

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 10th May 2012

Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Vice-chairman)
Cllr. Andrew Crum
Cllr. Glen Sims
Cllr. Stephen Turner

In attendance:

Acting Clerk Melanie Preedy
1 Member of the public
CSO Witcher
Ward member Councillor Hamilton

Public Participation Time – nothing raised

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman at 7.30pm

1.0 Election of Chairman

Cllr Dave Davies was proposed, seconded and duly elected as Chairman for the year 2012/13

(in his absence Cllr Cook chaired the meeting)

2.0 Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Alison Cook was proposed, seconded and was duly elected as Vice-chairman for the year 2012/13.

3.0 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Davies and Smith

4.0 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Sims declared a prejudicial interest on item 12.0.

5.0 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th April 2012 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, with the amendment of the word 'Dillons Hill' to 'Pitch' on page 6.

6.0 Reports

CSO Witcher provided a written Annual Report and circulated latest crime figures. Details of a possible tarmacking scam were highlighted. *CSO Witcher was thanked and left the meeting.*

Cllr. Hamilton provided highlights from his most recent ward report, including the current root and branch review within Herefordshire Council to make efficiency savings, the re-development of the Old Market site, Neighbourhood Planning workshops and forthcoming surgery dates. *Cllr Hamilton was thanked and left the meeting.*

7.0 Working Groups

Action: Councillors were appointed to the following working groups:

- Planning working group – all members of the Parish Council
- Finance – Cllrs Davies, Turner and Cook
- Employment – Cllrs Davies, Turner and Cook
- Winter Gritting – Cllrs Crum, Sims, Davies and Turner.

8.0 Representatives to outside bodies

Action: Cllr Turner was appointed to the Much Birch VC School Governing body.

9.0 Clerks report

The Clerks report on action items was noted.

10.0 Financial Report

10.1 The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th April HSBC Community Account	£ 10,368.49
@ 13 th April HSBC Community Projects Account	£9,408.00
@ 13 th April HSBC Business Money Manager	£ Nil

10.2 The following Receipts were noted:

Lengthsman final quarter	£218.25
Precept (1 st payment)	£3000.00

10.3 The following payments were approved:

Much Birch Community Hall, hire of hall (one year)	£130.00
Little Birch Village Hall, newsletter ad	£8.25
M Dyer, lengthsman duties	£161.50

10.4 Action: The lengthsman rate per hour was increased to £11.00

10.5 Action: The insurance quote from Came and Company for £283.40 was accepted

10.6 Action: It was agreed to provide a grant of £100 to Much Birch PCC as a contribution towards the grass cutting. The Parish Council would also provide a grant to Much Birch PCC of up to £175 towards the maintenance of the War Memorial Clock, following receipts evidencing work completed.

11.0 Standing Orders

Action: The Clerk would highlight areas within the Model Standing Orders which needed consideration and forward to Cllr. Turner.

12.0 Planning Matters

Action: Comments were put forward in respect of the following Planning Applications received:

- Field off the B4348, North of Deacons Mill, Llanwarne- Proposed steel framed building to house vintage tractors – *The Parish Council object to the application as the scale of the proposed building is disproportionate to the use cited. Concerns were also raised over potential future use.*
- New Mills Farm, Hoarwithy, Herefordshire – Replace existing windows with narrow glazing bar casement windows, painted, repair timber frame, repair/replace brick panels – *The Parish Council would like to support the application.*
- Minister Farmhouse, Wrigglebrook Lane, Much Birch – Application for a lawful development certificate for an existing use – subdivision of a farmhouse into 2 no dwellings – *no further comments were raised.*
(Cllr Sims left the room for the following item)
- Rosebank, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, HR2 8AZ – Garage and stores – *The Parish Council would support the application.*

13.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

- 13.1 **Action:** The issue raised by the resident regarding the ditch on the C1263 would be reported to Amey. Previously reported defects would be chased up by the Clerk.
- 13.2 **Action:** The lengthsman was asked to safely remove the Japanese knot weed from Parish Lane.

14.0 Self-help winter gritting

No update.

15.0 Consultations

The Parish Council put forward the following comments in respect of the Local Government ward boundary review:

‘The Parish Council has some concerns over the work load of ward members, who often already represent many Parish Councils. Ward members may find it difficult to actively represent the views of their constituents as well as working closely with Parish Councils if the ward boundaries become too large. Fair representation may be particularly apparent in rural areas where a diverse range of constituent problems arise.’

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward comments.

16.0 Correspondence

The correspondence sheet was noted.

17.0 Parishes’ Newsletter and Much Birch Website

17.1 Action: The Clerk to provide a précis of the meeting to the newsletter by the 18th May. The Clerk to clarify whether any interest had been shown in the Footpath Officer vacancy.

17.2 The website content had been archived by the webmaster.

18.0 Matters for next meeting

- Selfhelp gritting
- Footpath Officer
- New Clerk appointment
- Standing Orders

19.0 Next meeting

Next meeting – 7th June 2012.

The next item was discussed within a closed session

20.0 Clerk vacancy

Applications for the vacancy were discussed. Two applicants would be interviewed. The Clerk was asked to write to the two unsuccessful applicants. The interview panel would be comprised of all the parish councillors that could make the 15th May 2012.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date