

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council held on **Monday 8 September 2025** in Armitage Room, Castlemorton Parish Hall.

Present: Chair: Michael Barnes
Councillors: Vance Withers, Karen Hood, Michael Licqurish-Coleman, Simon Yates and Mark Henderson

In attendance: Clerk

Public Comments: None

39/25. Apologies for Absence.

PCllr. Moore.

40/25 Declarations of Interest

1. *Register of Interests.*
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

41/25. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 8 September 2025 confirmed and signed as true record.

42/25. Matters Arising

29/25 Atlas Tower Group. Based upon the experience of the recent refusal twice of the Welland mast application, Atlas is considering more carefully all the documentation required especially as regards landscape. This is delaying the planning permission submission but updates continue to be provided. It was agreed to prepare a notification to the residents, for hand delivery, when the application was live on the MHDC website.

43/25 County & District Council Reports

No councillors in attendance. Clerk reported on the matters most pertaining to councillors at present particularly including Local Government Reorganisation. This had also been well addressed at the recent CALC AGM and the relevant documents were available on the local authority websites.

44/25. Finance Report.

Current financial situation:

	£	£	
Balance		6285.44	
Income pre meeting	1110.00 121.00	1231.00	MHDC 2 nd ½ year precept WCC Lengthsman
Expenditure pre meeting	8.50 5000.00 100.00 47.00	5155.50	Bank Fees Sept/Oct T/F to new savings A/C HMRC PAYE ICO
Expenditure at meeting	121.00 210.00	331.00	Lengthsman Clerk Qtr 2 Gross £300 less paye + exps.SCP 20
Balance at end of meeting in community account		2029.94	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	5000.00		

	5.10	5005.10	Interest Oct/Nov
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b) HMRC DD set up ref Clerk PAYE tax as a quarterly payment

c) **Budget and Precept for 2026/27**

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

A number of matters were raised in discussion and included: Reserves and allowances for:

- New Website - £350
- New computer as present one with Windows 10 will not be updated post October 2026
- Coombe Green contribution
- Confirmation of the recent LGA Pay Increase for 2023/24 from April 2025. Clerk's pay £1236 for 2025-26. SCP20.

Budget indicates a significant deficit and members **agreed to a precept increase** to cover the requirement for the provision of a new website

It was RESOLVED that the total Annual Precept for 2026/27 would be £2470.

45/25 Parish Drainage/Lengthsman

- **Watery Lane:** Clerk looking to arrange a site meeting with MHDC land drainage.
- The recent storm had caused a few drainage concerns in the parish during the heavy rain highlighting several vulnerable sites. Always difficult to know exactly where problems will occur with water levels rising so quickly and indeed falling with surrounding ground not yet saturated.
- **Board Walks on Coombe Green Common.** Update not available.
- Chairman reported he was in meetings with the Drainage Board as regards the work required on Longdon Brook. Although in the Environment Agency ownership there is no maintenance team to carry out drainage work.

46/25 Nutshell

The felled branch off the tree was removed from the ditch with thanks to the local support in this matter.

47/25 Planning

M/25/01176/FUL	Up Sticks Glamping Site At Brays Farm Birts Street Birtsmorton	Use of land for the creation of two holiday lets, each comprising two 2 bed lodges with ensuite with separate kitchen/reception and decking area	Pending Decision
M/25/01322/CCO	The Lodge Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AW	Discharge of Conditions 7 (CEMP) and 10 (Slab levels) of Planning Permission number M/24/01706/FUL	Approved
M/25/01323/FUL	The Lodge Birts Street Birtsmorton WR13 6AW	Variation of Condition 2 of Planning permission M/24/01706/FUL - (Proposed erection of a replacement (self-build) dwelling and garage following demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuilding) - to allow for basement under the garage.	Approved
M/25/00046/FUL	Land At (Os 7911 3631) Birts Street Birtsmorton	Erection of a log cabin for holiday use	Pending Decision
M/25/00052/S106	Farmers Arms Birts Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AP	Application under section 106A(3)(b) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to discharge the legal agreement dated 8th February 1988 associated with planning permission 86/02573/FUL	Pending Decision

48/25. Website /Email Changes

• 35/25 Clerk has spoken to Parish Online who will maintain the quote offered for the new financial year. The company is very mindful of the extra workload expected and therefore looking to offer as much assistance as possible to Parish Councils in their change overs. Subscription now £350 ex vat per year. (That discounted price will stay with the account each year of the subscription and the parish council would qualify for a new Parish Online fund taking £100 ex vat off the first year's subscription by switching to a gov.uk domain.) Other quotes are in excess of that provided by Parish Online.
• It was **agreed** to pursue the contract with Parish Online and as suggested commence proceedings with a view to paying first subscription in 2026/27.
Consider a photograph for front page - Farmers Arms most ideal and need to seek permission to use.

49/25 Coombe Green Common

Mrs Windle has confirmed the contractor has recently completed brash clearance and she awaits the invoice.

50/25 Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC Health and Wellbeing.
- Police activity and creation of identified teams. The recent property thefts were highlighted.

51/25. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date: **Monday 9 March 2026 at 7.00 pm** in Castlemorton Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

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