

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on
Thursday 6th December 2007 in Much Birch Community Hall

Present: Mr D Davies (DD)-Chairman, Mr John Jones (JJ) Mr G Simms (GS) Ms V Short (VS, Mrs M Swift (MS)

In attendance: Kath Greenow (Parish Clerk), Cllr Richard Smith (Ward Councillor), CSO Fiona Witcher, together with 8 members of the public.

1. To accept apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of interest on agenda items

Mr J Jones declared a prejudicial interest on agenda item 8 and gave a statement and then left the room before discussion was entered into.

3. To approve Minutes of previous meeting - 1st November 2007

The minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

At this point, the chairman adjourned the meeting to allow contributions from West Mercia Police, Ward Councillor and members of the public to speak.

The Chairman then re-opened the meeting.

4. Clerks report back on action items.

4.1 Progress report on bus shelters at 3 identified sites by Parish Council.

Sites identified 1. Church stop, 2. Stop by junction of road leading towards Much Birch School, 3 Axe & Cleaver stop.

(JJ) & Clerk met with Herefordshire Council Public Transport representative and the following this meeting Herefordshire Council have met with Amey Mouchel (Who are the highways agency on this section A49) and Stage Coach, the bus company.

2 Sites along A49-Church bus stop & bus stop at junction of road by Much Birch School Amey Mouchel accepted the proposals in principal, however they were insistent that any stops we upgrade must have raised kerbs on both sides of the road together with dropped crossings at a near by point. In addition to this they have identified work that will need to be carried out at the Church stop to enable the shelter to be sited in a suitable position. E.g. tree cutting removal of grass/soil bank, building of a retaining wall. In view of the additional costs involved it is possible that Herefordshire Council highways may not be able to fund the installation of the three proposed shelters but instead have to choose the two that will provide the greatest benefit. The Stage coach representative commented that The Axe & Cleaver stop is relatively poorly used and he would therefore suggest that we proceed on the basis of installing new shelters, raised kerbs and dropped kerbs etc at the Church & Tump Lane locations (area at junction leading to Much Birch School)

Clerk asked to contact Herefordshire Council Public Transport representative and request costings for identified site 3 and to report back at next meeting.

4.2 Progress on traffic problems along Much Birch School

Clerk reported that Herefordshire Council Highways network manager is happy to meet with a representative from the Parish Council & headmaster of Much Birch Primary School. Resolved That (MS) would represent Parish Council and clerk to arrange a date for all 3 parties to meet.

4.3 Clerks meeting with lengthsman in relation to work identified to be carried out.

Clerk reported that lengthsman would be carrying out following within the next month weather permitting. Clean & clear around road signs, general check over & cleaning out of ditches if needed, to put in grippers where appropriate along ditches. Wrigglebrook area attention to

problems with drainage & ditches. Tump Lane Cutting of hedge at bottom of Tump lane, weed killing around this area will be carried out in the spring along with area leading from Much Birch School.

4.4 Parish Lane- Consultation letter. Date of distribution.

Clerk to draft questionnaire for approval at next meeting.

4.5 SID- Update on information from Herefordshire Council Clerk reported that Traffic engineer for HFDC informed clerk that in it is HFDC preferences that Parish Council's make use of the SIDS HFDC have, this is because they can have control over where & how long the signs are placed at any location. He suggested that a meeting take place to agree positions of SIDS etc. Clerk to contact HFDC again asking for clarification as site meetings have taken place in the past with regard to this.

5. To consider proposals on The Newsletter for Kings Thorne & The Birches

Resolved that: Terms of reference need to be drafted between (JJ) & Mike Morley of Little Birch Parish Council.

6. To receive a report from (JJ) on road issues through Kings Thorne, Wrigglebrook & Hollybush areas.

Report received form (JJ)

Report attached to back of minutes.

Mrs Sally Dymott was thanked for her help with the review of the areas concerned in the report.

Clerk requested to contact HFDC to request topping up of salt bins in the parish.

7. To consider application for modification to definitive map of footpaths within the parish.

Resolved that: modification to the definitive map was need .Clerk to contact officer at HFDC requesting clarification as to whether there is a cost involved.

8. To consider grant for improvements to Community Hall Car Park

The Parish Council supported this project in principal.

Resolved that; Parish Council would require an estimated cost of the project in writing.

9. To consider consultation on review of The Licensing Act 2003 policy

Resolved that: In response to consultation these changes were only cosmetic ones and there had been no actual change to the act.

10. To consider traffic problems along Tump Lane

A petition had been received from Mrs Rigby regarding the lane itself and the speed of traffic along it. A letter from Cllr Smith outlined the concerns .He concluded in his letter that neither the speed or the volume of traffic using Tump Lane is sufficient to justify urgent or drastic remedial measures .However the following action would be taken:

Some speed limit signs will be replaced and an advanced "Give way" sign will be installed on the A466 approach. The top of Tump Lane will be resurfaced or patched next year.

11 HALC

11.1 To consider training sheet and book places as appropriate

Dates noted.

11.2 To Consider appointment of footpaths officer

Clerk had written to current footpaths officer Mr Anderson but no correspondence received Agreed that a footpaths officer was needed and that an advert was to go on website.

12. Finance

12.1 To receive, consider & agree precept/budget for 2008/09

Resolved that: precept set at £9000.00

12.2 To transfer balance of £8750.28 from Halifax account to new HSBC account

Resolved that: Halifax account balance of £8750.28 is transferred to new HSBC account.

12.3 To agree payments:

Resolved that: the following payments were made

12.4 Clerks 1st payment £252.87 (15th Oct-up to 26thNov 07)

12.5 HALC Training (JJ), (MS) & (GS) £60.00

12.6 Website Terry Cook £31.70

13. Planning

Application for comment

DCSW2007/3574/F.....Bryn mead Much Birch Hereford
Proposed dormer bungalow to replace approved single story bungalow.
Council Comments- Application Supported

DCSW2007/357/O.....Burcott Kingsthorpe Hereford
New residential property 3-4 bedrooms with garage & parking Application
Supported

DCSW2007/3581/F.....16 Tump Lane Much Birch Hereford
Proposed two story and single story extensions
Application supported

Applications commented upon between meetings by planning working group

DCSW2007/3441/F.....Turfy Hall Wormelov Herefordshire
Remove existing house and replace with new
one Application Supported

Planning permitted by Herefordshire Council

DCSW2003/2741/F..... 2 Coronation Cottage Kingsthorpe Hereford
Proposed two story extension.

DCSW2007/3179/F..... Cranberry Bungalow, Poolspringe Farm, Much Birch Hereford
Removal of agricultural occupancy condition on Beaumont agricultural workers bungalow

14 .To Note information sheet

Herefordshire Council - Consultation on review of licensing act 2003
licensing policy
Herefordshire Council- Application for modification to the definitive map and statement of public
rights of way
Herefordshire Council- Newsletter/ Highways gritting routes 2007/08
Herefordshire Council- Bus service to South of Hereford
Local Policing Team Newsbeat Newsletter

15. To noted Date of Community Safety Evening Wednesday 16th January @ 7.30pm In Little Birch Village Hall.

Date noted

16. To raise matters for next meeting (no discussion)

To note Heart Start presentation evening by British Heart Foundation Thursday 14th February 2008
7-9pm at Much Birch Village Hall

17 To note date of next Parish Council meeting 07/02 /08 at 7.30pm

Date noted