

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013

### Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr. Terry Cook  
Cllr. Jon Norris  
Cllr. Andrew Crum  
Cllr. Stephen Turner  
Cllr. Keith James

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk, Alison Wright, 3 Members of the public

### Public Participation Time –

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There was discussion over the Tump Lane developments. There was some question over Miss Rigby and the ownership of a part of the land and the acting Ward Councillor, Mr Barry Durkin, would be meeting with Miss Rigby later that week to seek clarification. The Parish Council requested that the Clerk ask what the position was with the first (Larkrise) application as nothing further had been announced and the Sanctuary Application was set to go to committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> November for consideration. It was reported that Planning Officers had asked Sanctuary to look at the issue of the lack of a footpath in Tump Lane. It was noted that Ward Councillor Durkin would speak at the committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> in representation of Pontrilas Ward. Questions had been asked about the road surveys and when they were carried out but as yet no replies had been forthcoming. There was further discussion over the garages, play space and parking area in Tump Lane and Cllr Turner explained that they has been a part of a housing stock transfer to Herefordshire Housing in November 2002. The Clerk would try to find out what was happening with the application made by Larkrise in conjunction with Herefordshire Housing.

The Open Session then closed at 7.55pm.

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

#### **1.0 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

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

None were declared.

#### **3.0 Minutes**

3.1 The Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 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** Situation vacant

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

Actions were noted as per sheet including the Lengthsman had been out and about cutting in grips, cleaning signs, re-strimming around grit bins and notice boards and generally tidying the area. He had reported the mud/silt slide at the bottom of Wrigglebrook Lane and it was noted that there had been an accident involving damage to a vehicle. The situation regarding the mud and the potential for accidents is thought to be serious and Cllr Turner will advise who owns the land so that matters can be followed up.

There will be a meeting at Brockington in 26<sup>th</sup> November 7.00pm for Parishes to discuss matters with Balfour Beatty. Cllr Norris and the Clerk will attend.

## **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> September HSBC Community Account	£10276.77
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> September HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,408.00

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

Clerk's salary	£289.45
Expenses (mileage £15.30)	£15.30
Tax due on salary	£72.20
Much Birch Parochial Church Council (Clock Repairs)	£340.00
Cllr T Cook (Web Domain Fee)	£32.38

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

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

This was arranged for the 28<sup>th</sup> November at Cllr Cook' home at 7.30pm

### **6.4 Rental Agreements for Parish Fields - To review/discuss**

These would be reviewed at the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> November

### **6.5 To discuss donation for Dore Community Transport**

After discussion it was resolved that a donation of £150.00 would be made towards the work of Dore Community Transport. Payment proposed Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr James.

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

No report this time. It was noted that the yellow lining that was scheduled for the half term week in October had not been carried out. The Clerk would enquire as to what was happening and when it was now likely to be completed.

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

There had been no new applications to consider. It was commented that there is a national appetite for building and incentives and money are available for projects countrywide.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

9.1) Balfour Beatty: - Wrigglebrook mud on road issue, Top of Paiges Pitch U71809 at junction with Barrack Hill U71603 - potholes

9.2) The lengthsman: - would continue to clear gullies and install grips to aid drainage where required

9.3) Footpaths: - a report that MB10 (Laskett Lane) was impassable. Cllr Crum to investigate.

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

Bob Mason, who undertakes the gritting, now lives in Little Dewchurch and they also wish to join the scheme. The gritting is invaluable and keeps the villages on the move during bad

weather. A big “thank you” goes to Bob for being willing to continue to help the communities in this way. Grit bins may be sited outside the Surgery, outside the Much Birch Community Centre and also at Hollybush Lane U71605 on corner on green sward by the property known as “Underhills”. Clerk to request quotations to be provided for grit bins at these locations.

**11.0 Correspondence**

Noted as per sheet and including Neighbourhood Planning Questionnaire from Herefordshire Council and details of Balfour Beatty Consultation evening.

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

Clerk to supply précis for the next edition of the newsletter and to include mud on roads issue and self help gritting scheme plus note to keep grit bins full and advise Parish Council when empty.

**13.0 Neighbourhood Plan including Questionnaire from Herefordshire Council**

No response as yet for dates of the pre-meeting between the Parish Councils, Much and Little Birch and Aconbury. Cllr Morley from Little Birch presented a disc with details of Kings Caple’s journey into Neighbourhood Planning. The disc was said to contain interesting information that may prove useful to others undertaking a Plan themselves. Cllr’s Turner and Norris would meet with representatives of Aconbury and Little Birch Parishes to discuss a way forward. A meeting would be convened. Councillors then completed a questionnaire on Neighbourhood Planning for return to Herefordshire Council.

**14.0 Items for Next Agenda**

Precept, Parish land, Neighbourhood Plan, Report from new Ward Councillor

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

Next meeting – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall

*The meeting closed at 8.50pm*

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date