

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5th December 2013

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk, Alison Wright, 5 Members of the public

Public Participation Time -

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
The pothole outside the Much Birch Community Hall was noted again as it had opened up to a large and deep hole. The other item of discussion was the Tump Lane development and this was deferred to the agenda item relating to planning. Item 8 was then taken at this point.

The Open Session then closed at 7.35pm

The Parish Council meeting was formally opened by the Chairman

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Councillors T. Cook and J. Norris.

2.0 Declarations of Interest and appointment of new Councillor

None were declared.

3.0 Minutes

3.1 The Minutes of 7th November were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4.0 Reports

P.C.S.O. from West Mercia Police not present and apologies received

Ward Councillor not present and apologies received

5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items

Actions were noted as per sheet including details of the meeting held at Brockington on 26th November.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1 The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th November HSBC Community Account	£9680.91
@ 13 th November HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,408.00

6.2 The following payments were approved:

Clerk's salary	£203.40
Expenses (mileage £15.30)	£15.30

Tax due on salary	£51.00
Mr M Dyer (Lengthsman)	£176.00

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

6.3 To update re Finance sub-committee meeting to discuss budget/precept

This meeting had been held and the budget and precept discussed. The proposal was for a 6.5% increase to be made giving an annual precept of £6390.00 for 2014. This would be formally resolved at the January 2014 meeting.

6.4 Rental Agreements for Parish Fields - To update

These were discussed and it was resolved that the rental amount for Rosebank should be increased to an annual sum of £150.00 from 2014. There had been no rate reviews for a number of years and the amount was felt to be “out of step” with the rental charged for a similar field owned by the Parish Council.

7.0 School Governor’s Report

Cllr Turner gave a resume of the last School Governors Meeting that he had attended. There was now a new Clerk to Governors. There had been 30 new children in reception class plus 10 across years 1 to 4 at the start of the new term. There had been one retirement and two new members of staff in school and these were settling in well, along with the new pupils.

8.0 Planning Matters

There had been no new applications to consider.

Tump Lane Planning Applications The Chair gave an update on a meeting that she had attended with regard to Tump Lane and the proposals to lower the speed limit and restrict vehicular weight limits. Electronic devices would be used to record the speed and type of vehicles using the road in both directions to help assess the situation. This would be carried out in the New Year and at a time when use is representative, i.e. not in a school holiday period. The Sanctuary Planning Application had been deferred to a meeting of the Council Planning Committee on 11th December. The Parish Council would be taking the opportunity to speak for the three minutes available and would be highlighting the conditional clauses made at the time of the submission of the original planning response. The Parish Council did not object to the application but did seek satisfaction to a number of conditions to ensure that road safety conditions were met, including the focus issue of a “safer route to school”. The Parish Council’s view remains constant in that a footpath is needed for the entire length of the road and this would be emphasised at the meeting. It was resolved that Cllr A. Cook would speak to the Planning Committee for the three minute slot.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

9.1) Balfour Beatty: - Some good news in that some potholes had been filled around the area and mud on the road had been cleared. The gully on the Thorn (right hand side going down the Thorn (U71609) required clearing as it was blocked.

The pathway leading to the Much Birch School is overgrown and requires scarifying to remove the overgrowth and re-establish the pathway to enable safe passage.

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

9.3) Footpaths: - a report that MB10 (Laskett Lane) was impassable. Cllr Crum had investigated and the path was found to be clear. Also Balfour Beatty had advised a footpath diversion to MB16/18 (Part) under section 119 of the 1980 Highways Act. (Details available)

10.0 Self Help Gritting Scheme including grit supplies and grit bins

A useful leaflet had been received from Balfour Beatty regarding Winter Gritting. The Clerk would insert details from it regarding advice for residents into the next newsletter. Grit bins were being systematically reviewed, replaced and filled by Balfour Beatty in readiness.

11.0 Correspondence

Noted as per sheet and including information from the Citizen’s Advice Bureau and Balfour Beatty re winter gritting in Herefordshire, plus comment re the pothole outside the Surgery and Community Centre and a thank you letter, for the donation towards their funds, from Dore Community Transport.

12.0 Parishes’ Newsletter and Much Birch Website

Clerk to supply précis for the next edition of the newsletter and to include ice clearance information re details received on clearing paths etc. and no need to be afraid re liability, as per information in Winter Gritting pamphlet from Balfour Beatty.

13.0 Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan had been discussed and considered and it was proposed that the Parish Council would not proceed with the Plan at present as they wished to see the outcomes of other Plans, and the benefits derived, before engaging. There were time and financial implications to undertaking the Plan and the first proposal to wait for the time being was carried. The second part of the proposal was that if the Much Birch Parish Council eventually make the decision to proceed then they will be doing so on their own and not in conjunction with any neighbouring parish or parishes. Both of these proposals were resolved, unanimously, by the Parish Council.

14.0 Items for Next Agenda

Precept, parish land and access, plus report from new Ward Councillor

15.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 9th January 2014 at 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date