

**MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting Held on**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010**  
**In the Upper Room of Much Birch Community Hall**

**Present:** Chairman, Mr J Jones (JJ) Mrs A Cook (AC) Mr G Simms (GS)  
Mr D Davies (DD)

In attendance: Kath Greenow (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies, Ms V Short (VS) Mrs M Swift (MS) & Ward Cllr R Smith

2. Declarations of interest none

**3 RESOLVED: to respond to The Rural Areas Preferred Options Paper 2026 as follows:**

Taking Full account of the invaluable results form our Parish Plan, The Parish Council has formally **RESOLVED that:**

Policy RA.1, We would ask that the focus shouldn't be predominantly be for affordable housing, but should be a mix of open market and housing for local people who have a need to stay in the parish

Policy RA.S- We agree with this policy

Policy RA3 - We agree with the policy

Policy RA.4

"Open Countryside The parish council's view is that this is not the correct term as the rural areas are made up of small community villages and to this end feel there should be an additional different policy to accommodate small villages which are all too often not considered when a strategy such as this is developed.

The concern with the outline of this policy is that if you have no affordable housing need there will be no development in the villages. The concern is that with no development the small village communities will not be sustainable.

It is our understanding that the policy only acknowledges limited development which meets an agricultural, forestry or other farm diversification requirement and there is no policy to encourage other residential development in small villages. An example would be a family that has lived in the village for a number of years and has adult children who want to stay in the village and have their own home. The family plot may be sufficient for consideration of a new build dwelling but policy RA.4 would not permit this. Such restrictions would not allow the community aspect of the small village settlements to be sustained.

There should be provision made for this within the planning policy so as to allow village sustainability to continue and to encourage young people to stay within the area.

Policy RA.5 We agree with the policy

The Parish Council would also like to raise and point out that Parish Council's should be able to opt in or opt out of having a Settlement boundary. Much Birch has no settlement boundary and wants to continue with no settlement boundary.

**7. Next Parish Council Meeting Noted as Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 7.30pm**

Signed.....  
Dated.....