

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on
Thursday 4th March 2010 in Much Birch Community Hall

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

In attendance: Kath Greenow (Parish Clerk) Cllr R Smith. Fiona Witcher C.S.O-West Mercia Police, 13 members of the public & Sarah Carr

1. Apologies Mr D Davies, Mrs M Swift

2 Declaration of interest declared by (AC) on agenda item 18.2

3. RESOLVED: Minutes of Parish Council meeting 04/02/10 agreed & signed as a true record

4. Police Report – Crime since Jan 2010 3 incidents, theft from motor vehicle, fruit farm in the area has had tubs of copper luggs and cable stolen, Peterchurch & South Wye Police Stations are to remain open contrary to speculation of their closure. Speed monitoring has taken place at various location and some motorists have been caught .Speed enforcement along the A49 is to continue.

Cllrs raised concerns regarding the continual amount of vehicles parking along The Thorn towards the top of The old post office, it is becoming difficult to clearly see on coming vehicles as the parked vehicles are obscuring the motorist view of the highway. C.S.O witcher noted the concern and will pass this on to other officers and endeavour to speak to persons concerned

5. Ward Councillor reported that he had had a meeting with Amey & Highways and that in conclusion there was a view that the data entry system for logging defects etc was outdated and needed attention.

Shaping Our Place 2026- consultation Cllr Smith outlined the importance of this consultation and informed parishioners that they too could and should take part in completing the consultation document which is available to download of Herefordshire Council website. Tump Lane (C1264) traffic-calming the answer for Amey on this matter was that due to its location, accident recode etc , it does not fall into the ranking with regards to calming and funding.

6. Public forum.

Concerns Raised by local resident on A49 safety .Parent of children attending Much Birch Primary school outlined the near fatality in trying to cross her children over on A49 to get to her car that she had parked in the lay-by at the top of Tump Lane.

7. Clerks report

Clerk reported that she had had reported highway defects and that the defect numbers had been given to the Parish Council .The request for more salt bins at Gilston & Barrack hill had been logged and this was being attended to by Amey. Parish Plan – Chris Gooding of The Herefordshire Partnership has been contacted and will be attending the next meeting of the

Parish Plan steering group on 25th March to assist the group with the update of the Parish Plan process.

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

Synopsis of parish council meeting in March & update on date for next Parish Plan meeting
A49 highlight on recent issues and next PACT meeting dates 18th May at Much Birch Community Hall 7pm

9. Lengthsman

Lengthsman budget for 2009/10 has been spent and invoices for lengthsman scheme 2009/10 has been sent to Herefordshire Council for remittance of the grant .No further work identified at present

10. Highway issues

RESOLVED: to report: Mud on the road at Cree Cottage, Kerbs need resetting at Wormelow Shop, sub standard ref re- filing of a number of pothole in the parish .Road surface deteriorated outside doctors surgery near village hall. Pages Pitch continued deterioration of road surface.

11. RESOLVED: to respond to Herefordshire Council's Scrutiny Review of the impact of the winter.

What went well

A49- route gritted well – no problems, main routes were kept reasonably clear until you came off the main routes on to other roads.

What didn't go well.

Gritting of minor roads unsatisfactory, Grit bins empty, no replenishment of grit when it ran out and when trying to contact Amey over the Christmas period this was impossible to get a reply. Snow plough that went through the village was of little effect as it pushed the snow off the road onto people's drives whilst it went through. Junctions were difficult to deal with due to insufficient / lack of grit.

What improvements you think could be made:

1. Better communication and parishes being able to contact Amey during holiday times e.g. Christmas /New Year
2. More gritting through the rural parishes especially at junctions leading on to other roads.
3. More Grit bins at suitable locations
4. Better contact between parishes on what was required where & when.

Any Action Town or Parish Council's took

Parish Councillors & parishioners tried to grit minor village roads with what grit was available.

12. RESOLVED: Clerk contact Cllr Wilcox and invite him to the next pact meeting on 18th May at 7pm.and to send request to PACT chairman /clerk for an agenda item on road safety on A49.

13. RESOLVED: to bring concerns of inconsiderate parking at The Thorn and at Junctions near the Thorn to the attention of the rural policing team and for the clerk to write to the parishioners concerned.

14. RESOLVED: to hire a Sid for April at Location of “Windrush” and then for May a Sid at the location near the Much Birch School

15. RESOLVED: that HALC should be looking at the NALC consultation paper on Development Strategy and Business, as the parish council have no direct contact with NALC

16. Planning

16.1 RESOLVED: questionnaire /consultation deferred. **RESOLVED:** to call an extra Ordinary meeting to take place on 9th March at 6.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall

16.2 Deferred to extra ordinary meeting

17. Meetings

17.1 HALC training dates noted.

17.2 Report & hand out given by JJ on PACT Meeting

17.3 Next Parish Plan meeting noted as 25/03/2010 in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm

18. Finance

18.1 Current bank balance noted as £11283.63

18.2 Resolved to pay:

Clerks expenses (postage) £ 5.40

Clerks Annual Mileage £93.74

Clerks final ¼ admin fee for lengthsman scheme 2009/10 £21.83

Much Birch Community Hall (Parish Plan Meeting 25/03/2010) £9.00

Credit from Herefordshire Council ref SID hire for £1265.00 noted.

18.3 **RESOLVED:** to purchase NALC’s first edition of Standing Orders for Local Councils for £25.00

18.4 RESOLVED: to review risk assessment and clerk to update. Updated risk assessment to be approved at next meeting in April.

18.5 RESOLVED: Clerk to write to HALC chief executive regarding non audited accounting of HALC accounts for 2008/09 CEO no information on salary, expenses .No income & expenditure statement.

19. Correspondence

Herefordshire Council – Herefordshire Village Hall Energy Challenge

Energy Saving Trust - Green Communities

NSPCC- Help line promotion

Environ Ability – P3

Correspondence noted

16. Matters for next meeting (no discussion)

New noticeboards and possibility of a grant for one. Church donation, footpaths report

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

17. Next Meeting Thursday 1st April 2010@ 7.30pm Much Birch Community Hall

Signed.....

Dated.....