

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5th July 2012

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk Alison Wright
2 Members of the public

Public Participation Time – nothing raised

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman at 7.30pm

1.0 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Andrew Crum, CSO Witcher and Cllr. R. Hamilton not present.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

None were declared. A resignation letter was presented by Cllr. Simms. This was accepted and grateful thanks were extended to him, by the Parish Council, for all of his contributions to the work of the Council over a number of years. There was a discussion on the subject of the Localism Act 2011 and the new Declarations of Pecuniary Interest Forms. These had been circulated requesting details of Councillors interests, in the Parish, and those of their spouse or partner. After discussion, it was resolved that the Clerk would write to the Herefordshire Council, in regard to the Declaration of Interest forms, as there were a number of concerns around the issue. At this point Cllr. Mike Smith said that he would most likely be resigning his position as Councillor.

3.0 Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th June 2012 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 Reports

CSO Witcher from West Mercia Police was not present. The Clerk read out details from the Police Crime Update Bulletin dated 1st July 2012.
Cllr. Hamilton was not present.

5.0 Clerks report

The Clerks report on action items was noted.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1 The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th June HSBC Community Account	£ 12,713.12
@ 13 th June HSBC Community Projects Account	£9,408.00

6.2 The following payments were approved:

Clerk's salary	£246.22	
Expenses (stationery £21.83, mileage £12.60)	£34.43	
Tax due on salary		£61.40

7.0 Annual Return

The requirements to finalise and complete the Annual Return had been carried out by the new Clerk and everything had been photocopied, packed and sent, with proof of posting, to Mazars, the external auditors.

8.0 Planning Matters

The following decisions were noted:

- Wormelow Cricket Club Licensing Application. APPROVED.
- Wykeham, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HU proposed first floor extension.
- Application No. S121567/FH, Grid Ref: OS351022, 230121 and Application type : Full Householder. APPROVED.

Responses noting the decisions would be returned to the relevant departments.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

9.1) Wrigglebrook Lane U71608 just past junction with Pages Pitch U71609, Potholes re-occurring

9.2) Potholes in Wrigglebrook Lane outside properties Buddleia, Orchard House and Rosslyn.

9.3) Multiple potholes at Ticklewithy Pitch U71606 at the top of the Pitch at the junction with Little Birch Road 271607.

9.4) Three big potholes at Athelston U71607 The Pitch

9.5) Ticklewithy Pitch past Trewerne U71606 big pothole at brow of Ticklewithy Pitch

9.6) Pages Pitch U71609 Whole surface has broken up

9.7) Little Birch Road, Barrack Hill area broken up 50m down on the left are "horrendous" pot holes and a trench U71603

9.8) Crash Barrier before Little Birch Road and outside Seathwaite has been pushed over.

9.9) Poor visibility due to overgrowth of hedges at the top of The Thorn U71609.

9.10) Ticklewithy Pitch up from Wrigglebrook Lane narrowed by hedges right up to the A49.

All of the above issues would be reported to Amey.

10.0 Self-help winter gritting

The Clerk had contacted the Clerk at Little Birch and two dates had been put forward for the two councils to meet and discuss the way forward for a joint venture on the gritting scheme initiative. It was agreed that the group should meet on Thursday 12th July at Little Birch Hall, at 7.30pm, to discuss how they wished to progress the scheme. The Clerk would advise the Little Birch Clerk re the preferred date for the meeting and would attend the meeting to take notes.

11.0 Correspondence

- 11.1 Thank you letter for grant received from Much Birch Parish Church
- 11.2 May update from Cllr Russell Hamilton
- 11.3 Further details had been received from Jane Jones in regard to the Pride of Herefordshire Awards and this was being progressed by Cllr. Turner.
- 11.4 More information from HALC about the Localism Act 2011 Declaration of Interest forms
- 11.5 NALC Legal Topic Notes on Code of Conduct
- 11.6 Licensing application for Wormelow Cricket Club
- 11.7 Sandbag information
- 11.8 Destination Hereford, Park & Share, Park & Cycle
- 11.9 Community technology grant
- 11.10 On the Ball Training for Clerks and Chairs 3/07/12 (AW and AC booked)
- 11.11 Training schedule update

12.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website

12.1 Action: The Clerk to provide a précis of the meeting to be published in the newsletter by the 18th September. There would be no Newsletter in August.

13.0 Finance Working Group with Clerk

This to be arranged with Cllr's Davies, Cook and Turner

14.0 Matters for next meeting

- Self-help gritting
- Footpath Officer update on vacancy
- New Standard Regime under Localism Act 2011 (Declarations & Code)
- Standing Orders
- Pride of Herefordshire Award recommendation
- Election of new Councillors

15.0 Next meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 6th September 2012 at 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall. At this point Cllr. Mike Smith verbally tendered his resignation from his position as Councillor. The Chair asked him to confirm his decision, in writing, to the Clerk. Thanks were recorded to Mike for his contribution to the Council.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date