

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council
Monday 23 November 2015 at 7.30pm – Berrow Village Hall

Present:

Chair: Michael Barnes

Councillors: Roger Gillard, Vance Withers, John McCormick and Richard Bolton

In attendance: DCllr. Mick Davis, David Armitage AONB, 1 member of the public and Clerk

Public Comments; None

42/2015. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr: Faulkner. (Cllr Faulkner committed to attendance at college for forthcoming Mondays.)

43/2015. 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

44/2015. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 14 September 2015 were confirmed and signed as true record.

45/2015 Coombe Green

Following on from extraordinary meeting in July a draft management plan had been prepared for Parish Council consideration by consultant in conjunction with AONB (principle funder). Discussion ensued on content and way forward with invited additional comment from attendees.

- **RESOLVED** to form a management committee led by Mrs Sue Windle, (in her capacity and acknowledgment as founder consultee with AONB), to conduct an Opinion Gathering Exercise across the Parish. Representatives to include PCllrs. Roger Gillard and Vance Withers. Seek further representation from local support, owner, graziers, dog walkers and co-opted as required to complete the committee which would bring recommendations back to the Parish Council.
- Other discussion matters for the group to consider include the importance of stock for common maintenance and future graziers, possibility of fencing so animals do not stray onto main road, investigate linking in with Castlemorton Common management (MHC), further mechanical maintenance and legislation requirement. Aim to have new committee up and running early in new year.
- For immediate discussion the siting of present grazier's new feeding station (trailer trial) during the forthcoming Winter/Early Spring. Site meeting to take place with grazier.

46/2015. Matters Arising

38/15 Rye Street boundary hedge to be cut in near future.

47/2015 Standing Orders/Financial Regulations

It was RESOLVED to adopt the standing orders and financial regulations as previously circulated to Councillors. The clerk advised the PC of funding available for equipment which may be necessary to purchase to comply with the Transparency Code. The WCC website will be used for uploading the Parish Council information required.

48/2015. Finance Report

a) Current financial situation:

Balance as at 14 September 2015		3933.63	
Income pre meeting	962.50 5.00		MHDC ½ year precept HMRC Vat Refund

		967.50	
Expenditure pre meeting			
Thistle Clearance Coombe Green	216.00		Coombe Green
Bramble Clearance	460.80		Coombe Green
Expenditure at meeting			
Clerk	224.42		July August September
		901.22	
Monies available as at 23 Nov. 2015		£3999.91	

b). Budget and Precept for 2016/17

- 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. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the total Annual Precept would remain at **£1925.00**.
- Clerk advised that she was investigating funding for Coombe Green Common management. It was agreed that once this was clarified by CALC it may be necessary to review the budget allocation for section 137 Grant funding at the next meeting.

49/2015. Telephone Kiosk

38/15 4. BT Response –If Parish Council wished to consider any changes to kiosk the process of adoption would require permission from MHDC in a consultation process and payment of insurance if required. On hand over BT would ensure power supply and light function. (Power unlikely to be removed with so many kiosks across the country). The kiosk has recently been internally maintained. Clerk to investigate external painting.

50/2105. Nutshell

The coppicing project at The Nutshell was progressing well and it was agreed to pursue a renewal of the 12 month licence agreement

51/2015. Parish Drainage.

It was reported that WCC highways were conducting a full survey of all parish culverts and ensuing maps were up to date with remedial work carried out if necessary and possible. Clerk reminded PC of the Lengthsman scheme and funds available. Noted that a principle culvert that requires monitoring is in Rye Street, just past Ellis Dawe. Clerk to check.

52/2015 District Councillor Report

DCllr Mick Davies in a report included

- SWDP continues to move through legislative timetabled process nearing completion.
- Waste collection – Consultation process underway.
- District Council – Rationalisation of management with voluntary redundancies continues. Shared legal services to commence December between Wychavon and Malvern Hills. Anticipated outcome for a smaller and more efficiently managed local authority.
- Proposed visits by Chief Executive to parishes upon invitation.
- MHDC to leave business rates pool.

53/2015. Correspondence

- Any information presently sent to cllrs via email and particular reference to receipt of 2 parishioner letters reference poor state of common areas exacerbated by sheep movement. More information would be collated on this prior to response.

54/2015. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date **Monday 21 March 2016** at 7.30 pm at Berrow Village Hall. (& 23 May 2016 Annual)

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

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