

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Annual Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council
Monday 8 May 2017 at 7.30pm following Parish Meeting Berrow Village Hall

Present: Chair: Michael Barnes
Councillors: Roger Gillard, Vance Withers and David Williams.

In attendance: DCllr. Mick Davies and Clerk

Public Comments; None

14/2017. Election of Chairman

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

15/2017. Election of Vice Chairman

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

16/2017. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs: John McCormick. Alison Faulkner and Mary Dowding.

17/2017 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*

18/2017. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 9 March 2017 were confirmed and signed as true record.

20/2017. Matters Arising

07/2017 Update on proposals for future highway verges scheme. Communication to take place with local residents who particularly mow the verges outside their properties. AONB seeking the support of the Parish Council to commence negotiation with these residents. Agreed a councillor would support the representative from the AONB at these meetings. As yet no decision on site for arisings and for the present a 1m wide cut will continue along verges operated by WCC highways.

12/2017 Investigations yet to commence with BT re telegraph pole along Marsh Road. Photographic evidence to be obtained.

21/2017. Finance Report

1. Annual Return

Approval of the Accounts 2016/17

a) **Section 1 – The Annual Governance Statement** was read out to members of the council. It was **RESOLVED** that this be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

b) Section 2 - Accounting statement 2016/17

It was **RESOLVED** that the Accounts presented by the RFO for the Financial year 2016/17 be adopted and signed by the chairman.

c) Section 4 - Internal Audit completed 21 April 2017.

The date for external audit by Grant Thornton had been determined for 30 May 2017.

2. Current financial situation:

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 £60.68

A further section 137 grant application was received from the newly established Birtsmorton, Castlemorton & Hollybush History Group. Funding was sought especially for audio recording equipment and for scanning & copying large sized documents, especially photographs all to be collated into a preserved parish historical record. It was **RESOLVED** to support this interesting project with the requested sum of £100.

	£	£	
Balance as at 9 March 2017		4,069.01	
Income pre meeting			
WCC Lengthsman	104.50		
MHDC ½ Year Precept	1025.00		
	1129.50	1,129.50	
Expenditure at meeting			
Worcs. CALC Sub	152.97		
Insurance	228.76		
MHDC	60.68		Farmers Arms Discretionary Rate Relief Grant
	442.41	442.41	
Balance at end of meeting		4,756.10	
8 May 2017			

22/2017. Parish Drainage.

- Ref **Minute 8/2017** – South Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership have confirmed that the outstanding drainage matters along Watery Lane have been completed satisfactorily. Councillors remained concerned that in the event of heavy rain there were still areas of further blocked drains preventing free drainage of the potential excessive surface water. Agreed that this situation would be monitored and the lengthsman would ensure the grips are cleared.
- Cllrs agreed to inspect the ditch along the side the west end of Birts Street to ensure it was free flowing.

23/2017 Coombegreen Common

Following the update provided at the annual parish meeting further comment was made on the recent traffic incidents and livestock casualties. Consideration was given to improved signage and this matter would be raised at the forthcoming 4C's meeting on 17 May.

24/2017 Planning

16/00131/FUL	Cambridge Hall Farm Livery Birts Street Birtsmorton WR13 6AW	Permanent siting of 2 residential caravans	MHDC Refused
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25/2017. Correspondence

Any information presently sent to Cllrs via email and particular reference to:

- Police monthly newsletters.

- Update following the recent MHDC Forum with Town and Parish Councils.
- Changes re future audit.

26/2017. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date **Wednesday 13 September 2017** at 7.30 pm at Berrow Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

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