

# Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council Thursday 9 March, 2017 at 7.30pm  
Berrow Village Hall

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

In attendance: Clerk and \*DCllr. Mick Davies

## Public Comments: None

### 01/2017. Apologies for Absence.

Cllrs Faulkner and McCormick, CCllr Wells

The chairman acknowledged the recent death of councillor Faulkner's father, Edward Bolton.

### 02/2017 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*

### 03/2017. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 29 November 2016 were confirmed and signed as true record.

### 04/2017 Matters Arising

**Broadband** -Update. More postcodes now available to access fibre broadband and Cllr Williams to act as liaison, reference any inquiries from residents seeking further advice. Take up figures from the Parish as yet unknown.

**Telephone Kiosk**- In light of the rationalisation programme announced by BT the present box would not be repainted.

### 05/2017. Finance Report

|  |        |                 |                     |
|--|--------|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Balance as at 29 November 2016</b>      |        | <b>4574.25</b>  |                     |
| Income pre meeting                         |        |                 |                     |
| Total                                      |        | 0.00            |                     |
| Expenditure pre meeting                    |        | 0.00            |                     |
| Expenditure at meeting                     |        |                 |                     |
| Clerk                                      | 190.46 |                 | Oct Nov Dec 2016    |
| Hall Hire                                  | 42.50  |                 | Berrow Village Hall |
| Lengthsman                                 | 104.50 |                 |                     |
| Clerk                                      | 167.78 |                 | Jan Feb March 2017  |
| Total                                      | 505.24 | 505.24          |                     |
| <b>Monies available as at 9 March 2017</b> |        | <b>£4069.01</b> |                     |

- Clerk reported that she had completed the declaration of compliance as required by the Pension Regulator

### 06/2017 Coombegreen Common

On behalf of Mrs Windle unable to attend the following report was made

- Good enthusiasm for fundraiser and an acknowledgement to the Parish Council for agreeing to match fund sums raised up to £300.
- The Common looking much improved over winter following contractors work.
- Progressively working through the management plan
- Involving Worcester Archaeology Society for advice over clearance of mediaeval pits.
- Looking forward to cattle grazing and use of temporary electric fencing.

Discussion re notification of potential arrival of cattle and temporary electric fencing with suitable notices. Consider alternative uses of contractors' resources to obtain best use and result with monies available in addition to quotes for work required.

### **07/2017. Highway Verges – AONB Project**

Cllr Williams reported with documentation on a recent presentation he attended in Castlemorton by Paul Esrich from Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

This is a proposal for a verge management pilot scheme for the ensuing 3 – 5 years. It was hoped that selected verges within the AONB in Castlemorton and Birtsmorton in addition to the northern rural Parishes could be allowed to grow naturally and wild flowers would be encouraged by cutting and collecting grass annually at the end of the summer. Care would be taken to ensure hazardous areas were maintained as at present. The Parish Council in theory supported this initiative and the services of the Lengthsman were to be utilised where possible but were concerned about the practicalities. Subsequent questions at the presentation included the importance of communication: with the present verge contractor, advertising the scheme and residents who particularly cared for the verge area adjacent to their properties in addition to the removal of the arisings, livestock concerns and potential costs. Further comments included the potential prevalence of weeds, nettles and cow parsley. In reply these could be controlled by spot treatment maybe by Lengthsman.

- DCllr Davies arrived.

It was hoped certain sites of particular botanical interest were going to be included such as Welland Green and a verge at Rye Cross on the right hand side of the A438 heading to Eastnor.

### **08/2017. Parish Drainage.**

Ref **Minute 47/2016** – South Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership having investigated the site at Watery Lane, implemented documentation to the residents reference Land Drainage Act 1991 – Maintenance of watercourse, riparian responsibility.

Lengthsman tasks – Include the possible repair of the wall at Coombegreen off the B4208 and check the culvert along Rye street past Ellis Dawe.

### **09/2017 District Councillor Report**

Included:

- Recent decision by MHDC to introduce alternate weekly collections of waste and recycling. Initial investment for new waste bins (£700,000) and ultimately an anticipated saving overall for local authority waste collection and hopefully actual waste from households. Anticipated start of new regime in a year's time.
- The present conversion of Council House due to be completed May/June. Then Council Chamber to be demolished and rebuilt with facilities for a customer service desk including manned Tourist Information (TI) Financial savings to be made with the closure of the present TI office in Church Street.
- County Council elections 4 May.

### **10/2017. Nutshell**

The coppicing project agreement at The Nutshell completed for 2017.

### **11/2017. Correspondence**

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

- Closure of Motorway Bridges – Pendock Cross and near Hunt Kennels

- Monthly newsletter from West Mercia Police
- MHDC P & T Council Forum – 24 April 6pm until 8.30pm.
- Traffic Regulation Order re new proposed speed limit of 50mph for that part of the B4208 in Castlemorton then into present 40mph through Coombegreen.

**12/2017. Other Matters Raised**

- Traffic Safety at Rye Cross – Discussion as to whether road markings could be improved to identify the hazards eg Continuation of double white lines to prevent overtaking at the cross roads. Clerk to raise with highways.
- Prominent telegraph pole along Marsh Road considered a potential hazard for passing vehicles. Clerk to establish with BT as to whether it can be resited towards hedge and away from highway.

**13/2017. Confirmation of date of next meeting**

The next meeting date **Monday 8 May 2017** at 7.00 pm at Berrow Village Hall.

- Annual Parish Meeting to be followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

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