

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch  
Community Hall on Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012

No. MBPC/MR/005

## Councillors Present:

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

**Clerk:** Mo Ross

**Also present:** Ward Councillor Mr. Russell B. Hamilton and 5 further members of the public.

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

## 1.0 Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr. Andrew Crum who is on holiday.

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Mike Smith on item 11.2.ii  
Cllr. David Davies on item 13.0

## 3.0 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting MBPC/MR003 held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting MBPC/MR004 held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**At this point the Chairman proposed to bring forward agenda item 11.2.ii.**

It was **Resolved** to close the meeting to allow members of the public to speak on the matter. Public participation time was extended beyond the normal 10 minutes for this purpose.

**The meeting was re-opened by the Chairman.**

**11.2.ii** It was **Resolved** by majority vote, not to support planning application no. S113576/F.

## 4.0 Reports

Ward Councillor Russell Hamilton gave the following report:-

Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Herefordshire's Diamond Day celebration on 11<sup>th</sup> July to include a major event at King George V Playing Fields. The aim is to provide a picture of all that is best in our communities.

Herefordshire Council Budget 2012/13. Cabinet met on 19<sup>th</sup> January and agreed proposals to be put to full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. The proposals are based on a balanced budget and included a recommendation to freeze Council Tax for 2012/13 at 2011/12 levels.

The Capital programme in the budget is targeted at regeneration, priorities focusing on; Broadband which will require the Council to provide match funding of £ 6,000,000. Hereford Futures, planning permission has been granted for a relief road as part of the overall package of infrastructure to facilitate and enable growth. Cost of overall scheme £ 27 million, it should be noted that overall funding needed will be confirmed in 2012 and appropriate contributions will be sought from developers and other funding sources.

The provision of replacement archives to enable Herefordshire to continue to hold its own County records. Scheme would bring together modern records provision with the archive facility.

Council continues to be affected by the reducing level of central government funding and demographic challenges that were highlighted during the Local Development Framework presentations. The Council has had to find over £10,000,000 in savings in 2011/12 and directorates will again have to find savings of over £ 9,000,000 in the year ahead.

Neighbourhood Planning explained, as not compulsory or a replacement for Parish Plans, but giving the community an opportunity to influence where they live. Parishes wishing to develop plans will need to identify the resources needed to support the process. Cllr.Hamilton is keen to hear from Parish Councils who are interested.

Warm Homes Healthy People Fund – Get Warm Stay Warm Herefordshire, an important initiative, the Private Sector Housing team in partnership with 10 voluntary and community groups has secured funding of £ 187,000 to help address the problems experienced by older people and those with underlying health problems in keeping warm. Interventions include Cold Weather Packs, thermal hats, gloves, slippers; extra heaters, draught excluders and extra grab rails. This is an additional FREE service. Anyone needing help should phone the Council's Get Warm Stay Warmer administrator 01432 – 260235, the project will end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

#### 5.0 Update on action items

The Clerk's written update on all action items to date was received.

#### 6.0 Financial Report

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

#### 7.0 Donations

Cllr. Stephen Turner read his research report to the Parish Council. The report included the history of the clock, and its maintenance, the costs of full refurbishment in 2004, and of continued annual maintenance. The report also included a projection of future maintenance costs over a 20 year period. It was decided that Cllr. Turner will provide a copy of his report to the Clerk. **Action Point: Clerk** to seek further advice from a clerk at another parish that has recently decided on a similar matter.

#### 8.0 Poor's Acre

Mr. Dick Brimacombe's written report was received. **Action Point: Chairman** to ascertain if Mr. Brimacombe is happy to continue in his role as Trustee, or not.

#### 9.0 Community Technology Grant

It was recognised that as Planning Matters become more digitalised, issues of the need for IT will be raised. Due to the complexity of the scheme, and the need to jointly own and use the equipment with other community groups it was **Resolved** not to apply for this grant.

#### 10.0 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons

It was **Resolved** not to join this scheme. The Chairman of Little Birch Parish Council, Mr. Mike Morley extended an invitation to Parish Councillors to consider participation in the project to build a beacon that is currently being undertaken by members of Little Birch Village Hall Committee. **Action Point: Cllr. Glen Sims** volunteered to discuss this with Alison Clarke of said committee.

#### 11.0 Planning Matters

The Planning Sheet was noted and two further applications considered.

- i. Treberva, Much Birch, Hereford HR2 8HU  
Application no. DMS/113524/F  
OS 350641, 229970  
Proposed conversion of stone barn and adjoining outbuildings to residential use.

It was **Resolved** that there were **no objections** to this application.

New application:

Highland Cottage, Parish Lane, Much Birch, HR2 8AT

Application no. S120186/FH

OS 350471, 232141

Erection of detached double garage.

It was **Resolved** that there were **no objections** to this application.

## 12.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

Cllr. Cook requested that a follow-up query be made about the missing 30mph sign at the top of The Thorn. **Action Point: Clerk** to contact AMEY.

Cllr. Stephen Turner asked that thanks be recorded in the minutes to Ward Councillor Russell Hamilton for ensuring that re-surfacing works to the top end of Hollybush Lane will now be carried out as part of the current programme of works.

**At this point in the meeting the Chairman left the meeting as he had declared an interest on the next agenda item. The Chair was taken by Vice-Chair Cllr. Alison Cook.**

## 13.0 Self-Help Gritting Scheme

The following update was given by the Clerk:

Members of the Self-Help Gritting Scheme Working Party met with Chairman Mike Morley and Cllr. John Dillon of Little Birch Parish Council on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

Using delegated powers, the following aspects of the Scheme were agreed for the 2011/12 Winter Season.

Much Birch Parish Council (MBPC) to provide a suitable gritting machine for towing behind a four wheel drive vehicle.

MBPC to arrange safe storage of the same, and to carry out maintenance to the machine.

MBPC to ensure that the machine is insured whilst in storage.

It was agreed that the routes to be gritted are:

From just above the Methodist Chapel, all the way down Barrack Hill and up The Thorn. From Barrack Hill, past Castle Nibole, The Castle Inn, down Pendant Pitch, and along Newtown Road, New Road, past Sunnybank, and around into Mesne Lane, passing Crossways; then along Little Birch Road to its junction with Barrack Hill. From Crossways along Wrigglebrook Pitch following the road up to the junction with the A49 opposite Much Birch Church.

A contractor will be sought and administered by Little Birch Parish Council (LBPC)

The cost of gritting will be shared by the two Parish Councils.

This agreement will be for this Winter Season only, and will need to be re-considered assuming that Herefordshire Council and AMEY's scheme is still available; and that the Parish Councils decide to co-operate again for the Winter Season 2012/13.

LBPC will submit an article of explanation to parishioners for inclusion in the February edition of the King's Thorn, The Birches, and Aconbury Newsletter.

It was **Resolved** that this was an accurate summary of what was agreed at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

Cllr. Cook asked that thanks be recorded in the minutes to the Clerk of Much Birch Parish Council and the Chairman of Little Birch Parish Council for all their hard work on this project to date.

## 14.0 Standing Orders

A copy of the revised Standing Orders provided by HALC was given to each Councillor.

## 15.0 Correspondence

The Correspondence sheet was noted.

The Clerk drew attention to a letter from the Parish Council's solicitors Humfry and Symonds regarding the sale of the strip of parish land at Rosebank. The documentation is now ready for signing at the solicitors' offices in Hereford. On advice from the Clerk, **Cllr. Sims left the meeting as he has a prejudicial interest in this matter.** It was **Resolved** that the Clerk should attend the solicitors' offices and sign the documentation on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Sims returned to the meeting.

**16.0 Parishes Newsletter and Much Birch Website**

It was **Resolved** that the webmaster be asked to place the Poor's Acre report on the Community Website. It was **Resolved** that the Clerk place an update on the gritting scheme in the newsletter. It was **Resolved** that the Clerk place a summary of the Parish Council meeting in the newsletter.

**17.0 Matters to be raised on the Agenda of the next meeting**

Standing Orders

Telephone/Internet Banking

Memorial Clock

Feedback from Cllr. Glen Sims re: Little Birch Village Hall Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacon.

**18.0 Confirmation of date of next Ordinary Meeting**

Date confirmed as Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

Meeting Closed at 9.28 p.m.

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

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012