

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on
Thursday 4th December 2008
In Much Birch Community Hall

Present: Chairman, Mr J Jones (JJ) - Mr G Simms (GS) Ms V Short Mrs A Cook (AC)

In attendance: Kath Greenow (Parish Clerk)

Cllr R Smith, CSO Fiona Witcher, Keith Parry (Community First) & 4 members of the public

1. To accept apologies for absence

Mrs M Swift (MS) Mr D Davies (DD)

2. Declarations of interest on agenda items

None declared

3. To approve minutes of previous meeting 06/11/2008

Minutes of 06/11/08 agreed & signed as a true record.

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.

Clerk reported that Amey had installed 3 out of the four sockets for the SID (Speed Indicator Device).The SID would be erected during the week of 6th January 2009

There were issues regarding the site identified along Much Birch Road leading towards the bus stop. HFDC to liaise with Clerk regarding the issue.

Green Freighter request

Clerk reported that no further information about the availability of the green freighter had been received .Clerk would contact HFDC and report back at next meeting.

Work requested at the area of Wrigglebrook Lane. Clerk & JJ had visited the areas concerned.

5. To consider Draft Housing Needs Survey Report by Community First

Keith Parry from community first gave a report on the results of the survey undertaken during the month of June and July 2008. The draft survey results indicated that there was a need for affordable housing in the area. There was a need for a small affordable housing development scheme in the parish.

Agreed: KP & Parish Council to meet and walk the main settlement area of Much Birch Parish to look at possible suitable sites in the parish.

6. To receive report from (AC) on Steiner Local Community Forum

Report was given by (AC) which was noted

7. To receive a report on PACT Meeting (AC)

No report

8. Duplication of agenda item 5

Noted

9. To comment on Communities & Local Government consultation on Codes of Conduct for local authority members & employees

Agreed: No comment on consultation.

10. To consider and further comment to The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy

Parishioner had during open session outlined concerns relating to the consultation, and asked for Parish Council to consider complaining about the limited involvement of parish councils with regard to the whole West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy document.

Agreed: Parishioner to email Clerk the concerns & Clerk to email concerns via email to wm.panelsecretary@QOwm.gsi.gov.uk

11. To consider joining HFDC Parish Paths Partnership Scheme

Agreed: Footpaths officer to read through the documentation received from HFDC and report back at next meeting.

12. To consider information suitable for inclusion onto the parish website & into the Kings Thorn & Birches newsletter (Jan 09 edition)

Agreed: Minutes 06/11/08 along with the audited accounts for 2007/08 to go on the parish website. Synopsis of minutes of 06/11/08 to go into the newsletter along with an update on progress of the SID.

13. To consider parishioners complaint regarding parking outside Much Birch School

Agreed: Clerk to write to parishioner concerned to inform them of the proposals from meeting with Cllr Wilcox, Clive Hall- HFDC, Much Birch Schools Headmaster, local police & Stagecoach bus company Meeting with HFDC had had a number of proposals and these would be subject to consultation with residents living near the location of the school. Parish Council & Much Birch School. Letter has been received from HFDC outlining the proposals which was noted.

14. Lengthsman

14.1 To identify further work to be carried out by lengthsman

Agreed: Ditching work required at Barrack Hill area,

14.2 To consider request from parishioner regarding ditching work required a Wrigglebrook.

Agreed: Some of the work highlighted to be carried out, however it was outlined by the Clerk & JJ that some of the work was not suitable for the lengthsman and would need HFDC highways to undertake during the quarterly maintenance visits. Clerk to send report to HFDC.

Agreed: Work concerning the Lengthsmans Scheme was for work needing to be carried out through out the whole of the Parish not just for one or two areas within the parish.

14.3 To agree identified areas for Parish Councillors to monitor & report work suitable for the lengthsman

Agreed: JJ - A49 & Hollybush

MS-Tump Lane & road along Much Birch

GS & DD- Barrack Hill

VS- Parish Lane & Kings Thorn

AC- Wrigglebrook Lane & Pages pitch.

Work identified to be reported to Clerk for agenda item under the lengthsman at Parish Council Meetings.

15. To consider request from Much Dewchurch Parish Council regarding cutting of grass around Kings Thorn bus stop.

Agreed; No Grass cutting to be undertaken by Much Birch Parish Council.

Clerk to contact Much Dewchurch Clerk to advise that the area is the responsibility of Much Dewchurch and it was for Much Dewchurch Parish Council to keep tidy.

If Much Dewchurch Parish Council wanted to contact the lengthsman direct then MBPC clerk would furnish MDPC clerk with his details and Much Dewchurch Parish Council could pay him direct to cut the grass.

16. Footpaths

16.1 To receive a footpaths report

Agreed: Clerk to inform HFDC area footpaths warden regarding issue of blocked paths highlighted in footpaths report no2.

Clerk asked to contact Little Birch Parish Council regarding some serious attention to the junction of LB21 & LB18 where the path begins its approach to Church Farm.

Report Noted.

16.2 To consider request from parishioners regarding footpath (MB4A-LB21) broken foot bridge & finger post at Srickstenning gate.

Agreed: Clerk to refer information to HFDC area footpaths warden.

17. Planning

No planning application for comment

17.1 To consider section 106 & identify community needs list for submission to HFDC planning dept.

Agreed: To compile as list for consideration at next meeting

18. HALC

To consider training sheet & book places as appropriate.

Training noted

19. Information

To note information sheet

Information noted

Community First Housing Needs Study (Draft)

Herefordshire council - Newsletter Information

Herefordshire Council - Parish Paths Partnership Information & Application Form

HALC- Training Information

Roles, Responsibilities & Law- (Saturday) 17/01/2009

Procedures & Finance- (Saturday) 07/02/09

Planning & Community Action - (Saturday) 28/02/09

The above three courses form the £90.00 Cilca package for Clerks, but are all open to councillors.

Leading Lights- How to be an effective parish councillor- 27/01/2009

Power of wellbeing-03/03/2009

Public rights of way-12/03/2009

Clerks & Chairman's evening 17/02/08 (7pm)

20. Finance

20.1 To note current bank balance £ 12335.25

20.2 To consider external auditors report on annual return 2007/08

Report noted. Update of asset register to be completed and financial regulation to be completed

20.3 To consider general meeting information from HBOS

Noted

20.3 To agree purchases /Invoices

Agreed payments/invoices to the following

Clerks salary November 2008 £168.58, December 2008 £168.58

Clerks expenses (postage) £7.56

External Auditors fee £164.50

M Dyer (Lengthsman) £153.00

Amey Wye Valley (installation of three sockets) £441.00

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

106 wish list. Village Sign

22. To note date of next meeting

Noted as Thursday 5th February @ 7.30pm