

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on
Thursday 3rd April 2008 in Much Birch Community Hall

Present: Mr D Davies (DD)-Chairman, Mr John Jones (JJ Mrs M Swift (MS) V Short Mrs A Cook (AC)

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

1. To accept apologies for absence

Glenn Simms

2. Declarations of interest on agenda items

DD & VS declared a prejudicial interest on agenda item 6 and both left the room before item discussion was entered into

3. To approve Minutes of previous meeting – 06/03/08

The minutes were agreed and signed by 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.

SID- Clerk reported that a meeting will be taking place with HFDC road safety officers and MS& Clerk on Tuesday 8th April to agree proposed location sites for SID. Clerk to bring progress report for next meeting.

Footpaths Officer- Clerk reported that another letter had been sent to Mr Anderson requesting him to confirm if he wishes to remain parish footpaths officer or not and if not could he return the footpaths maps of the parish to the clerk a date for reply was given as 24/03/2008 no reply from Mr Anderson has been received.

Clerk reported that information & forms received from HFDC to be attended to with regard to footpaths identified by parishioners for inclusion onto the definitive map.

Lengthsman Work & administration –Clerk reported that the claim for lengthsman grant had been submitted to HFDC total value of claim £956.91 awaiting payment from HFDC.

Lengthsman has carried out identified work since previous meeting apart from weed killing along Tump Lane & cutting of inside of hedge at Tump Lane. This work is to be carried out as soon as weather permits.

Much Birch School Parking problems- Clerk reported that Clive Hall of HFDC Highways Dept would be contacting the Parish Council & school with regard to proposals on the parking issues in due course.

Litter at A49- Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to Mr Bobbin of HFDC requesting clearance of litter along the A49 and asked if it would be possible to extend the frequency of litter clearance from this location. Reply from Mr Bobbin has been received and he confirmed that litter clearance is due to be undertaken from Monday 17th March for six weeks. He also acknowledged the request for an increase in the frequency of litter clearance, however due to the cost of cleaning trunk roads and health & safety measures along with the traffic management that has to be in place the limited budget would not allow for this.

Clerk reported that invoices had been sent out regarding parish rents to Mr Simms & Mr Enoch.

5. To receive report from HFDC Public Rights of way officer Rob Hemblade on condition of Parish Lane.

Mr Hemblade outlined the issues raised on the results of the consultation of parishioners living on Parish Lane as follows

Broadly, Parish Lane can be split into two parts, upper and lower. The lower part is the subject of a planning enforcement matter and he was unable to comment on that aspect. However it is fair to say that it is in a very poor state of repair and needs some work doing on it. If the lane continues to deteriorate to a point it becomes dangerous to pedestrians and horse riders the council may have to look at possibly closing the lane or restricting access.

The top half of the lane is in much better condition but there are still parts that need attention. This would involve some localised surface improvements and tying into any drainage system that may be out in at the lower section. It is not anticipated that any work will be carried out on the upper section until we there is a clearer idea of what is happening along the lower section.

There is an old drainage system which was put in place a number of years but has not operated successfully. Although this will be looked at again, it is unlikely that it can be utilised.

6. To consider report on result of Parish Lane consultation.

Clerk read out the report on result of consultation.

Resolved that: The information given by PROW officer at the meeting we would need to wait for report from PROW on the way that they intend to carry this matter forward.

7. To agree Much Birch Website stays under the control of Much Birch Parish Council

Resolved that: Much Birch website stays under the control of Much Birch Parish Council.

8. To consider draft proposals for terms of reference concerning the communications group

No information received – Deferred to next meeting

9. To consider information suitable for placing in The Newsletter for Kingsthorpe & The Birches.

Agreed that: There be an agenda item at each meeting for consideration of information for inclusion in to the newsletter and to agree the report to be included on Parish Council minutes as well as any vacancies that may occur.

10. To consider appointment of new footpaths officer

Glenn Simms had previously expressed an interest in being the footpaths officer for the parish .There had also been an interest shown by parishioner attending this evenings meeting.

Agreed that: A job description and information to be put into newsletter & on website.

Applications to be sent to the clerk .Closing date for applications 23rd May 2008

11. Lengthsman

11.1 To identify work to be carried out by lengthsman.

Work identified as ditch needing cleaning out a Barrack Hill and the ditch at Reform cottage needs cleaning out once the hedge clippings have been removed by occupiers of the property Reform Cottage have removed their hedge clippings.

12. To consider problems identified regarding obstructions of ditches by discarded hedge cuttings & rubbish

Clerk asked to write to occupiers of Reform cottage asking for the hedge cuttings to be removed from the ditch due to them causing an obstruction of the ditch and of water running down it.

13. Planning

13.1 To appoint a member to speak at Southern Area Sub Committee Planning Meeting of HFDC regarding applications within the Parish

Resolved that: John Jones is member to speak at Planning Meeting of HFDC ON 11/04/08 regarding planning application D CSW2007/3846/0 Residential development pond, parking for village hall & surgery. Demolition of pack house, removal of static caravans, Court Farm Much Birch Herefordshire.

No applications for comment

Planning Applications commented on between meetings by working planning group

DCSW2008/0282/F Pilgrim Hotel Much Birch Hereford

Description; Erection of 4 no single story Hotel accommodation suites

Application Type .Full

Council Comments ... Application Supported

Planning permitted by Herefordshire Council

DCSW2008/0216/F ... The Underhills Holly Bush Lane Much Birch Hereford
Description; Replacement of storm damaged dutch barn with new steel portal frame building

DCSW2008/0255/F Rangers Lodge Little Birch Road Kingsthorpe, Hereford
Description: Alterations and extension to existing dwelling with ancillary works

Planning applications refused

DCSW2008/0156/O Rangers Lodge, Little Birch Road Kingsthorpe Hereford
Description: erection of a detached dwelling with ancillary works

Planning Applications for consideration at Southern Area Planning Committee Meeting

DCSW2008/0282/F Pilgrim Hotel Much Birch Hereford
Description: Erection of no 4 single story hotel accommodation suites.
Date set as Wednesday 2nd April at 2pm 2008

14. HALC

14.1 To consider training sheet and book places as appropriate

No training booked

NB: Training booked for "Enlightened" for MS & Clerk to attend at previous meeting has been postponed to a later date.

15. Information

To note information sheet

CORRESPONDENCE up to 28/03/08

Audit Commission- appointment of external auditor - Mazars ALLP
Herefordshire Association of Local Council- Southern Area Meeting (S A M)
Town & Parish Standard -The Standards Board for England March 2008
Herefordshire Council -Information on Grants,"Modernisation of Day Opportunities"
Community First – Community Planning Guidance 2007
Dore Community Transport- volunteers wanted
Herefordshire Council PROW – Letter from Rob Hemblade ref Byway 29
Herefordshire Council PROW - Letter from Rob Hemblade ref Parish Lane

16 Finance

16.1 To note current bank balance

Deferred to next meeting as clerk omitted to bring finance sheet.

16.2 To agree invoices for payment

Agreed invoices for payment

Donation of £100.00 to Parochial Church of Much Birch for 2007/08, as agreed at meeting of 06/03/08
Lengthsman –M Dyer £469.00

**16.3 To agree payment of Clerks salary from 1st March 2008- 31st March 2008
£168.58**

Agreed payment of £168.58

**16.4 To consider & agree percentage of payment for Clerk's home office
(Full year £100.00)**

Agreed payment of £100.00

17. To raise matters for next meeting (No discussion)

Donation to Community Hall ref Car parking extension, Community First – Housing needs survey, Parish Rent, Information for newsletter & Much Birch Parish website.

18. To note date of next meeting

Noted as Thursday 1st May 2008 @ 7pm Annual Meeting of Much Birch Parish followed by AGM of Much Birch Parish Council followed by Much Birch Parish Council May Meeting.

Signed.....

Dated.....