

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 4th July 2013

Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr. Terry Cook
Cllr. Jon Norris
Cllr. A Crum

In attendance:

Parish Clerk, Alison Wright, Ward Cllr R Hamilton plus 6 Members of the public

Public Participation Time -

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There was some clarification given as to the closing date for comments for the Tump Lane Lark Rise planning proposal being the 16th July. Some of those present expressed concern over who might move into the houses. There was some discussion over speed indicator devices and the fact that they had been tried in the past but with no real outcome from the data collected and submitted. There was also a concern that drivers had, on occasions, been known to try to see how high they could get the speed indicator to register creating the entirely opposite effect to that intended.

The subject of the bus stop, which had formally been by the old Post Office at the top of Aconbury Close, was raised but, after discussion, it was stated that the re-instatement would not be possible due to the requirement for the bus company to reclaim land from private individuals in order to re-introduce it. This had been explored previously and rejected by the Herefordshire Council.

Potholes were mentioned at the end of Aconbury Close. The road surface on Paiges Pitch was about to be renewed. It was suggested that the cost of acquiring maps for footpath use etc be explored to help people locate issues and pinpoint accurately where problem locations occur. The Open Session then closed.

The Parish Council meeting was formally opened by the Chairman

1.0 Apologies for Absence

Cllr S Turner had sent his apologies.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3.0 Minutes

3.1 The Minutes of 6th June, and those of the Emergency Planning Meeting held on 26th June, were signed as true and correct records of the meetings.

4.0 Reports

CSO Witcher, West Mercia Police Not present

Cllr Hamilton Cllr Hamilton stated that the bidders of the unsuccessful tenders for the highways contract had now been notified. A succession plan was underway and Balfour Beatty would be assuming responsibility from 1st September 2013. Any works already in progress

should not be interrupted and there should be a seamless transfer to the new provider. Balfour Beatty will be seeking to engage with local communities and will be looking at what can be done to improve the roads and address some of the outstanding issues.

The Cabinet had accepted some the proposed feedback changes to the Core Strategy and it was now going forward for ratification as approved by the Council.

The Rural Arts hub and the sponsored art classes were going forward at the Tump Inn and the New Inn at St Owens Cross. They were available to over 60's on a first come first served basis and should prove to be a good opportunity for people to participate in learning and art appreciation plus an opportunity to expand local business at the venue sites.

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 May HSBC Community Account	£9234.41
@ 13 th May HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,408.00

6.2 The following payments were approved:

Clerk's salary	£252.00
Expenses (mileage £30.60, stamps £2.30)	£32.90
Tax due on salary	£42.00

Resolved :- That the payments above were approved, and passed for payment

7.0 School Governor's Report

Not present

8.0 Planning Matters

There had been one application for the housing development in Tump Lane. This had been discussed and reported in a separate emergency planning meeting held on the 26th June. The full statement may be read in the minutes of that meeting.

Planning Application received for Site: Tump Lane, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HW

Description: Residential development comprising up to 20 dwellings, including up to 10 affordable dwellings with associated new access (via Tump Lane) and car parking arrangements for both existing and proposed and community facility

Applicants: The Owner and /or Occupier

Application No: 130945/O

Grid Ref: OS 349699, 230575

Application Type: Outline

The Parish Council of Much Birch has resolved to make the following comments in respect of the aforementioned planning application:-

The Much Birch Parish Council objects to the Planning Application on the grounds of access and highway safety, paying particular regard to the access point into the Tump Lane Estate and the potential for increased traffic generation on Tump Lane. It also objects on the grounds of the impact to the existing community by way of the overbearing nature of the proposal in that existing residents are being required to make imposed sacrifices to facilitate the proposed application.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

- 9.1) Aconbury Close potholes
- 9.2) Lengthsman tasks in hand re parish walk and instructed works including strimming around grit bins
- 9.3) Culvert subsided at junction of Wrigglebrook Lane and Lower Wrigglebrook Lane
- 9.4) Cone at the Thorn and ditch landslip
- 9.5) Overgrown verges on the A49 may become a matter for public concern re lack of trimming frequency and consequent overgrowth(Highways responsibility on A road)

10.0 Correspondence

Noted as per sheet and details included **Golden Valley Key Issues Meeting** notes from Penny Jones plus **Herefordshire Council** - Various as circulated including press release in regard to Re-procurement of Services and Amey contract and **HALC** - Information Updates including revised Good Councillor Guide. Information on fund raising from The Courtyard Theatre of the Arts had been received and changes to bank terms and conditions had been received from the Parish Council's banker. A letter had been received re parking outside the school and parking restrictions. Cllr Hamilton would be meeting with Cllr Turner to discuss car parking options and the possibility of fund raising to purchase a piece of land that could then be made into a car parking area. There may be the opportunity to purchase a piece of land adjacent to the school and this will be explored in liaison with the school. It was felt that parking restrictions may push the problem elsewhere and options needed to be considered.

11.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website

11.1 There would not be a newsletter next month so précis would continue after September meeting for the next edition and to include a reminder that people could advise if they find footpaths to be blocked.

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

All councillors had attended the Neighbourhood Planning Meeting, held at Little Birch on the 2nd July, and commented that the meeting had been both useful and interesting. A lot of facts had been presented and parishes could collaborate to produce a Plan. The Plan cannot be at variance with The Core Strategy or the National Planning Framework but there is scope to map out local preferences in terms of housing needs etc. Once completed the Plan will have legal status and will be a consultation document for consideration when planning details are presented for approval. A number of parishes had already signed up to the process and all of the Market Towns were engaged in a Plan also.

A Steering Group would be required, to take things forward, and there would be a large amount of work to do to make a success of the process. It was likely that there would be a joint venture between The Little and Much Birch Parishes to undertake the Plan. After discussion, it was resolved, by a majority vote, to postpone a final decision on the commencement of a Plan until the meeting in September and the matter would be on the September Agenda, proposed by Cllr Crum and seconded by Cllr T Cook.

13.0 Road Issues in Tump Lane

The Road Issues re speed and the weight restriction request had been sent to both Amey and to Cllr Hamilton. A reply had been received from Herefordshire Council and matters were under way to formally apply for the reduction in speed limit and for a weight ceiling for use of the road.

14.0 Items for Next Agenda

Grit supplies, grit bins, feedback on maps, emergency meetings for planning applications.
Neighbourhood Plan decision

15.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 5th September 2013 at 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Due to the confidential nature of the business of this agenda item, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it is proposed to put forward a motion to exclude members of the public during discussion of this agenda item

16.0 Clerk's Annual Review

The councillors discussed the clerk's performance over the past year and resolved to award a pay increase to point SCP 23 on the Clerk's pay scale with effect from 1st June 2013.

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date