

**MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on**  
**Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in Much Birch Community Hall**

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

In attendance: CSO K Powell  
2 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence received from :**

Cllr R Smith  
Mrs K Greenow (Parish Clerk)

2. **Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items:** None

3. **RESOLVED:** Minutes of Meeting of Parish Council dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010 were agreed and signed with the following amendment:

Item 6 - 3<sup>rd</sup> line should read 'calming' and not 'claiming'

Minutes of Extraordinary Meetings dated 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010 were also agreed and signed. Oct

4. **Police Report:**

Crime had increased over the last few weeks including thefts of machinery, trailers, food from snack bar parked on the A49 and house burglary (arrest had been made). Continued parking problems at Much Birch School was to be discussed at the forthcoming PACT meeting.

AC referred to the parking of vehicles facing oncoming traffic at night on the main village road adjacent to Forge Lane and queried if this was legal. Reference was also made to parking of vehicles close to the road junction at this point restricting visibility. CSO KP would look into the problem.

5. **Ward Councillor's Report** No report available.

6. **Public Forum:**

Provision of an additional bus stop in Kings Thorn in the vicinity of the old post office was again raised. JJ advised that there was some difficulty in the positioning which had not yet been resolved. DD stated that there had previously been a stop sited near to the current application. Clerk would be requested to contact the bus company in this respect. The possibility of positioning the stop on the opposite side of the road should also be considered.

It was also asked whether an agenda had been received for the PACT meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> November as a representative from Herefordshire Council was due to attend to discuss the latest revision of the development of the old cattle market. Clerk would be requested to look into this.

7. **Clerk's Report:**

Clerk had been advised by Andrew Lee-Jones, AMEY, that the cost of erecting a permanent SID in Kings Thorn would be in the region of £6,500. DD requested Clerk to research other suppliers and contact other Parish Councils who had already installed one for advice.

8. **Highways Issues in the Parish for reporting to AMEY:**

Condition of the roads in Aconbury Close, Pages Pitch, village loop road from A49 (Hereford side) and section of Little Birch Road was highlighted. Clerk was requested to contact AMEY in this respect.

9. **Lengthsman:**

AC referred to the verge at the bottom end of Wrigglebrook Lane which was badly overgrown. Clerk would check to clarify who was responsible for attending to this.

JJ asked that any further work requiring attention should be advised directly to the Clerk.

10. **Further Hiring of SIDs**

Following discussion on future hiring and feasibility, the Clerk was requested to obtain the latest statistics relating to the recent hiring and also readings taken by the Council on the main loop road prior to the SIDs being hired.

11. **To Request Better Speed Enforcement on the A49:**

Email from the Highways Dept had advised that the report was still in draft form awaiting response from the road standards experts regarding departures from certain standards. In parallel with this, AMEY was looking at other measures being considered by the Value Management Dept. Initial indications were favourable and it was hoped that, subject to funds being available, work should start this financial year.

12. **Information suitable for inclusion in the Website and the Kings Thorn and Birches Newsletter:**

Clerk was asked to submit appropriate information in the usual manner.

It was noted that the Editor, Sarah Matthews, had tendered her resignation and would be finishing at the end of the year. Applications were being invited to take over the position.

13. **Planning:**

1. RESOLVED: 'Core Strategy - Shaping our Place 2010' document was agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. RESOLVED: Planning Applications granted by Herefordshire Council:  
Rangers Lodge (strict conditions had been applied)  
Rosslea.

3. Letter had been received from Parishioners living adjacent to the property being erected on the Cyprus Cottage site, querying whether it complied with the original planning approval. Clerk would be requested to arrange meeting with the Planning Enforcement Officer on site to consider the problems raised.

AC requested Clerk to investigate the feasibility of approved planning applications, together with conditions, to be included on the Parish Website, it would then be easier for parishioners to obtain any information required.

14. **Meetings:**

1. Date for PACT meeting (11<sup>th</sup> November) noted.
2. - HALC training dates noted - JJ to attend 'Money Money Money'.

15. **Finance:**

1. **Current Bank Balance** noted at £14,679.60.
2. **Clerk's Further Training:** It was agreed to pay contribution for travel and residential at £187.80 but Clerk was requested to endeavour to obtain tuition fees through other sources. Matter to be discussed further at next meeting.
3. **Budget and Precept for 2010:** Due to the increase in election fees next year, the budget would be discussed further at next meeting. It was agreed however that the precept should not be increased from the current year.
4. RESOLVED to pay: Clerk's salary, Glasdon UK and Much Birch Community Hall.
5. No further prices for Parish notice boards were to hand - Clerk and GS to obtain prices from other suppliers.
6. Prices to be obtained for possible purchase of grit bins.

16. **Correspondence:**

Various correspondence received noted including further letter from Mr J Spreckley regarding affordable housing at Minster Farm - this to be discussed later following further contact from the owners of Court Farm.

17. **Matters for discussion at next Meeting:**

1. Outcome of PACT Meeting.
2. Grit Bins
3. Speed Indicating Device
4. Donation to Kings Thorn and Birches Website - Councillors to ensure that the information provided was in line with the Council's Donation/Grants Policy.

18. **Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010, at 7.30pm at Much Birch Community Hall.**

A resolution was passed to exclude members of the public due to a confidential matter.

Signed..... Date.....