintenance by The Friends** for the benefit of residents and visitors. It was agreed to allow for a sum of £400 and hopefully this can be supported by fundraising but not necessarily match funded. Any further grant applications for this area would be considered at the time of receipt. The budget would include a further £250 for any other grant applications.
- Restricted funding for computer equipment with consideration for potential replacement. A further amendment to draft budget with a sum of £500. Notes that this is an asset that historically has been shared with Castlemorton Parish.
- Confirmation of the recent LGA Pay Increase for 2023/24 from April 2024. Clerk's pay £1200 for 2025-26. SCP12.
- Budget indicates a significant deficit and with no precept increase for some years members **agreed** to a 5% increase of £106

It was RESOLVED that the total Annual Precept for 2025/26 would be £2220.

47/23 Parish Drainage/Lengthsman

- New battery purchased for VAS. Westcotec £91.50 plus Vat
- Watery Lane: Clerk asked to contact WCC highways and arrange a site meeting to discuss flash flooding and what further improvements could be made with pipe work under adjacent property drive.
- General discussion about drainage on Coombe Green Common and the efforts being made by residents to improve water drainage around their properties.
- Awareness of Severn Trent checking areas over potential concerns of excess storm water entering sewers.
- Footpath closure (Millers Court to Heron Lane) whilst bridge repairs undertaken.
- Report of deterioration of boardwalk on north east part of Coombe Green and considerations for its future. Was it originally placed as a 'good will gesture' but in today's world of litigation raises concerns re cost of replacement and future responsibility. Time to remove?

48/24 Planning

M/24/01428/CU	Birch Farm Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AW	Change of use of agricultural building to a Class E(g) workshop for the manufacture and assembly of cabins	Pending Decision
M/24/01327/OUT	Millers Court Farm Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AP	The erection of a pair of dwelling houses for a agricultural workers.	Pending Decision
M/24/00822/CLE	Barn Cottage Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AP		Pending Decision

49/24 Coombe Green Common

- Contractor has been bramble bashing.
- Success of fundraising of Summer Bash
- Report of success of volunteer days with one more this year.
- Thanks to Mrs Windle and supporters for their efforts in this maintenance work on Coombe Green and the fundraising.

50/24. Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC/NALC Updates
- Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams – Neighbourhood Matters Notifications and new PCSO.
- MHT, upon request, invited to attend next Castlemorton Parish Council meeting to provide a Trust update on the consultation following feedback and the next steps to lodge the Parliamentary Bill and how to engage in the next part of the process once the Bill is published. Birtsmorton invited to share in this agenda item.
- Town & Parish Councils Health and Wellbeing. Worcestershire CALC, developing a programme to help improve the health and wellbeing of residents across the county by providing support to Town and Parish Councils. Appointment of new Health and Wellbeing Officer, Lucy Bird.
- Public Engagement Exercise: Worcestershire County Council Draft Streetscape Design Guide. 4 November to 27 January.
- Managing road verges to promote biodiversity - Worcestershire survey

51/24. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date: **Monday 10 March 2025 at 7.00 pm** in Castlemorton Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

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