

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 1st November 2012

Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Acting -Chairman)
Cllr. Andrew Crum
Cllr. Stephen Turner
Cllr. Terry Cook
Cllr. Jon Norris

In attendance:

Parish Clerk Alison Wright
CSO Fiona Witcher
8 Members of the public

Public Participation Time –

There were a number of local residents present with a concern over rumours of a planning application to build a number of affordable homes in the Village. If anything were to be forthcoming then a meeting would be called to discuss. It was reported that the red car, which had been parked near the bus stop in Little Dewchurch, was no longer there.

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman at 7.30pm

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies apart from Cllr. Hamilton

2.0 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3.0 Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th October 2012 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 Reports

West Mercia Police CSO Witcher gave an update on the local crime trends and also information about mud on roads and there is a duty of care on farmers to clear the mess off the roads. There was some discussion over allegations of speeding in Tump Lane and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to CSO Witcher in this regard.

Cllr Hamilton Absent

5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items

The information provided on the update sheet was noted.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1 The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Oct HSBC Community Account	£ 14,240.53
@ 13 th Oct HSBC Community Projects Account	£9,408.00

6.2 The following payments were approved:

Clerk's salary	£199.13
Expenses (cartridge £12.00, mileage £15.30)	£27.30
Tax due on salary	£49.60
Mr T Cook (Website domain renewal)	£43.17

The first three payments were proposed and seconded by Cllr A Cook and Cllr S Turner and the final item by Cllr A Crum and Cllr S Turner.

7.0 Bank Signatories

Cllrs Crum and Turner were in the process of being set up as signatories.

8.0 Planning Matters

No new applications had been received but updates from the County Council re local area planning were being circulated by e mail.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

Clerk to chase up footpath works as previously advised to M Dyer (Lengthsman)
The locality maps as requested had been supplied by Amey and a set provided to Cllr Crum for reference.
MB 13 was advised to be blocked – existing path at Danesmere from Eden Lane to Warren Lane

10.0 Self-help winter gritting

Cllr Turner apologised to Chairman Morley, of Little Birch Parish Council, that the meeting re the gritting had not yet taken place. It had been said that a local farmer was happy to keep Barrack Hill open. Clarification was given that Amey would grit the main roads and the local scheme would take care of the minor roads. There were still the issues of where to store the machine and also tendering for a contractor. A meeting would be held, in the forthcoming week, to discuss the points outstanding.

11.0 Correspondence

The following had been received.

- 11.1 An E mail re grit bin for outside Lynwood, Kingsthorpe. This would be ordered and had previously been minuted as approved during the meeting of 5th April 2012 (item 12.4).
- 11.2 Parish Matters Newsletter from Came & Co. Parish Council insurers
- 11.3 HALC Information on numerous issues including dispensation from declarations of interest re councillors when setting the precept and advice on online banking protocols.

12.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website

12.1 The Clerk would supply a précis for the Parish Newsletter by the 18th November and also information for inclusion in the Hereford Times Village News section.

12.2 The Twitter account would be created and trialled. Tweets could provide a mode of instant information update. The service would be monitored and reported back.

13.0 Standing Orders

The draft Standing Orders were reviewed and some further amendments suggested. The index would also be updated to reflect the alterations in the body of the paper. It was stated that the public participation section of the meeting should be confined to 10 minutes, subject to the Chairman's discretion, and that extraordinary meetings could be called to discuss substantive issues, for example a large planning application. Any councillor could request that an extraordinary meeting be held. Thanks were extended to Cllr A Cook for all of her work on the Standing Orders and she would amend the additional points and then submit the paper for final approval at a subsequent meeting.

14.0 Precept 2013/2014

The Finance sub-committee would be meeting to discuss the budget, precept, allowances for councillors. They would meet at the Cllr Cook's house at a date to be finalised. Discussion points to be fed back at the next meeting. The Clerk would write to Cllr Hamilton re concerns over the budget shortfall and the current County Council financial issues. The Clerk would also write to David Powell, Chief Financial Officer of the Herefordshire Council, re the same concerns plus to ask if the Parish Council budget setting meetings were to be held again this year.

15.0 Matters to be raised on the Agenda of the next meeting

Gritter Scheme, Standing Orders, Footpath Officer Report and Feedback from Finance Sub re allowances for councillors, budget and precept

16.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Ordinary Meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 6th December 2012 at 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall

The meeting closed at 8.44pm.

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date