

# Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council held on **Monday 10 March 2025** at 7.00pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall. (Armitage Room)

**Present:** Chair: Michael Barnes  
**Councillors:** Vance Withers, Michael Licquish-Coleman, Julie Moore, Mark Henderson and Karen Hood

**In attendance:** Clerk and CCllr Tom Wells

**Public Comments:** None

**01/25. Apologies for Absence.** PCllr S Yates and DCllr Watkins.

## **02/25 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

## **03/25. Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of meeting of 18 November 24 were confirmed and signed as true record

## **04/25 Matters Arising.**

**Ref: Min 44/24 Exploring Improved mobile signal connectivity** covering Birtsmorton and parts of Castlemorton.

Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Henderson and Hood for their support in the production of the flyer, all the support in delivery and then Cllr Henderson's subsequent time with the collation of responses on google docs. Consequently, Atlas Tower Group following negotiation with landowner is preparing documentation to submit a planning application for the mast in Birtsmorton Parish. A similar application has recently been submitted for Welland and local response is sought. M/25/00247/TC.

**Malvern Hills Bill:** An update on the progression of the Bill. At the close of the petitioning period about 50 petitions had been made. These can be seen on the Government website. Any unresolved petitions may be considered through the Parliamentary process by a Select Committee.

## **05/25 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports**

CCllr as advised:

Local Government Reorganisation is progressing within a tight timetable. Two models for the creation of Worcestershire Unitary Councils were considered - a 2 Councils option with new North Worcestershire and South Worcestershire Councils. or a single Worcestershire County Unitary Council. It was said that a South Worcestershire Council would be likely to be more 'local' and closer to communities (including the Parish Council) but that it may fall foul of the Government's stated desire for larger Councils. Separating out WCC debt and functions currently done at a county level such as social services into two unitary councils adds complexity.

An interim plan is required by 21 March 2025 and final plan by 28 November 2025. There will be a public consultation which the PC may wish to respond to before the Government gives their response. The Devolution proposals seek a combination of Unitary authorities to become one strategic authority with an elected mayor and power devolved from the government to execute defined responsibilities. The boundaries of any strategic authority raise complex issues in terms of how they intersect with police and health services. No preferred model had been determined at this stage.

Further questions and discussion:

- Ideas being considered for the future of County Hall and seeking an alternative base for the planned new unitary authority.
- Food Waste - The latest information was advised about the process of collection and processing of this waste. From 31 March 2025, businesses across England with more than ten full-time

employees will be required to separate their food waste. For planned domestic food waste collection there is difficulty in identifying a suitable collection vehicle and at present no processing plant in Worcestershire.

- Hedges creating a visibility hazard can be cut by WCC but it is preferred if the Parish Council can identify the landowner and contact them directly initially.

## **06/25. Finance Report.**

### **Current financial situation:**

	£	£	
<b>Balance</b>		<b>6510.42</b>	
<b>Income pre meeting</b>	110.00		Lengthsman
		<b>110.00</b>	
<b>Expenditure pre meeting</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
Expenditure at meeting	110.00 33.00 299.80 302.62 15.00 42.50 4.25	<b>807.17</b>	Lengthsman Lengthsman Clerk 3rd Quarter & Exps SCP12 Clerk 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr & Exps SCP 12 Minor VAS repair Hall Hire Bank Fees
<b>Balance at end of meeting</b>		<b>5813.25</b>	

Agreed to add a further councillor to the online signatory mandate, Cllr Mark Henderson in addition to Cllrs Wither, Hood and Barnes.

Grant Application from SW Malvern Hills CAB. After deliberation and discussion of the request including consideration of support to residents, a donation of £150 was **agreed**.

## **07/25 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 and Risk Assessment 2025

## **08/25 Parish Drainage/Lengthsman**

- Minor Repairs to VAS. £15.00
- Watery Lane: Clerk has submitted a request to WCC and the liaison officer for an on-site meeting. Recent flash flooding has remained in situ despite the dry weather. Drainage impeded by excess silt/mud on road.
- Notification of forthcoming road closures in the immediate area.
- Not actioned yet - *Report of deterioration of boardwalk on north east part of Coombe Green and considerations for its future.*
- Noted Willow Trees opposite Farmers Arms require attention.

## **09/25 Planning**

M/25/00046/FUL	Land At (Os 7911 3631) Birts Street Birtsmorton	Erection of a log cabin for holiday use	Pending Decision
M/24/01791/HP	Farley House Berrow Malvern WR13 6JQ	Replacement ancillary outbuilding	Application Approved
M/25/00052/S106	Farmers Arms Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AP	Application under section 106A(3)(b) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to discharge the legal agreement dated 8th February 1988 associated with planning permission 86/02573/FUL	Pending Decision
M/24/01706/FUL	The Lodge Birts Street Birtsmorton WR13 6AW	Proposed erection of a replacement (self-build) dwelling and garage following demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuilding.	Pending
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.	Approved
M/24/00822/CLE	Barn Cottage Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AP		Approved

### **10/25 Coombe Green Common**

- Report of continued success of volunteer days especially with the addition of excellent refreshment.
- Thanks as always to Mrs Windle and supporters for their efforts in this maintenance work on Coombe Green.

### **11/25. Correspondence**

Particular mention of:

- CALC/NALC Updates
- Town & Parish Councils Health and Wellbeing. Recent zoom led by officer, Lucy Bird encouraged various ideas to explore further in establishing events or activities in the parish or raise awareness of those operating in neighbouring parishes. Use the parish magazine more for publicity.
- RBL - Raise the flag for VE day

### **12/25. Confirmation of date of next meeting**

The next meeting date: **Thursday 15 May 2025 at 7.00 pm** in Castlemorton Parish Hall

### **Annual Meetings**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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