

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 6th June 2013

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk, Alison Wright, Ward Cllr R Hamilton plus Kat Le Tsar of Hereford Housing and 5 Members of the public

Public Participation Time -

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Kat Le Tsar, of Hereford Housing, explained that the Tump Lane Planning Application for outline permission for up to 20 residences was about to be presented to the Council Planning Department for their consideration. Consultations had taken place and another event was planned. The idea was to have a one to one dialogue and to liaise with the whole parish over how the plan could be shaped and developed. The Parish Council had committed to holding a special meeting to discuss the application and this would be arranged as soon as the details were known.

There were concerns over grass cutting on the A49 but it was advised that this was a Highways Agency responsibility and it was acknowledged that a reduction in the number of cuts of the grass etc. could potentially lead to visibility issues. The Parish Council would write to the Highways Agency if the overgrowth became a visibility problem and highlight the risk factor. Concern was verbally conveyed to Cllr Hamilton.

A sign concerning parking restrictions, to be introduced outside Much Birch School, had been put up outside the school. This would be covered in the School Governor's Report.

The Open Session then closed.

The Parish Council meeting was formally opened by the Chairman

1.0 Apologies for Absence

Cllr A Crum had sent his apologies.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3.0 Minutes

3.1 The Minutes of 2nd May were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4.0 Reports

CSO Witcher, West Mercia Police Not present

Cllr Hamilton Cllr Hamilton stated that his new report was ready to go out. He spoke of the parking restrictions outside the school and that the consultation on the implications had commenced following on from a meeting with Herefordshire Council, the Parish Council and after discussions with the Head teacher. Parking restrictions had been requested some time previously but never pursued to a conclusion but the time was felt to be right to press for the restrictions to safeguard parents and children outside the school and enable safer passage for

all. Double yellow lines would feature in the proposals to restrict parking and protect areas outside the school. There will be gaps marked out opposite properties and across the entrance to the monastery to prohibit parking. There have been suggestions that a car park could be created using some of the monastery land but no funding to do this had yet been acquired. The likely cost would be circa £40,000 and the school cannot pay this and the Herefordshire Council do not have the necessary funds either. Suggestions in regard to fund raising and community venture to pay for it may be explored. The conversation on this would be take place to try to move things forward.

The metal barriers on the A49 were likely to be joined by a third one on each side which was currently being pursued. Consideration would need to be given to options to slow people down, flashing signs could be an option. When preferred methods of speed control had been identified the Parish Council would advise Cllr Hamilton.

The concerns over Tump Lane re lack of passing places and large vehicles had been noted. The Clerk would contact Amey and copy in Cllr Hamilton re speed reduction and weight limit considerations.

Cllr Hamilton outlined a new Arts Initiative where a sponsored project had been set up in local venues, including public houses, to hold Art Classes for over 60's. It was hoped that this would get people together to share an interest and help local businesses who potentially could see some returns from people staying to enjoy some lunch, at their premises, after the Art Classes. The Tump Inn and New Inn at St Owen's Cross were involved and professional artists would be taking the classes. There would be two ten week courses supplied on a "first come, first served" basis. It was suggested that everyone should work to encourage take-up and get people involved.

5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items

The information provided on the update sheet was noted. The Clerk advised that all papers had been sent to the External Audit provider, Grant Thornton, and that the Internal Auditor had carried out the internal audit as a donation to the work of the Parish Council. The Clerk would send a letter of thanks to Rose Wathan, the Internal Auditor, to thank her for her time and generosity.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1 The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th May HSBC Community Account	£9760.97
@ 13 th May HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,408.00

6.2 The following payments were approved:

Clerk's salary	£210.10
Expenses (mileage £15.30, stamps £6.00, cash book £3.99)	£25.20
Tax due on salary	£52.40
Much Birch Parochial Church Council (donations to clock (£175) and churchyard (£100))	£275.00
Amey Wye Valley (grit bin)	£77.76
HALC (Training Course – Chairmanship)	£30.00
Came & Company (Parish Council Insurance)	£291.17

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 held on 15th May 2013. The Head, Mrs Hines was trying to get the committees up and running and to appoint a Vice Chair. A Buildings Committee had been formed and Cllr Turner was a part of it. There was an amount of asbestos at the school, inert in its present state

but it would require specialist assistance and significant cost to remove it. The Finance Committee had met and approved the budget figures and Key Stage One teacher interviews had taken place. The school were still trying to find a new Clerk to Governors. The Year 5 teacher would be retiring at the end of the Summer Term. The Head had committed to providing reports, one verbal and one written per term. The School Development Plan was underway and Governors would bring goals to each meeting and information as to whether they had been achieved. Pupil numbers were set to rise by about 30 places and there had been enquiries for additional places. Poor attendance was limited to one or two pupils and now that the Education Welfare Team had gone the Education Legal Officer was engaged in trying to get children to school. Cllr Turner commented on the Parking consultation and the way forward and commented that there was a question over whether restrictions would push people to park elsewhere in equally unsuitable places thus exacerbating the problem.

8.0 Planning Matters

There had been one application for the neighbouring parish of Llanwarne.

SITE: Daisy Bank House, Llanwarne, Herefordshire, HR2 8JJ

DESCRIPTION: Partial demolition of first floor. Replacement of first floor and erection of rear extension, new ground floor orangery and porch (part retrospective)

APPLICATION NO: 131282/FH

GRID REF: OS 350494, 228772

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The Parish Council resolved that they had no comment to make on the application.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

- 9.1) Matters for Amey Herefordshire
The Thorn (U71609) opposite Kingsthorpe Cottage was subsiding and in regards to the knotweed problem Cllr Turner would advise the Clerk of the contact details so that the PC could contact them to ask them to treat the weeds.
- 9.2) Lengthsman had carried out seasonal strimming and cleared the bus stop area.
- 9.3) Footpath MB4 had a fallen tree thought to be unsafe, hanging down - near to the property Underhills. Clerk to advise Jonathan Roger, Footpaths Officer, at Amey.

10.0 Self-help winter gritting

The group had met together and a Little Birch representative has approached Bob Mason who has confirmed his willingness to continue with the scheme. The proposal is that the same route as before will be covered – with the pitches being gritted, round from Little Birch Road to Wrigglebrook Lane, up The Thorn, Barrack Hill and looping around Little Birch itself. Top up of the free grit supplies to be an agenda item for September. Grateful thanks are recorded to Bob mason for his continued assistance with this very worthwhile project.

11.0 Correspondence

Noted as per sheet and details included HALC information, Neighbourhood Plan initiative updates, funding information and details of Herefordshire Council service provision.

12.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website

12.1 The Clerk would supply a précis for the Parish Newsletter by the 18th June and this would include details of the Community Website at: AconburyAndTheBirches.org.uk

12.2 Website update. Details of the new community website were discussed with the hope that people would enjoy contributing to it from the parishes.

13.0 Neighbourhood Plan and the meeting on 2/7/13

Little Birch Parish Council had organised a meeting to hear about the Neighbourhood Plan and it would be held at Little Birch Village Hall on Tuesday 2nd July at 7.30pm. Jane Wormald, from Herefordshire Council, would be coming to share details with anyone interested in attending. All are welcome.

14.0 Road Issues in Tump Lane

The road issues in Tump Lane (C1264) were discussed and alleged speeding, large vehicles and difficulty in vehicles passing each other were all highlighted. It was resolved that the Clerk would write to Amey Hereford Clerks, and copy Cllr Hamilton in, to request two things: 1) A reduction in speed limit from 40mph to 30mph and 2) a weight restriction on vehicular traffic using the lane of 17.5 tonnes. This was proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr A. Cook. Unanimous

15.0 Items for Next Agenda

Road Issues and Housing Developments

16.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 4th July 2013 at 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date