

**MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on**  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2009 in Much Birch Community Hall**

**Present:** Chairman, Mr J Jones (JJ) Mrs A Cook (AC) Mrs M Swift (MS) Ms V Short,(VS) Mr G Simms,(GS) Mr D Davies(DD)

In attendance: Kath Greenow (Parish Clerk) Cllr R Smith

2 members of the public

**1. Apologies**

West Mercia Police

**2** Declaration of interest declared by (AC) on agenda item 13.3

**3. RESOLVED:** Minutes of Parish Council meeting 12/11/09 agreed & signed

**4.** No police report.

**5.** Ward Councillor reported on current issue over The Castle Inn at Little Birch.

Highways maintenance Amey contractors seem to have a new sense of purpose & handling of maintenance work. New constitution for Herefordshire Council would come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan2010 part of this will be the new planning committee structure. The requirement of the new structure was outlined by Cllr Smith .He advised that the parish council need to give material reasons as why they supported an application and material reason if they were not supportive of a planning application.

**6. Public forum.**

Parishioner raised concerns over ditch being blocked near Hollybush lane opposite the Axe and Cleaver.

Recycling Bins- Cllr Cook pointed out about understanding the yellow & red tags that may be attached to a persons recycling bin.

Bins will be emptied but a yellow tag indicates:

Bin not at the boundary of the property closest to the adopted highway

Recycling not put into the bin loose (e.g. in bags)

Bin contains items not specified for recycling

A red tag, where the bin has not been emptied, indicates:

A previous infringement as above

Bin is broken and needs replacing.

Whatever the colour of the tag there should be an explanation as to the problem.

**7. Clerks report**

Clerk reported that she had contacted Clive Hall of Herefordshire Council Highways regarding the progress on road safety measures at Much Birch School. The response for the watchman was:

Much Birch school is on the list of schools requesting 20mph schemes and is also on the list for consideration for parking restrictions. However, Much Birch School is located at number 42 on the 20 mph schemes list and placed 23 on the parking restriction list. This means that the likelihood of these schemes being implemented in the short term is, unfortunately,

unrealistic. The Department of Transport and the Local Authority review all existing and new requests for such schemes on a regular basis and in line with the new speed limit guidance; the local authority must review all existing and new sites by 2011. To this end, you may like to write to Andrew Lee-Jones again, to raise the profile of your requests for Much Birch School. Clerk was asked to contact HFDC and ask for a time limit etc on work to be undertaken at the school.

Bus Shelter request at church stop Much Birch. JJ had met with Officer from Herefordshire transportation in the last few days and we were waiting for further information from Highways Agency on this matter. Clerk to chase up and report back at next meeting. New Bus stop at old shop location. It is proposed that a new bus stop could be put near the telephone box, subject to further investigation. A bus stop could not be sited on the opposite side of the road because of residential properties near.

#### **8. Information to go into The King's Thorn & Birches Newsletter and onto Much Birch website**

Synopsis of parish council meeting in November, recycling bins and reminder that grit is for use on the highway not for personal use by parishioners on their driveways.

#### **9. Lengthsman**

**RESOLVED:** to ask lengthsman to carry out ditching work at Hollybush Lane and work required at Wriggle brook. Clerk asked to contact landowner of the scout hut to request that they cut the hedge back.

#### **10. Planning**

**None for comment**

The planning inspectorates report on Rangers Lodge was noted.

#### **11. Meetings**

12.1 HALC training dates noted.

12.2 **RESOLVED:** Clerk to arrange meeting for Parish Plan steering group meeting in January 2010

#### **12. Correspondence**

**Noted**

**12.1 RESOLVED:** Clerk was asked to write to HALC to ascertain who is responsible for the debts of HALC if they were to become bankrupt. She was also asked to obtain minutes of the executive meetings that had taken place on 25/11/09

#### **13. Finance**

13.1 Current bank balance noted as £12129.88

13.2 **RESOLVED:** Budget set and precept set at £7000.00 for 2010/11

13.3 **RESOLVED:** to pay

Clerks expenses (postage) £1.80

Clerks Lengthsman 3/4 Fee £65.46

A4 Office Products £18.41

Deferred Payment to Herefordshire Council for hire of Sid's £1265.00 until satisfactory enquiry has been undertaken by road safety tem in relation to Sid's not recording data whilst in place in the parish.

13.4 **RESOLVED:** Not to contribute to a village sign.

#### **14. Matters for next meeting (no discussion)**

Agenda items for next meeting to be sent to the clerk at least 5 working days before the next meeting. Deferred items from agenda

**15. Next Meeting** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010@ 7.30pm Much Birch Community Hall

Signed.....

Dated.....