

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 2nd May 2013

Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Chair) (ACo)
Cllr. Stephen Turner (Vice-Chair) (ST)
Cllr. Terry Cook (TC)
Cllr. Jon Norris (JN)
Cllr. Andrew Crum (ACr)

In attendance:

Ward Cllr Russell Hamilton, Parish Clerk Alison Wright, 4 Members of the public

Annual Parish Meeting including Public Participation Time –

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. She gave a resume of activities from throughout the year and included a welcome and thanks to the new Clerk and two new Councillors.

Thanks were also extended to the Ward Councillor and to the West Mercia Police Service for keeping everyone informed of events and points of interest, plus a thank you to the public who communicate issues and requirements to the Council to help enable them to act.

The self gritting scheme was hailed as a success with the hope that it will continue and go from strength to strength.

There was an update on the Parish Website, which is where parishioners can view past minutes and find out details plus the Parish Newsletter contains précis of Council activities.

Information was given about the Footpath Officer's role in keeping paths clear and checking that paths are able to be walked.

Mention was made of the fact that there may be two housing development planning applications pending for the Parish and a commitment has been given, by the Parish Council, that when the details are submitted for consideration to the Herefordshire Council Planners a meeting(s) will be held to discuss them.

A highlight of the year had been the BEM award to John Bryant, who had been presented with his award by the Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, Lady Darnley.

The Chair reiterated the request to parishioners to keep informing the Council of any concerns, or points of interest, and thanked them for their contributions to date.

Thanks were conveyed to all of the Parish Councillors for continuing to work, often behind the scenes and unnoticed, on behalf of everyone within the Parish.

Residents present highlighted the proposed housing developments and had attended meetings at which issues had been discussed, including the use of land for parking.

There were concerns expressed re the traffic in Tump Lane in terms of speed and also heavy goods traffic, in particular relation to parents and children using the road to go to school. The road is narrow and passing places are few and far between. It was agreed that the possibility of a weight restriction could be examined, as an option, and also a traffic survey may be possible to ascertain speeds, volumes etc. The road issues described would be tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

There had been a meeting about parking issues outside the school and representatives from the Herefordshire Council, Parish Council, Amey and the Police had discussed these. The head teacher had not been involved in the discussion. The meeting had been a positive one and following on from it the authorities had gone away to draw up some suggested proposals to help tackle the problems being experienced. There will be traffic studies and a consultation and it is hoped that some resolutions will be in place by the Autumn Term.

The Open Session and Annual Parish Meeting then closed.

The Annual Statutory Meeting of the Parish Council meeting was formally opened by the Chairman

1.0 Election of Chair and receive Acceptance of Office form

Cllr Alison Cook was proposed as Chair by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Crum. Acceptance of Office form signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

2.0 Election of Vice Chair and receive Acceptance of Office form

Cllr Stephen Turner was proposed as Vice Chair by Cllr A Cook and seconded by Cllr T Cook. Acceptance of Office form signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

3.0 Apologies for Absence

None

4.0 Declarations of Interest

None were declared

5.0 Minutes of last meeting held on 4th April 2013

These were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

6.0 To Receive Reports from

Ward Cllr Hamilton reported that his written update statement would follow for publication, but briefly mentioned that the new CEO of Herefordshire Council had written regarding the budget and financial situation as faced, in that the position had now been found to be more severe than previously thought. He also commented that there had been 1500 responses to the Core Strategy Draft proposals.

West Mercia Police:- not present

7.0 To appoint councillors to the following working groups:

All of the following appointments were resolved.

- Planning Working Group : Cllrs ACo, TC, JN, ST and ACr (All)
- Finance Working Group: Cllrs ACo, ST and JN
- Employment Working Group: To convene as required
- Self Help Winter Gritting Working Group: Cllrs ST and ACr

8.0 Clerks Update

The Clerk's written update was received.

9.0 Financial Report

9.1 The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th April HSBC Community Account	£6730.26
@ 13 th April HSBC Community Projects Account	£13,408.00

9.2 The following payments were approved:

Clerk's salary	£168.00
Expenses (mileage £15.30)	£15.30
Tax due on salary	£42.00

Resolved :- The payments were approved and passed for payment

10.0 School Governor's Report

No further meeting details to report

11.0 Planning Matters

One application had been received for:-

SITE: Counties View, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HL
DESCRIPTION: Demolition of existing garage and the erection of two storey and single storey extensions
APPLICATION NO: 130847/FH
GRID REF: OS 350101, 231046
APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

After consideration of the proposals, the Parish Council raised no objections to the application.

12.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths including appointment of Footpath Officer

Cllr Crum confirmed that he was happy to continue in the role of Footpath Officer.

- 12.1) Matters for Amey Herefordshire
Weeds were encroaching on the footpath, on the approach to the school, and narrowing the available walkway. Require spraying off. A request for a Parish Walk will be made to highlight areas requiring attention. Ongoing issue re knotweed (ask what Enforcement Officer can do – notifiable weed)
- 12.2) Lengthsman - work to be advised.
- 12.3) Footpaths – nothing further to report

13.0 Self-help winter gritting

The Group would be meeting to discuss strategy in the near future.

14.0 Correspondence

Noted as per sheet and including the Wayleaves Authority remittance.

15.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website

12.1 The Clerk would supply a précis for the Parish Newsletter by the 18th May to include information on the Annual Meeting and the road issues as mentioned.

12.2 Website update. Reference was made to the handout made available at the previous meeting. A Community Website would need to be run by someone independently of the Parish Council. It would need to be seen to be of benefit to a number of the community for it to receive any funding from the Parish Council. This will continue to be a discussion item going forward.

16.0 Neighbourhood Plan

Several councillors had attended the Neighbourhood Plan Update evening held on the 25th April at the Town Hall. It was found to have been an informative evening and it was resolved that Cllrs A Cook and J Norris would discuss the papers and details of the evening and feed back to the next Parish Council meeting. The clustering idea would be explored further in terms of collaborating on a joint plan with neighbouring parishes.

17.0 Matters to be raised on next agenda

Annual Return and Audit, requests for funding re clock and churchyard from Much Birch Parish Church, Neighbourhood Plan feedback from discussion.

18.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date