

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 7th April 2016

Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr. Ben Roberts
Cllr. Steve Turner (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Tim Jones
Cllr. Roisin Burge

In attendance:

Parish Clerk: Alison Wright, Ward Cllr David Harlow and 6 members of the public

Open Session:-

Miss Rigby MBE spoke to the Parish Council about the liquidambar tree on the Millennium Green. This was planted in 2014 and there was a wish to place a memorial plaque there and recognise the site as a war memorial for the fallen of the parish. There was also a plan to fence in the area in 2018. Miss Rigby had been advised that the Parish Council would be required to give their approval for the designation as a war memorial. Advice as to the process would be sought and this would be on the Agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Burge highlighted an event to be held by the National Council of Women on Saturday 16th April from 10.30am to 3.30pm in the Hampton Bishop Village Hall. The issues of housing for young people, sheltered and retirement homes would be discussed. Tickets were £16.50 or £8.50 for students and would include a buffet lunch.

Some road issues were then highlighted as follows:

- Pot holes in Tump Lane at the top end and by the Acacia Tree
- Barrack Hill – potholes below the access to Swiss Cottage and between Wrigglebrook Lane and the “Chalice”
- Wrigglebrook Lane potholes outside “Midhurst” and “Highbrook” plus a 20 metre run of crumbling surface with potholes

Mr Morley, Chair of Little Birch Parish Council, mentioned a Strategic Housing Review Paper that had been received, which identified anticipated numbers of houses to be built. He would forward this information to the Much Birch PC.

The Open Session closed at 7.45pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr A. Crum

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

3.0 Minutes of previous meetings and matters arising

3.1) The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 3rd March 2016 were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4.0 To receive any update regarding the Much Birch Old Charities concerning the Poor Acre

There had been no further information. This item would be removed from the agenda unless an update had been received.

5.0 **Reports**

5.1) **P.C.S.O. from West Mercia Police**

The Bulletins with updates had been received and circulated. The Clerk mentioned the mobile police station which was available, upon request, for attendance at events etc. The Chair expressed disappointment that a recent meeting of residents with the Ward Cllr and Highways England, regarding the A49 and road issues, had not included representation from the Parish Council. The Parish Council had been working to liaise with Highways England on such matters. The Chair asked that the PC be included in any future meetings and actions that had been recommended including speed survey and getting the synchronisation of the school lights adjusted were noted.

5.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Harlow had sent his report as reported here (sic):

Ward member report, April 2016

A49

I met with Highways England (HE), Keith James, Bill Padden and Mrs Davies (Head Teacher at MB school) on 29.03.16 to discuss the traffic speeds on A49. HE are going to come back with suggestions on what is possible and affordable on the section from the top of Tump Lane and 250 metres in either direction. One issue that they said should get addressed ASAP is ensuring that the school warning lights flash at the appropriate time (they are currently out of sync). They have also instructed their sub-contractor to undertake a speed survey to understand the extent of the issue.

Bus shelter

As most of you will have seen, the new bus shelter is up and feedback on Facebook seems to be positive.

Ward councillor Surgery

I am holding a 'surgery' on Tuesday 03.05.16 between 6.30pm and 8pm in Much Birch village hall for any residents of the ward to pop in and discuss any issues they have or just to have a cup of tea. I promised when I stood for election that I would make myself available for people and this is an opportunity for people to drop in without an appointment and speak to me.

The Ward Cllr spoke about the application for the Southern Link Road which he was "confident would be given approval." The next section of road would then be considered from the A465 over the river to the Roman Road. He stated that the Government are looking to expand the SAS and road networks are required. There was a comment regarding the possibility of more houses and regarding waiting times in the Hospital A & E Department. The Ward Cllr. stated that this was a matter for the NHS. He advised that people should lobby the MP on matters relating to the hospital and waiting times.

5.3) Locality Steward Dave Atkinson was not present. Bulletins had been circulated.

6.0 **Clerk's Update on Action Items**

The updates were noted and included the reclaiming of grant monies from Balfour Beatty. A resignation letter had been received from the current Lengthsman and P3 Footpath Contractor, Mr Michael Dyer. Mr Dyer had worked to keep the parish clean, tidy and safe for many years and the Parish Council recorded a vote of thanks to him for all of work in this regard. The Clerk would send a letter of thanks, from the Parish Council, to Mr Dyer. The Clerk would send details regarding the recruitment, of a new contractor for the post, to the Chair who would co-ordinate the recruitment. An advert would also be circulated via the Newsletter, web site and social media.

7.0 **Financial Report**

7.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th March 2016 HSBC Community Account	£9727.70
@ 13 th March 2016 HSBC Community Projects Account	£13,408.00

7.2) The following payments were approved:

Clerks salary	£322.11
Expenses (mileage £21.60, home office £50.00, ink £54.99, stamps £6.60)	£133.19
HALC Subscription 2016/2017	£571.80
The Lengthsman (Lengthsman works)	£444.00
The Lengthsman (P3 Footpath works)	£450.00

Resolved: that the payments were passed for payment: (prop. Cllr Roberts and sec. Cllr Turner)

The Chair would approach the internal auditor to check if she was available to carry out the internal audit once again this year.

8.0 School Parking and related issues update

8.1) To receive related correspondence and any updates.

As previously advised

8.2) To consider the traffic regulation order (TRO) outside the Much Birch School and those for Tump Lane

No further update

8.3) To receive any update re Speed Indicator Device (SID) options

The provision of a SID for Much Birch would be considered at the next meeting in May.

8.4) To receive any update re the A49, Safer Roads Partnership Scheme and Highways England

Information received from the Ward Cllr. as detailed in item 5.1)

9.0 Planning Matters

9.1) To consider any planning applications as circulated.

There had been further applications received for consideration and the comments were returned, following consideration, as follows:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 151314 - Existing roundabout junction of the A49(T) and B4399, to a new roundabout with the A465, then joining the B4349
DESCRIPTION: New single carriageway (Southern Link Road) and associated works.
PARISH: Multiple Parishes
APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Parish Council did not return any comments on this application.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 160819 - Land to the rear of Post Office and Shop, Wormelow, Hereford
DESCRIPTION: Proposed dwelling and garage.
APPLICANT(S): The Estate of the late Mr & Mrs P Gundy c/o Agent
GRID REF: OS 349214, 230075
APPLICATION TYPE: Outline

This application falls within the Parish of Much Dewchurch and no comments were returned.

10.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

10.1) To note any defects to be reported to Balfour Beatty

Items were highlighted during the Open Session. In addition there was a sinking manhole cover between the bus stop near to the school and the A49.

10.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

A new lengthsman would be recruited following the resignation and retirement of the existing post holder.

10.3) To receive Report from Footpath Officer

The Footpath Officer highlighted a potential issue with a tree in Aconbury Close, next door to the old shop. The tree appeared to be rotting at the base. Information, including photographs, would be sent to the Clerk for reporting the issue.

The footpath sign, which had fallen down in Tump Lane, would be repaired at the same time as the fitting of the Page's Pitch road name signs which had now been received. The issue of the provision of reflective verge edge markers for Tump Lane. These would not be funded via Balfour Beatty. Prices to be obtained for these, for consideration.

10.4) To consider possible litter pick options and an event to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday

There were local residents present who described a previous parish event held in 2002 and expressed the wish for a further one to be held to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday. A tea party would be held on the Millennium Green with jelly, jam, sports event and stalls. It was anticipated that the event would be held on Saturday 11th June and a request for support for financing part of the expense, or underwriting the insurance was made. A figure of £400.00 was mentioned. This would be on the agenda for consideration in May. There was also a request for consideration of a keepsake for the local children and this would also be on the agenda. There would be some car boots held to raise money to help pay for the event also.

The idea of a **litter pick** would be co-ordinated and kits sourced to help with this. Clerk to request these via the Locality Steward. Litter Pick date to be determined.

The ongoing issue of **dog fouling** was noted and signs would be requested from the Herefordshire Council to try to encourage people to clean up after their pets.

11.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

It was agreed that the Parish Council would keep going with the idea of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish Of Much Birch. The Clerk would contact Lynda Wilcox, from HALC, with a view to arranging a further presentation evening, in June. It was noted that her presentation had been successful for Little Birch. Once arranged, the event would be advertised possibly via flyer as well as other media.

12.0 Self-help winter gritting scheme

Grit supplies were ready and on standby. This item would be removed from the agenda unless specific update required.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1) Items were noted as per the information and correspondence sheet and included promotional information from a candidate for the Police Commissioner Election on the 5th May. There was also information regarding a rights of way discovery workshop to be held on the 18th April and a seasonal update leaflet from the Council's insurer, Came and Company.

14.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website

14.1) Clerk to supply a précis for the next edition of the newsletter. This would include information regarding the vacancy for a new Lengthsman for the Parish.

15.0 Matters to be raised on the Agenda for the next meeting

All the usual items, plus event finance, litter pick and the state of the Wormelow phone kiosk. Also end of year accounts. Cost of provision of reflective verge markers for Tump Lane.

16.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next meetings, Annual Parish and Annual Statutory, were confirmed as Friday 6th May 2016 from the earlier start time of 7.00pm in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date