

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch
Community Hall on Thursday December 1st 2011

No. MBPC/MR/oo3

Councillors Present:

Cllr. Dave Davies (Chair)
Cllr. Alison Cook (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Andrew Crum
Cllr. Glen Sims
Cllr. Mike Smith
Cllr. Stephen Turner

Clerk: Mo Ross

Also present: Ward Councillor Mr. Russell B. Hamilton and 3 further members of the public.

The Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was formally opened by the Chairman

1.0 Apologies

Apologies received from CSO Witcher and Mr. Dick Brimacombe

2.0 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Glen Sims declared a prejudicial interest on item 18.1 of the Agenda, District Valuer's Report on Parish Land.

3.0 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting MBPC/MR002 held on 3rd November 2011 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 Reports

Ward Councillor Russell Hamilton gave the following report:-

The LDF Consultation closed on 28th November. Over 2000 responses have been submitted and will now be analysed. The outcome of which will inform the full Council when it takes a decision on the way forward next summer.

Youth services are being reviewed with the aim of targeting the most vulnerable.

Community Libraries being developed at Orcop, and Garway. Important if interested to let the Local Councillor (me) know and to put parish names forward soon. County library service is being responsive, will supply books and shelving if needed.

Bus services, Garway Bus 412, an example of how it is hoped to support rural services by linking them to tourism with local bus routes that were previously heavily subsidised. It is hope to not only make bus services more viable and hopefully self sufficient but to encourage those who use them to support local businesses.

A review of brown and white signs is being carried out by one of the Council's Task & Finish Groups. It is hoped that the emergent policy will be more flexible and to help to support local businesses.

There is an ongoing review by one of the Council's Task & Finish Groups who are looking at the planning process.

The Ward Councillor is working with Chamber of Commerce, who are willing to put on events to help people, and support businesses, hope of some (free) seminars. Anyone who is interested should let him know.

Public Participation:

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow for participation by members of the public.

A member of the public raised two issues, the importance of the Parish Boundary Review, and Beacons for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. Another member of the public reported that works required to parish footpath MB24 had now been carried out.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

5.0 Update on action items

The Clerk gave an update on all action items to date.

Cllr. Mike Smith gave an update on the condition and number of sandbags held on behalf of the Parish at Court Farm, 30 bags in total, all in reasonable condition.

6.0 Financial Report

The Financial report was noted and it was **Unanimously Resolved** to approve all payments listed.

7.0 Equipment

It was **Unanimously Resolved** to approve the purchase of filing cabinets subject to an upper limit of £ 150 excluding v.a.t.

8.0 Donations

Much Birch Parochial Church Council's request re: Memorial Clock was discussed.

The Clerk's risk assessment as per the Parish Council's Donations Policy was noted.

It was decided that this matter should have further consideration and be brought back as an agenda item for the next Ordinary Meeting on Thursday 2nd February. **Action Point: Cllr. Turner** to research.

9.0 Self-Help Gritting Scheme

9.1 An update on the scheme was noted and discussed.

9.2 It was **Unanimously Resolved** to purchase a towable grit-spreading machine.

9.3 It was **Unanimously Resolved** to delegate powers to the Chairman and Vice- Chairman to purchase a towable grit-spreading machine from a suitable retailer, up to the value of £ 2,000 excluding v.a.t.

9.4 It was **Unanimously Resolved** to form a working group to progress the project. 5 members of the Parish Council volunteered, the Chairman and Vice- Chairman, and councillors, Crum, Sims and Turner.

9.5 It was **Unanimously Resolved** to delegate powers to the working group to finalise gritting routes, draw up contractor specification, to seek quotes from interested parties, to appoint a contractor, and instruct him/her when to commence work.

10.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

10.1 Hollybush Lane was discussed. One end of the Lane from The Forge to Bigglestone has been resurfaced. The top half of the lane is badly damaged and needs re-surfacing particularly as a lady on a mobility scooter is struggling as she attempts to use the road. **Action Point: Clerk** to contact AMEY in order to find out if this work is in the system.

10.2 It was **Agreed** that a thank you letter be sent to the Chairman of Herefordshire Ramblers

10.3 It was **Agreed** that a thank you letter be sent to those parishioners who had helped the Parish Council by cutting their hedges on The Thorn.

10.4 It was **Resolved** that the Lengthsman be asked to clear and take away any debris from hedge-cutting on Barrack Hill, and to clean out the 'strikes' along the verges. **Action Point: Clerk** to instruct Lengthsman.

11.0 Planning Matters

No matters to consider.

12.0 Correspondence

The correspondence sheet was noted. The Community Technology grant was discussed.

Action Item: Clerk to research further before next Ordinary Meeting.

- 13.0 Bonfires**
The information sheet on bonfires was noted.
- 14.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website**
It was decided to place a notice in the newsletter about bonfires. *Action Item: Clerk* to submit notice to newsletter.
- 15.0 Extra - Ordinary Meetings**
It was decided to set aside both Wednesday 14th December and Wednesday 11th January for an Extra- Ordinary Meeting should the need arise.
- 16.0 Matters to be raised on the Agenda at the next meeting**
Parishioner's request for a replacement salt/grit bin at the top of Tump Lane adjacent to Old Rectory Gardens.
Poor's Acre Report.
Memorial Clock.
- 17.0 Confirmation of date of next Ordinary Meeting**
Date confirmed as Thursday 2nd February 2012.

A motion was passed to exclude the press and members of the public due to the confidential and legal nature of the matters to be discussed.
- 18.0 Employment Matters**
It was **Resolved** that the Clerk's contract be signed. *Action Point: Cllr. Alison Cook* to oversee signature by Chairman and Clerk.

Cllr. Glen Sims left the meeting as he had declared a prejudicial interest on item 18.1
- 18.1 Confidential District Valuer's Report on 2 plots of Parish Land.**
The Clerk re-iterated the importance of confidentiality in this matter as Cllr. Sims would be considered as having a special interest in the information contained in the District Valuer's report. The report was duly noted. No further action required at this time.

Meeting Closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed as a true record Councillor David L. Davies
(Chairman)

Date: 2nd February 2012