

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council Tuesday 29 November , 2016 at 7.30pm
Berrow Village Hall

Present: Chair: Michael Barnes
Councillors: Roger Gillard, Vance Withers, Alison Faulkner and Mary Dowding.

In attendance: DCllr. Mick Davies, David Williams and Clerk

Public Comments; None

39/2016. Apologies for Absence.

None

40/2016 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*

41/2016. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 5 September 2016 were confirmed and signed as true record.

42/16 Matters Arising

Broadband - It was confirmed that the newly updated BT cabinet was now live and local residents who had signed up along Birts Sreet were enjoying the benefits of superfast broadband.

Community Bus – CB3. A new community bus service now operates between Malvern Retail Park and Upton, including Welland and Hanleys in the route. It is a pre-booked service. All details available from leaflets at Welland shop and Parish Council website.

Notice Board – Minute 37/2016 - Follow up action was agreed as regards repairs to the notice board.

43/16 Parish Council Vacancy

With no election requested the Parish Council was able to consider filling the present vacancy by co-option. It was **agreed** to the confirm co-option of interested parishioner Mr David Williams. Once he had signed the declaration of office Cllr Williams joined fellow members for the remainder of the meeting.

44/16. Finance Report

Balance as at 5 September 2016		4312.56	
Income pre meeting MHDC	962.50		½ year precept
Total		962.50	
Expenditure pre meeting		0.00	
Expenditure at meeting			
Clerk	124.81		July August Sept 2016
Contractor	216.00		Thistle cutting Coombegreen
Contractor	360.00		Bramble Clearance Coombegreen
Total	700.81	700.81	
Monies available as at 29 November 2016		£4574.25	

Budget and Precept for 2017/18

The draft budget was presented to the Parish Council for its consideration and agreement.

As per last year MHDC had received a further reduction in the grant it receives from Central Government.

A number of matters were raised in discussion and included:

- Essential to maintain a small reserve.
- Consideration to some funding for clearance on Coombegreen Common
- Reduction in government grant and support for section 137 grant
- Smaller periodical precept increases better than a large one
- Administration costs presently account for a large part of precept.
- Budgeted contingency had been used this year as part of Coombegreen work.
- Restricted funding presently within reserves of £470 for computer equipment reference Transparency Code requirements.

It was **RESOLVED** that the total Annual Precept would increase by £125 to £2050. (6.5% increase)

45/2016 Coombegreen Common

In consideration of finances relating to Coombegreen common, it was reported

- That the first successful social fundraiser organised by the Friends of Coombegreen had realised funds in excess of £300
- Following thistle cutting, autumn bramble clearance was also completed with the task not so onerous as in previous years as reflected in the invoice and showing good results in the areas cleared. It was discussed whether the latter task was an annual necessity and future quotes to be sought to review the cost.

It was **RESOLVED** that for 2017/2018 the Parish Council would match fund the efforts of the Coombegreen fundraisers to a maximum of £300.

46/2016. Telephone Kiosk

BT has now announced a rationalisation programme and all local boxes will be removed in the near future.

47/2016. Parish Drainage.

- Ref **Minute 32/2016** – No further action has taken place to clear the ditches so advice would be sought from South Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership as regards riparian/highway responsibilities. The road had once again flooded following recent heavy rainfall.

48/2016 Planning

16/01302/FUL	Change of use of land to tourist accommodation site for siting of 3 glamping pitches and conversion of existing building to provide toilet/shower facilities. Brays Farm Birt Street WR13 6AP	PC Recommend Approval	MHDC Approve
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49/2016 District Councillor Report

Included:

- Worcestershire Housing Plan
- Affordable Housing in Welland potentially available for qualifying Birtsmorton applicants.
- MHDC business plan indicating a necessary saving of £1.8 million by 2020.
- Waste evaluation programme ongoing with tenders due back in by January.
- MHDC accommodation to be one building for all staff with work presently underway at The Council House. The redundant Brunel House will initially be let.
- Ward profile details available on MHDC website. Interesting statistical information.

50/2016. Nutshell

The coppicing project at The Nutshell continues and it was agreed to pursue a second renewal of the 12 month licence agreement for 2017.

51/2016. Correspondence

Any information presently sent to Cllrs via email and particular reminder of:

- **Western Power:** launch of new number to use in the event of a power loss. Launched 6 September – 105.

52/2016. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date **Thursday 9 March 2017** at 7.30 pm at Berrow Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

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