

**MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on**  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Mr John Jones (JJ), Chairman (Vice Chair) Mr D Davies Mrs A Cook (AC), (MS), Mr G Simms, (GS) Ms V Short, (VS)

In attendance: Kath Greenow (Parish Clerk) Cllr R Smith, C.S.O Fiona Witcher -West Mercia police 4 members of the public

**1. Apologies** – Mrs M Swift,

**2.** Declarations of interest declared on agenda. Alison Cooke personal interest on agenda item 14 - Herefordshire council – Budget 2011/12

**3. RESOLVED:** Minutes of Parish Council meeting 03/02/11 agreed & signed as a true record. Confidential minute 23 agreed & signed

3a Resignation of Cllr John Jones was noted by Council.

A vote of thanks proposed by Vice Chair DD and supported by Councillors was given for JJ's efforts and commitment as a Chairman and Cllr of the Parish Council over the last 3 1/2 years which was appreciated.

JJ responded – that he had enjoyed his time serving as a Cllr and Chairman of the parish council

**4.** Police report given by C.S.O Fiona Witcher crime in the area – 2 incidents reported over the last 2 months. Restructuring of police in the rural areas has been deferred until Sept 2011.

**5. Ward Councillors report**

Cllr Smith informed the Council that he had finally received the planning application regarding the proposed car park at Much Birch School.

Affordable Housing needs survey – concerns that Cllr Smith raised was that although the survey was not for Much Birch Parish the housing need that had been identified in the survey was to be placed in Kings Thorn, If a housing need is identified in a housing needs survey then the housing identified should be in the parish where the needs was identified and not another parish

Unauthorised traveller site on the boundary of Much Birch Parish and Llandiabo.

Cllr Smith has raised this with planning enforcement officer at Herefordshire Council.

**6. Public forum.**

Parishioners raised concerns regarding the change of where the bus stops at The Thorn near Corner House.

Clerk was asked to contact Stage Coach Gloucester and the resident of Corner House regarding the bus having to stop in a dangerous place rather than the usual stopping point

**7. Clerks update on action items**

Amey have sited the 2 grit bins requested - Gilston and Pages Pitch.

Email has been sent to inspector R. Davies West Mercia Police re: TRO support at Much Birch School

**8. RESOLVED:** Clerk's notification of leaving on 31/03/2011 noted

**RESOLVED:** to advertise vacancy on website, in Parish newsletter .Brief job description to be put together.

**9. RESOLVED:** that synopsis of the Parish Council meeting, advertise the vacancy of Parish Clerk

**10. Draft Affordable Housing needs survey – of Llanwarne & Llandiabo**

**RESOLVED:** Clerk asked to write to Hayley Crane -Housing development officer Herefordshire Council to highlight the Parish Council's concerns regarding the complete absence of any consultation or information on the housing needs survey, Its concerns over the contention that housing needs identified else where are to be met within Much Birch Parish and its profound objection to the failure of Herefordshire Council to facilitate limited housing development where local people actually wish to live.

**11. Planning**

11.1 Application for comment:

Court Farm Much Birch Hereford

Description: variation of condition 13 of planning application DCSW2009/0091/F to allow 4 existing poultry units to be retained for storage

Council Comment; Application Supported

**11.2 Planning application granted by Herefordshire Council**

DMS/103162/F- The Granary Minster Farm Much Birch Hereford

Proposed variation of condition 9 of approved planning permission DCSW2005/3085/F- conversion of and alterations to a group of period barns to create two residential dwellings

**Planning applications Refused by Herefordshire Council.**

DWS/101994/FH Firethorn Much Birch Hereford

Application to regularise works to include extensions to lounge and bedroom (including wardrobe) and conservatory to bungalow. Regularisation of position of garage and the conservatory to the side of the garage

**Planning Conditions regarding:**

Cyprus cottage Wrigglebrook Kings Thorn Hereford

Construction of dwelling served by sewage treatment plant

Herefordshire Council write

Conditions 6, 7, 9 & 10 are acceptable to Herefordshire Council Planning .

**RESOLVED:** that the Parish Council still have concerns regarding the boundary of the property being altered.

The original wall has been removed and the curtilage of the property has been illegally extended onto the roadside verge .The road sign that was in place on the roadside has now become part of the curtilage of Cyprus Cottage.

**12. RESOLVED:** to note training dates from HALC

**13. Finance**

13.1 **RESOLVED:** grants & donation policy to be sent to Much Birch Parish Church with regard to their request for a donation towards Much Birch Churchyard maintenance and War memorial clock.

13.2 **RESOLVED:** consideration of requesting poll cards for the parish election in May be deferred until the extra ordinary meeting required due to a planning application coming to the Parish Council for consideration

13.3 Current bank balance noted as at 1<sup>st</sup> March £12210.63

13.4 **RESOLVED:** to pay

Clerks expenses £2.75

Lengthsman M Dyer invoice £152.00

Clerks administration fee for lengthsman scheme 2010/11 £87.29

Amey invoice for 2 grit bins in parish £115.00

A4 office Products ltd shortfall of invoice payment £5.94

A.J Lowther & Son Ltd £420.00 (P3 work)

#### **14. Correspondence**

Herefordshire Council – 2011/12 Council Budget

14.1 Planning application process

**14.1 RESOLVED:** that the Parish Council find that the questionnaire is unacceptable and the clerk was instructed to write to Herefordshire Planning stating that they felt Herefordshire Council had a lack of understanding as to how parish council's work regarding procedures set in place for correctly commenting on received planning application for comment, That Parish Council's have not the available finances to purchase expensive IT equipment and that the proposed econsultation process with further reduce the influence of Parish Council the management of planning applications and reduce the impact of planning application comments.

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

None raised

**22. Next Meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011 @ 7.30pm Much Birch Community Hall**

Signed.....

Dated.....