

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the meeting of **Annual Parish Meeting** on Monday 11 May 2026 at 7.00pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall, Armitage Room.

Present:

Chair: Michael Barnes

Councillors: Karen Hood, Mark Henderson, Simon Yates and Michael Licqurish-Coleman.

In attendance: Clerk and CClr T Wells.

1A/26. Apologies for Absence. PCllrs Vance Withers & Julie Moore and parishioner Mrs S Windle

2A/26. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting of 15 May 2025 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

3A/26. Chairman's Report

The chairman read a report outlining activity during the year. Mention of those regular agenda items and an acknowledgment to the support of fellow members.

4A/26. Finance Report

A full report provided by the RFO for Financial Year 202/26 was available to review.

Opening balance of £5842.00, receipts of £2772.68 and expenditure of £3012.53 leaving a **closing balance of £5562.93**. A similar financial year of activity to previous years but with unexpected extra funding for the new website provider for AGS Assertion 10 — Digital and data compliance. It had been budgeted for the ensuing financial year. There was also an acknowledgement to the extra funding provided from Coombe Green Friends funds to support the contractor costs in mechanical brash clearance.

5A/26 Coombe Green Common Report

Thanks from Mrs Windle for all the physical support received in periodical common brash clearance and generosity in local support with fundraising and supporting Parish Council funding. Noted there is a reduction in areas grazed by sheep with ideas to be explored for the future. Present local grazier continues with sheep on the 'top' area. The new bridge is in situ and a credit to local craftsman with supporting funds. In response the Parish Council is grateful for all Mrs Windle's effort with this ever rolling task in local maintenance for the benefit of the community.

6A/26 District & County Councillor Reports

CCllr Wells provided an update on County Council activity with the forthcoming annual meeting and the deliberation for a new leader. Demands and expectations in future financial management with expected budget savings are going to be a challenge.

Local Government Re-organisation. A decision on which proposal will be chosen is expected in July 2026. Elections to a 'shadow' council or councils' is expected in May 2027 with the new council(s) taking over the running of services from 1 April 2028.

He also reported on recent meetings with local representatives to consider how to tackle speeding vehicles on the B4208 and subsequent injury to livestock. Common Graziers can only be encouraged if they know livestock is safe on the road. To be discussed further at Parish Council meeting.

7A/26. Other Matters Raised.

None

No other matters were discussed.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed.....

Date.....