

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

No. MBPC/MR/006

## Councillors Present:

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

Clerk: Mo Ross

Also present: CSO Kate Middleton and 3 other members of the public.

## Public Participation Time

A parishioner asked if there had been any further developments regarding the bus stop opposite King's Thorn Common. The Parish Council had no further information at this time. The Chairman asked the Clerk if she would contact HFDC Public Transport Section for an update. **Action Item:** Clerk to contact the officer dealing with this matter.

The Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was formally opened by the Chairman at 7.36p.m.

### 1.0 Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr. Mike Smith who is unwell, and from Ward Councillor Russell Hamilton.

### 2.0 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Glen Sims on item 9.1.i.

### 3.0 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting MBPC/MR005 held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

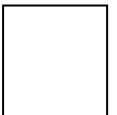
### 4.0 Reports

CSO Kate Middleton informed the Parish Council that she had nothing to add to the electronic briefing already sent out. She asked if there were any matters that the Parish Council knew of that the Police should be aware of. A query was raised about parking near the junction of The Thorn and C1263. CSO Hamilton will check with CSO Fiona Witcher to see if there is any further information.

### 5.0 Update on action items

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

Cllr. Glen Sims gave an update on his meeting with the members of Little Birch Village Hall Committee involved with The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Parish Councillors were given the minutes of the meeting. Cllr. Sims will build the Beacon and it will be registered by the Chairman of Little Birch Parish Council, Cllr. Mike Morley. Cllr. Sims will organise the collection of suitable materials for burning. Chairman Dave Davies volunteered to help Cllr. Sims.



**6.0 Financial Report**

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

Cllr. Alison Cook gave her report regarding internet and telephone banking. It was **Unanimously Resolved** that Cllr. Cook set up internet and telephone banking facilities on behalf of Much Birch Parish Council.

**7.0 Donations**

The Clerk reported back to the Parish Council on the information given her by the Clerk in Worcestershire whose Council gives financial support for the Memorial Clock in its Parish Church. Councillors were reminded of the Risk Assessment given to them previously, and the Council's Donations Policy. It was **Unanimously Resolved** that a review of the Donations Policy be carried out, and this should be an Agenda item for the next Ordinary Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April. **Action Item Clerk** to send an electronic copy of the Donations Policy to each Councillor.

**8.0 Standing Orders**

It was **Resolved** that a Working Group be formed to customise the revised Standing Orders for use by Much Birch Parish Council. Cllr. Stephen Turner and Chairman Dave Davies volunteered to be members of the group.

**9.0 Planning**

9.1 The following applications were considered:

i. **Whitacre, Wormelow, Herefordshire, Hr2 8EJ.**

**Description:** Rear two storey extension.

**Application No:** S 120357/F

**Grid Ref:** OS 349243, 230088

**Application type:** Full Householder

It was **Unanimously Resolved** to support this application.

ii. **Chelston Grange**

**Description:** Re-pollard 1 x Willow tree near gateway. Crown reduce 1 x American Oak to clear property at Chelston Grange.

**Application no.** DMS/120592/J

**Application type:** Works to trees covered by TPO

It was **Unanimously Resolved** to support this application.

9.2 A copy of the suggested Policy document from HALC regarding dealing with Planning Applications between Parish Council Meetings had been received by each Parish Councillor. Initial discussion raised issues of timing during the processing of applications, and what would be regarded as a contentious. It was decided to raise this item on the Agenda of the next Parish Council Meeting.

**10.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

10.1 The following defects are to be reported to AMEY:

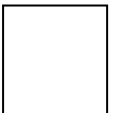
A 'ditch' has been created by a lorry going off the tarmac opposite The Kennels on the B4348. A large deep pothole on Ticklewithy Pitch.

10.2 It was noted that the Lengthsman's Grant for 2011/12 is now fully spent.

A parishioner has request some works to be added to the Lengthsman's Schedule.

**Action Point: Cllr. Crum** will visit the parishioner who is known to him, and make a list of her suggestions to bring back to the Parish Council.

10.3 It was noted that all of the Parish Footpaths have been walked and surveyed by



Herefordshire Ramblers, and that electronic copies of those surveys have been sent to the Clerk. The Chairman expressed his thanks to The Ramblers. It was **Unanimously Resolved** to offer The Ramblers a full page ad in the April edition of King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury newsletter; to be paid for by the Parish Council. |**Action Point:** Clerk to contact The Ramblers. Clerk to speak with John Bryant about ad being placed at cost price.

**11.0 Self-Help Winter Gritting Scheme**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had distributed information sheets on higher-end specification towed gritting machines. It was decided that before considering the possible purchase of such a machine, the Parish Council ask AMEY if the scheme is to continue over the next 5 years.

**Action Point:** Clerk to make this enquiry and report back to the Parish Council.

It was also decided that a further meeting should take place between the Working Groups of both Parish Councils. **Action Point: Chairman Cllr. Davies** to discuss this with Little Birch Chairman. It was decided that the Scheme be a 'rolling' Agenda item.

**12.0 Correspondence**

The Correspondence sheet was noted.

**13.0 Parishes Newsletter and Much Birch Website**

Items to be included in the Newsletter are:

The Ramblers ad. A précis report of the Parish Council Meeting. Information about the Queens Jubilee Beacon, and the collecting of dry firewood for it.

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

To review the Donations Policy.

Feedback from Cllr. Crum re: Parishioner's requests for Lengthsman's Schedule.

Vacancy for Governor at Much Birch School.

**15.0 Confirmation of date of next Ordinary Meeting.**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 7.30p.m. at Much Birch Community Hall.

**A resolution was passed to exclude members of the press and public due to the confidential nature of the matters about to be discussed.**

**16.0 Employment matters**

The resignation of the Clerk was noted and accepted. The Clerk will continue in post until 31<sup>st</sup> March. **Action Point: Clerk** to contact HALC with regard to temporary Clerk cover.

**The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.27p.m.**

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

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012

