

Birtsmorton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Meeting of Birtsmorton Parish Council held on **Monday 9 March 2026** in Armitage Room, Castlemorton Parish Hall.

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

In attendance: Clerk and 2 residents (Public Speaking only)

Public Comments: Residents asked questions re the telecommunications mast and presented a Freedom of Information request to the Parish Council.

04/26. Apologies for Absence.

DCllr Watkins.

05/26 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

06/26. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of last full meeting of 17 November 2025 and Extraordinary meeting of 27 January 2026 confirmed and signed as true records.

07/26. Matters Arising

None

08/26 County & District Council Reports

No reports submitted. Clerk highlighted the present local Government Reorganisation consultation.

09/26. Finance Report.

Current financial situation:

	£	£	
Balance		2029.94	
Income pre meeting	71.50		WCC Lengthsman
		71.50	
Expenditure pre meeting	17.00 80.00 260.00 71.50 230.00		Bank Fees Nov - March HMRC PAYE Parish On line NEW website Lengthsman Clerk Qtr 3 Gross £300 less paye + exps.SCP 20
		658.50	
Expenditure at meeting	945.00 261.23 71.25 104.50		Coombe Green Contractor Clerk Qtr 4 Gross £300 less paye + exps.SCP 20 Hall Hire Lengthsman
		1381.98	
Balance at end of meeting		-(60.96) 60.96	

in community account			
SAVINGS ACCOUNT		5012.30	Balance at meeting 9 March 2026

10/26 Update of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and New IT Policy

Councillors agreed to adopt the updated and reviewed as necessary Parish Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment 2026 and the new IT Policy

11/26 Highways/Parish Drainage/Lengthsman

- **Watery Lane:** The lengthsman has established another drainage channel albeit temporary in this area which has been successful. Excessive silt now exacerbating the problem. Clerk once again looking for support from WCC.
- **Board Walks on Coombe Green Common.** Awaiting support from volunteers.
- Pot Hole to be reported outside Home Farm
- Castlemorton Common Association is addressing the on-going concerns re risks to drivers, people and livestock on the B4208. It seeks local parish council support in improved signage although not considered sufficient on its own and therefore also a reduced speed limit along a length of the B4208 from Welland to Rye Cross. CCllr Tom Wells will engage with WCC highways for reduced speed along the B4208 upon receipt of a resolution from the respective Parish Councils. (Welland, Castlemorton and Birtsmorton). It was noted that there is a 40mph limit through Coombe Green.
- **Agreed** to support a proposal to request of the County Council improved livestock warning signage and explore the possibility of a reduced speed limit from beyond Coombe Green to Rye Cross.

12/26 Nutshell

The tenant is very keen to continue with annul agreement especially now the area is good order.

13/25 Planning

M/26/00070/FUL	The Merries Rye Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AS	Erection of agricultural building	Pending Decision
M/25/01669/HP	The Willows Rye Street Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AS	Single storey rear extension and outbuilding conversion	Pending Decision
M/25/02041/HP	Ryevale Birtsmorton Malvern WR13 6AF	Proposed single storey front extension.	Pending Decision
M/25/02015/TC	Tc Base Station At (Os 7947 3607) Birtsmorton	Prior Notification of proposed development by telecommunications for installation of a 25m lattice tower, 6no. antenna apertures, 2 no. 600mm microwave transmission dishes and equipment cabinets inside an 8m x 8m compound enclosed by a 1.8m high close board timber fence with a 3m wide gate and development ancillary thereto.	Approved
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/25/00046/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	Approved
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Forest Of Dean Local Plan: Local authorities on the borders of this plan became aware of Standard Method updates which required towards 13k houses for the FOD Local Plan. For this statistical housing requirement, the FOD proposal is for the inclusion of a development site (Commuter town) for 3.5k houses in the Glynchbrook area near junction 2 of M50.

Several local meetings continue to take place in preparation of substantive responses from MHDC, neighbouring parish councils and residents before the deadline of 18 March.

14/26. Website /Email Changes

The new Parish Online (Local Authority Technology CIC) website for Birtsmorton is live, having been ported from WCC, but still requires tweaking for public use:

Website: <https://birtsmortonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Email: clerk@birtsmortonparishcouncil.gov.uk – not active yet by clerk

Noted that the website was set up earlier than expected and the necessity for an earlier payment and so affected has the budget for 2026/27.

15/26 Coombe Green Common

Mechanical bramble clearance: Mrs Windle has kindly supported with the balancing payment of £387.50 from the generosity of Coombe Green 'Friends with £400 from the PC. It was also noted that the bridge has been repaired with generous support finding and local labour. The monthly common bramble bashings are a rewarding community effort.

16/26 Notice Board

Consideration to the repair or replacement of the notice board outside the Farmers Arms. Supportive ward funding may be available upon application. Looking to first improve accessibility to the board with verge damage by parked cars.

17/26 Correspondence

Particular mention of:

- CALC Updates & Health and Wellbeing.
- Email from resident re Telecommunication mast. With the presentation of questions and the FOI request before the meeting the necessary documentation will now be prepared for submission.
- Proposed Glynchbrook Development site– MHDC preparing a response to the FODean Local Plan
- Malvern Hills Trust Newsletter – Where to promote- PC Website
- Local Government Reorganisation – forthcoming consultation. Period 5/2/26 – 26/3/26
- Community Arts and Culture Grant for Parish and Town Councils (Malvern Hills District) Closing Date 20 March 2026
- SNT (Police) looking to attend meetings if possible.

18/26. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting date: **Monday 11 May at 7.00 pm** in Armitage Room (Annual Meetings)

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

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