

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr Roisin Burge  
Cllr Veronica Thomas  
Cllr Andy Crum

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright and ten members of the public

### Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Parish Council heard concerns about parking on the yellow lines outside the Cabin Nursery and the Much Birch School. There were issues around driveways being blocked and difficulty for people exiting their homes. There were also concerns about vehicles potentially coming round off the A49 too quickly and crashing into a car waiting on the yellow lines outside the Nursery. There were comments made that the bus lane was habitually blocked and that Parking Enforcement do not always see what is happening, when they are able to attend. After an interactive discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Cabin Nursery proprietor to ask if they would seek driver co-operation from parents/carers to help alleviate the problems being experienced.

A resident from a local property that had almost been flooded out when a quarry basis filled up with flood water was in attendance and updated the Parish Council that matters to resolve the situation were ongoing.

The Open Session closed at 7.50 pm.

### **1.0 Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies received from Cllr David Baldwin, Cllr Steve Turner, Ward Cllr Toni Fagan and Footpath Officer Steve Owen

### **2.0 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **3.0 Minutes of previous meeting**

3.1) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020, were signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

### **4.0 Reports**

#### **4.1) P.C.S.O. from West Mercia Police**

The Bulletins with updates had been received and circulated.

**4.2) Ward Councillor** Ward Cllr Toni Fagan had sent her apologies.

**4.3) Locality Steward** James Howells, the Locality Steward, had sent his bulletins.

Matters had been raised for attention as follows:

- 1) Outside "Buddleia" in Wrigglebrook Lane there was a huge pothole.
- 2) Water coming out of the bank near to "Chances Cottage" could be a Water Board issue?
- 3) Potholes at Lower Wrigglebrook and Marsh Farm had been marked up: - filling needed,

- 4) The Lengthsman reported that were still drainage issues on the B4348 near to the Gamber Cottages.
- 5) The Lengthsman had cleared gullies at Paige’s Pitch, where it crosses Wrigglebrook Lane and Upper Wrigglebrook Lane. There were some queries with the gullies and their directional flow plus there were blockages that may need jetting (outside “Threeways”).
- 6) U71603 - between Wrigglebrook Lane and Paige’s Pitch – gullies need emptying and the system needs jetting.

**2020/21 Expression of Interest Form - Lengthsman and P3 Schemes**

Form completed and returned.

**5.0 Clerk’s Update on Action Items and Correspondence**

The updates were noted and included from Herefordshire Council:

- Review of the Hereford transport strategy
- Recovery under way in parts of Herefordshire as response continues
- OFFER TO BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY FLOODING
- Support to dispose of water damaged items
- River Lugg internal Drainage Board : properties flooded – Haywood
- County Plan

**HALC**

HALC Information Corner including **Community Resilience Plan**

**6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 HSBC Community Account	£9,969.73
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 HSBC Community Projects Account	£10,620.13

**6.2) To approve list of payments (circulated separately)**

The following payments were approved:

**Payments to be made from main account**

HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£80.60
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**Payments to be made from Community account**

Mrs A Wright (Salary paid in accordance with contract)	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£8.00
D.A. Goldsmith (NDP Expenses)	£190.44

**Resolved:** that the payments were passed for payment: (proposed by Cllr Crum and seconded by Cllr Cook) Unanimous.

**7.0 Village issues update**

**7.1) To receive any update regarding lighting at the crossing on the A49**

There had been a meeting between the Parish Council, Highways England and the Police Safety Advisor. After consideration the Police and Highways England determined that the signage conditions had been met and there was a wish to avoid having too many signs. The Highways England representative was looking at mitigation but the signs are deemed to be compliant. As regards people driving through the red light, it was commented that there will always be incidence of people doing what they should not do. There would be follow up meetings held

every six months to monitor the situation. The item would now be removed from the Agenda. Police would continue to monitor speeding using the mobile enforcement van etc.

**7.2) Self Help Gritting Scheme** – remove from Agenda for the time being.

**7.3) Matters being dealt with by Environment Agency** – update, if any, on Wriggle brook Lane silt issue and oil spill.

The Chair updated the meeting regarding the oil spill. The source had been located and the matter was being dealt with. Follow up action would be taken regarding the silt/mud on the highway. The Clerk would contact Balfour Beatty, Locality Steward and the Police.

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

### **8.1) To consider any planning applications**

There was one new application for consideration:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 200373 - Plot 1 Land at The Underhills, Holly Bush Lane, Much Birch, Herefordshire.

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed bungalow, detached garage and modification of existing access (variation of extant planning permission ref 170308/F to substitute approved plots 1 and 2 for the proposed bungalow)

**GRID REF:** OS 350939, 230356

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Planning Permission

The Parish Council heard representation from the residents present. The Parish Council resolved to comment as follows:

The Parish Council supports the application in principle but would like to see the actual bungalow moved back in the plot to give more space between the building and the roadside. This will be more in keeping with the positioning of existing properties along Hollybush Lane. It was also felt that a material more sympathetic to the vernacular could be used. A more natural looking material, such as stone, is a suggestion rather than the current proposal.

It was also commented that the Parish Council would wish to see the outstanding reserved matter conditions, made against planning application 200134, be satisfied ahead of the building project.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

### **9.1) To note any defects to be reported to Balfour Beatty**

The ongoing issue of silt and mud on the road from the A49 to Cress Cottage would be reported to Balfour Beatty, Locality Steward and the Police. The Environment Agency was in the process of taking action regarding the continual spill onto the highway.

### **9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman**

Recent comments on social media regarding water lying and blocked drainage points were discussed. The Parish Council Chair explained that the Lengthsman was employed to undertake planned work plus any extras but was not there “to police issues”. Some comments on social media were described as “not appropriate” and the Chair, as administrator of the account, had closed comments on the thread. The Lengthsman could not be “everywhere at all times and may not be able to react as quickly as people would wish”. The issues around Cress Cottage and the silt would be reiterated to the relevant authorities with a view to getting the highway cleared of mud and silt. It was commented that the lane required restoration to its original width and that there was an Ash Tree requiring attention between Cress Cottage and Belle View. The bank had also been eroded near to Diamond Cottage, with a stream coming across the road. The Chair explained that the responsibility for keeping ditches, adjacent to watercourses was with the

riparian landowner. A leaflet describing responsibilities was available and the Chair would try to add this information to the social media forum.

**9.3) Footpath Officer – to receive any update or action points**

Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies.

**10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update**

Paperwork has been circulated for approval to progress the NDP to regulation 15. Responses have been collated and forwarded to the consultant and NDP Chair. Hard copies also held of responses received. The Parish Council approved the progression of the plan to the next stage.

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

11.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website. Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter. The Chair would also publicise information about ditches and drains plus landowner responsibility.

**12.0 Matters to be raised on the Agenda for the next meeting**

All the usual items would be included.

**13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall. Further Meetings for 2020 would be as follows: 8 May (Friday), 11 June, 9 July, 3 Sept, 8 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec 2020. No meeting in August.

***The meeting closed at 8.55 pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date