

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council
Wednesday 15 November 2017 at 7.30pm in Berrow Village Hall

Present: Chair: Michael Barnes
Councillors: Roger Gillard, Alison Faulkner, Mary Dowding and David Williams.

In attendance: DCllr. Mick Davies and Clerk

Public Comments; None

38/2017. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs: John McCormick and Vance Withers

39/2017 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.** Cllr. Williams re Planning ODI – Neighbour.
3. **To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)** None

40/2017. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 13 September 2017 were confirmed (with amendment Pink Cottage should read Pink Hall) and signed as true record.

41/2017. Matters Arising

The following was noted:

33/2017 – No response from BT re Marsh Road Pole – To be followed up

Rye Cross crossroads highway markings on B4208. Response from WCC indicates no record of personal injury incidents. *“The current hazard warning centrelines are there to notify to motorists that overtaking should only be carried out when safe to do so. Visibility at the crossroads is good and neither road is a designated national cycle route. Accordingly, no specific further measures or improvements can be justified, at this time.”*

Emergency Services – A recent incident involving the fire service looking for a rural property at night, highlighted the need for such householders to have an emergency plan in the event of emergency services requiring access to their properties. It could include a record of grid reference of the property and would then be supported by the map information the Parish Council has presently provided directly to the fire service.

37/2017 - St Richard’s Hospice – A representative will be attending Castlemorton Parish Hall on Thursday 8 March 2018 and it is hoped Birtsmorton representatives would be able to join Castlemorton Parish Councillors.

4C’s – A meeting of the Commons associated bodies took place recently and included an acknowledgement to the continuing programme of clearance work on Coombegreen Common.

42/17 District Councillor’s Report

District Cllr. Mick Davies reported on:

- **Waste Collection** – Bin trials have been successful and new fortnightly programme (alternating with waste and recycling) will commence in April. New waste bins to be delivered shortly.
- **Planning** – Application determinations within timescales have improved in addition to enforcement case load.
- **Marketing Pre-planning application advice.**
- **Electoral Registration** 17% of household presently being canvassed following 83% response to confirm electoral roll details.
- **Boundary Review** presently under way for revised proposals which can be viewed at www.bce2018.org.uk
- **Availability of part of ward budget.** Consideration for any ongoing projects?

43/17 Parish Council Vacancy

The clerk advised members that John McCormick had submitted his resignation with immediate effect. Members acknowledged his contribution during his period of time as a parish councillor and wished him improved health. It was confirmed that MHDC had been advised of the vacancy and would advise after 14 working days if no election was requested and advertising of the co-option process could then proceed.

44/2017. Finance Report

	£	£	
Balance as at 8 May 2017		4,500.55	
Income pre meeting			
MHDC	1025.00		½ year Precept
WCC	22.50	1,047.50	Lengthsman
Expenditure at meeting			
Lengthsman	22.50		Lengthsman
Clerk	135.93		July – Sept SCP 19
		158.43	
Balance at end of meeting		5,389.62	
15 November 2017			

Transparency Code – Further investigation determined the present process to comply with the code could not be facilitated with a grant.

Budget and Precept for 2018/19

The draft budget was presented to the Parish Council for its consideration and agreement. This year there would be no grant from Central Government.

A number of matters were raised in discussion and included:

- Essential to maintain a small reserve in consideration of matters of localism.
- Support for section 137 grants
- Smaller periodical precept increases better than a large one
- Administration costs presently account for a large part of precept.
- 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 £62 to **£2112**. (3% increase)

AONB Request for financial support. (Funding for any public body providing a public service) *This particular request is appropriate for consideration under subsection (3) of Section 137.*

Following discussion, on the basis that such a small part of the parish is with the AONB it was agreed that:

- A Section 137 application needed to be submitted for consideration,,
- A representative from the AONB would be invited to the next meeting.

45/2017 Coombegreen Common

Report on recent clearance activity this year included ash tree removal, as part of the management plan. It was hoped that as work continued with some of the annual tasks becoming easier, further parts of the plan could then be actioned within the limits of the annual funding. The latter has been well supported by fund raising and thanks to Mrs Windle and her supporters for these events.

46/2017. Parish Drainage/Lengthsman.

- Ref **Minute 8/2017** – Watery Lane Flooding - No further action to date therefore clerk to instigate a site meeting with WCC Highways, SWLDP, Lengthsman and residents to establish how to move forward with this ongoing problem.
- Contact Highways – to jet culverts in Watery Lane, Rye Street and at Brook House.
- Further investigations to take place along ditch in Birts Street west side to ensure it was free flowing.

47/2017 Planning

17/00774/HP	2 Leys Cottage Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AW	Proposed single storey rear extension	MHDC Approved 6 Oct
17/01571/FUL	Elmley Rye Street Birtsmorton, Malvern WR13 6AS	Proposed division of house into 2 units and ground floor extension. Creation of vehicular access	PC Recommend Approve

48/2017 Nutshell Agreement

The coppicing project at The Nutshell continues and it was agreed to pursue a third-year renewal of the 12-month licence agreement for 2018.

49/2017. Correspondence

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

- Police monthly newsletters including periodical speed checks.
- An alternative to Velo Birmingham
- Amendment to Community Bus Timetable between Upton and Malvern via Welland.
- Letter of acknowledgment from the BCH Archive (History Group)
- Follow up to recent MHDC Forum.
- Additional comment relating to neighbouring parish concern - The matter of the proposed closure of the Pendock motorway bridge had been discussed at a recent site meeting with residents. With much concern expressed on the major impact of this proposal it was hoped that traffic lights would be installed to allow a continual movement of single lane accessibility. No resolution confirmed to date with Highways England.

50/2017. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date **Tuesday 13 March 2018** at 7.30 pm at Berrow Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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