

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council**
Monday 18th May 2015 at 8.20pm – Berrow Village Hall

Present:

Chair: Michael Barnes

Councillors: Roger Gillard, Mary Dowding, Alison Faulkner and Richard Bolton

(Declarations of office duly signed and resolved that Cllr Withers would sign his at next meeting)

In attendance: 2 members of the public and Clerk

13/2015. Election of Chairman

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr. Barnes be chairman and the Declaration of Office was duly signed.

14/2015. Election of Vice Chairman

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr. Gillard be Vice Chairman.

15/2015. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr: Vance Withers

16/2015. Declarations of Interest

1. *Register of Interests.* Cllr Bolton updated Register.
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

17/2015. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 9 March 2015 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

18/2015. Matters Arising/ Progress Items

27/14 Cll.Faulkner to arrange collection of flood signs.

19/2015. Parish Council Vacancy

The present vacancy on the Parish Council following recent uncontested election allows councillors to seek interested parties for co-option purposes. With interest shown by one parishioner it was agreed to provide the candidate with further information and consider the matter at the next meeting. The years of contribution by former parish councillor Terry Jones were acknowledged.

20/2015. Finance Report

- a). The **Annual Return** has to be completed by 1 June 2015– notification of Audit posted on the notice board.
- b). **Adoption of the Accounts for FY2014/15** –. This was unanimously agreed and the accounts previously prepared by the RFO were duly adopted
- c). **Annual Return – Section 2 Annual Governance Statement** was examined by the Council and completed.
- d). It was agreed that Mr. R Dobson would once again be asked to act as **Internal Auditor** for the Annual Return.
- e) **Current financial situation:**
Income since 9 March 2015

Balance as at 9 March 2015		4086.73	
Income pre meeting			
MHDC	962.50	5049.23	½ year precept
Expenditure pre meeting			
C Leake Clerk	180.42	180.42	Jan/Feb/March

Expenditure at meeting			
1. Worcestershire CALC	No96	118.61	Annual Subscription
2. MHDC Farmers Arms	No97	381.00	Section 137 Grant
3. Aon UK Ltd	No98	216.51	Insurance
		716.12	
Monies available as at 20 May 2015		£4152.69	

1. The clerk recommended to Council that there were benefits for subscription to Worcestershire CALC with so much information available and supplied in weekly summarised format in addition to clerk resources. She felt not appropriate to continue sharing the present subscription with her other parish. **RESOLVED** to pay subscription of £100.77 plus VAT for the present year, an agreement which could be subsequently reviewed.
2. A request to support the application for Discretionary Rural Rate Relief for the Farmers Arms public house was discussed. This request has been supported in previous years and it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should support this with a Section 137 Grant to the value of £381.00
3. The clerk had investigated present request for insurance £260.96 and was able to adjust cover in a couple of sections and seek 3 year premium commitment reduction for new total of £216.51. **RESOLVED** to accept this premium and sign 3 year Long Term Agreement.

21/2015. Update on Drainage/Flooding/Scrub Clearance within the Parish

Areas requiring action:

1. Drainage & ditch maintenance. The retaining culvert wall at the top end of Birts Street has been inspected and would benefit from being strengthened.
2. Ditch just beyond The Nutshell on right hand side requires cleaning.
3. Clerk to write again to resident along Watery Lane to enquire as to whether the resident has been able to discuss the drainage requirements along the highway with the relevant authorities.
4. **Coombe Green Common as discussed at Annual Parish Meeting.**
 - a) **RESOLVED** to contact the two contractors and establish an hourly rate from each, for potential bramble clearance and allow Cllrs Barnes and Gillard delegated authority to engage one contractor. Under new hedging regulations this cannot be done until beginning of September. A further contractor would be engaged to cut thistles ideally in June and August.
 - b) Clerk to write to Malvern Hills Conservators to consider ways forward with the future management of the Common following consultation with the land owner.

22/2015. Correspondence

- Transparency and Publication of information on website - Worcestershire County Council/My Parish
- M50 Update – still on course to re open A438 at end of July. All in time for forthcoming Longdon Festival?

23/2015. Any other Business and Items for next Agenda

Repairs to notice board by Farmers Arms to be actioned as soon as time allows.

24/2015. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date **Monday 14th September** at 7.30 pm at Berrow Village Hall.
Following provisional date: Monday 23rd November

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....

Date.....