

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013

### Present:

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

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk, Alison Wright, 5 Members of the public

### Public Participation Time -

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The public present described what they had believed to be a further traffic survey down Tump Lane. This had been carried out on the 1<sup>st</sup> October which happened to coincide with the day of the school strike and so there was a perception that traffic movements may have been lower than normal, accordingly. The number of children crossing the road was a concern and it was not an option to have a Pelican Crossing on a trunk road. There were concerns that a wider road space would be required for the "commune " development and this may mean that pockets of land, such as front lawns, would need to be reclaimed to enable the widening. There was the issue of uncut grass at the top of Tump Lane and this was the responsibility of the Highways Agency. They may contract out the cutting of it, to Balfour Beatty, going forward. The Lengthsman had tried and would continue to try to cut as much as he was able. It was explained that there has not been a decision on the housing developments as yet and no assumptions could be made about the perceived surveys.

The Open Session then closed.

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

#### 1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies. Cllr Turner had said he would try to get to the meeting if he could after attending his daughter's wedding rehearsal.

#### 2.0 Declarations of Interest and appointment of new Councillor

None were declared. Mr Keith James was co-opted as a new Parish Councillor for Much Birch Parish and he signed his acceptance of office and declaration forms, at the meeting, in the presence of the Parish Clerk.

#### 3.0 Minutes

3.1 The Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> September were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

#### 4.0 Reports

**P.C.S.O. from West Mercia Police** not present

**Ward Councillor** The Parish Council heard the news that the Ward Councillor for Pontrilas Ward, Russell B. Hamilton, had resigned from his post as a County Councillor and Cabinet Member with effect from midnight on 1<sup>st</sup> October. His resignation letter had been partially published in the Hereford Times and gave some of the reasons as to why he had resigned. The

Parish Council recorded their gratitude to him for his work while in office and described him as a dedicated councillor.

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

The Clerk highlighted the actions completed and described the Balfour Beatty launch and related matters. The yellow lining and parking regulations would be coming into force during the week of the half term commencing 28<sup>th</sup> October. In spite of enquiries there was still no solution to dealing with the knotweed problem. The Clerk would try to consolidate a list of outstanding jobs as presented to Amey. It was believed that countywide there were still a large number of jobs outstanding at the handover to, the new provider, Balfour Beatty.

## **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> September HSBC Community Account	£7866.39
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> September HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,408.00

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

Clerk's salary	£203.32
Expenses (mileage £15.30, stamps £6.00, home office £50.00)	£71.30
Tax due on salary	£51.08
Much Birch Community Hall (Hire of hall)	£48.75
Mr M Dyer (Lengthsman)	£250.00

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

### **6.3 To arrange Finance sub-committee meeting to discuss budget/precept**

The sub-committee to convene to discuss the budget and precept at a convenient time and date

### **6.4 Rental Agreements for Parish Fields to review/discuss**

This would be looked at the next meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee

### **6.5 To consider contribution to repair of The Much Birch Memorial Clock**

After discussion, it was resolved that the Parish Council would pay the £340.00 repair costs for the memorial clock. Proposed Cllr Norris and seconded Cllr Crum.

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

No report this time.

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

There had been no new applications to consider.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

- 9.1) Balfour Beatty
  - Little Birch Road at the bottom of Parish Lane (U71603 at junction of U71606) road breaking up severely and peppered with potholes
  - Outside Much Birch Surgery – potholes
  - Subsidence at The Thorn on U71609 right hand side of road
- 9.2) The lengthsman would continue to clear and install grips to aid drainage
- 9.3) Footpaths no further reports

## **10.0 Self Help Gritting Scheme including grit supplies and grit bins**

The grit supplies for the self help scheme in conjunction with Little Birch were on order. Mr Morley would confirm the details of the phone number contact details for Merrivale Farm, to the Clerk, so that she could pass the details to the grit co-ordinator to arrange delivery. Grit bins

would be purchased, as required, once confirmation had been received as to who would be co-ordinating the orders at Balfour Beatty.

**11.0 Correspondence**

As per sheet and including Dore Community Transport request for donation, Much Birch Parochial Church Council re request for help with the cost of repairing the Memorial Clock, Bookings request form for the 2014 meeting hall hire requirements (Clerk to complete and return), Business Register and Employment Survey 2013 from the Office for National Statistics (completed and returned).

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

Clerk to supply précis for the next edition of the newsletter and to include details re the new parish councillor.

**13.0 Neighbourhood Plan**

There would be pre steering group informal discussions between Much Birch, Little Birch and Aconbury to look at costs, pitfalls, pros and cons. Cllr Turner would be liaising with the other groups on this. People commitment and cost thought to be two key factors.

**14.0 Items for Next Agenda**

Grit supplies, grit bins, feedback on maps, Neighbourhood Plan – update, rental agreements for Parish Fields update, finance meeting for precept setting (if not held by main meeting date), donation to Dore Community Transport.

**15.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

Next meeting – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall  
Apologies received in advance from Cllr T Cook.

**Footnote:** - Cllr Turner was unable to get to the meeting due to his previous commitment and as communicated before the meeting started.

***The meeting closed at 8.40pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date