

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013

### Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr. Stephen Turner (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr. Terry Cook  
Cllr. Jon Norris  
Cllr. Andrew Crum

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk, Alison Wright, 4 Members of the public

### Public Participation Time –

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A member of the public raised the question as to why the barriers at the top end of Tump Lane on the A49 had been replaced when the previous ones appeared to be okay and had only been in place for circa three years. The Clerk would try to ascertain why they had been replaced so soon. After enquiries by the Much Birch and Little Birch Clerks and Cllr Hamilton, 5 tonnes of grit had been promised as on their way from Amey to top up the stocks available for the winter gritting. The Open Session then closed.

### The Parish Council meeting was formally opened by the Chairman

#### 1.0 Apologies for Absence

No Apologies had been received

#### 2.0 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

#### 3.0 Minutes

- 3.1 The Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> March were discussed and following a query the Clerk read out an extract on minutes, protocols and content from Charles Arnold Baker's Local Council Administration 8<sup>th</sup> Edition item 7.34 and this being in accordance with the Local Government Act of 1972, Sch 12, para 41(1)

The minutes were accepted as a true record, following a vote on the contents, by a majority of four votes to one.

#### 4.0 Reports

**CSO Witcher, West Mercia Police** Not present

**Cllr Hamilton** had sent apologies but had commented to the Chair re Core Strategy Meetings, gritting and grit supply, plus automated speeding notification signs

#### 5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items

The information provided on the update sheet was noted. The Clerk commented the Core Strategy feedback options and deadlines.

## **6.0 Financial Report**

### **6.1 The following bank balances were noted:**

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb HSBC Community Account	£1 2274.22
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb HSBC Community Projects Account	£9,408.00

### **6.2 The following payments were approved:**

Clerk's salary	£199.64
Expenses (mileage £15.30, home office £50.00)	£65.30
Tax due on salary	£49.80
Much Birch Community Hall (room hire)	£48.75

It was noted that a payment of £5,000 had been transferred from the Community account to the Community Projects account. The updated figures would be advised next time.

**Resolved** :- The payments were approved and passed for payment

## **7.0 School Governor's Report**

Cllr Turner, School Governor, gave a resume of the last meeting of the Governing Board of Much Birch School. There had been a training evening held on roles and responsibilities which had proved interesting.

## **8.0 Planning Matters (including Housing Developments)**

No applications to consider at present.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

- 9.1) Matters for Amey Herefordshire  
The road sign on the A466 at the western end of Tump Lane - the sign post to Much Birch had dropped down  
Serious pothole outside the Much Birch Community Centre and surgery  
Top of the Thorn there is a cone marking the place where ditch was not draining and there had been a land slip
- 9.2) Nothing further to instruct this time.
- 9.3) MB1 was now clear following the removal of the fallen branch approximately 20m from the bottom end. Cllr Crum had kindly dealt with said branch.

## **10.0 Self-help winter gritting**

Further to enquiries re the grit supply, notification had been received that a delivery of 5 tons of grit would now be fulfilled. The gritting scheme had been so successful that there was a definite desire to keep it going and to extend the routes gritted, if at all possible. Timings of the grit application were critical to maximise the success of the venture and this and the other issues would need to be discussed further. The working party, including Cllr Turner, from Much Birch PC and Cllr Morley, from Little Birch PC, would meet to discuss the future strategy.

## **11.0 Correspondence**

Noted as per sheet and including HALC information and Core Strategy Meeting details plus Neighbourhood Plan newsletters

## **12.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website**

12.1 The Clerk would supply a précis for the Parish Newsletter by the 18<sup>th</sup> April to include information re the Annual Statutory Meeting and earlier start time of 7.00pm.

12.2 Website update. Cllr Norris presented some information on parish websites including costs, domains and address formats.

**13.0 Response to Core Strategy**

There would be no joint Much Birch Parish Council response to the Core Strategy but individuals were encouraged to respond.

**14.0 Neighbourhood Plan**

Clerk to book Jon Norris and Alison Cook onto the 25<sup>th</sup> April Neighbourhood Plan event at the Town Hall.

**15.0 Update re Cluster Co-operation**

The Clerk had now heard from Roger Wilkins, the Aconbury Clerk, and he had confirmed that the Aconbury Parish Council would be interested to discuss the possibility of collaboration on a Neighbourhood Plan initiative.

**16.0 Items for Next Agenda**

Notice of Registrable Interest Forms Clerk to contact John Jones, Monitoring Officer at HC, to ascertain the latest position, and thinking, on these forms following recent correspondence from John Jones on the subject. Internal Audit and Annual Accounts plus usual entries

**17.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Ordinary Meeting plus Annual Statutory Meeting**

Next meeting – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 at the earlier time of 7.00pm in The Much Birch Community Hall

*The meeting closed at 8.31pm*

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date