

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015

### Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr. Andrew Crum  
Cllr. Tim Jones  
Cllr. Steve Turner (Vice Chair)

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk, Alison Wright, the Lengthsman, Michael Dyer, and 2 members of the public

### Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Open Session commenced.  
There were no contributions during the Open Session.  
The Open Session then closed

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

There were apologies received from Cllr James and Norris, the Locality Steward, Dave Atkinson, and the PCSO.

#### 2.0 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations made.

#### 3.0 **Minutes of previous meetings and matters arising**

3.1) The Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

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

There had been no further update received and no planning pre-application information to date. There were concerns regarding the Constitution of the Charities regarding the management/disposal of what could be a substantial equity, following any possible sale of land.

#### 5.0 **Reports**

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

The PCSO was not present. Bulletins with updates had been received and circulated.

**5.2) Ward Councillor** Ward Cllr Norris was not present and had sent his apologies

**5.3) Locality Steward** Dave Atkinson had sent his apologies

##### **5.4) The "Tump Lane Toppers" (including any update on the Play Space)**

Cllr James was not present and had sent his apologies and had advised of improvements that had been made to the area at the top of Tump Lane where people had been working hard to clear and improve the area.

The Chair, although she had not been present at the Pilgrim Hotel meeting, reported back the information, as passed to her, that the Meeting held at the Pilgrim Hotel, regarding the Community Shop project, had been a success. The location of the shop had been determined as "crucial" and a full committee with treasurer, secretary and members had been constituted.

The Play Space in Tump Lane –an update. A meeting was planned between the Parish Council and Herefordshire Housing for Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am. The ROSPA safety report details would be brought to the meeting and the topics to be covered were:

1. The ROSPA report
2. Removal of equipment
3. Current playground usage – consultation survey
4. Finding the funds to replace the equipment

There had been information supplied that Herefordshire Council and then, latterly, Herefordshire Housing from November 2002, were responsible for the equipment and upkeep.

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

The updates were noted including items as advised on the Communications Sheet and including VAT reclaim. Parish land rental income had been requested for 2014/2015.

## **7.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2015 Community Account	£8528.02
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2015 HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,408.00

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

Clerks salary	£256.65
Expenses (mileage £31.73, ink £9.00, web course £11.25 home office £50.00, stamps £6.48)	£108.46
The Birches Newsletter (Little Birch) Contribution	£350.00
The Lengthsman (minor highways works around parish)	£310.50

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

## **8.0 School Parking and related issues update**

The Highways Agency had been contacted again regarding a follow up meeting with the interested parties. A suggested date for said meeting was awaited - from them.

## **9.0 Planning Matters**

- 9.1) To consider any planning applications as circulated.  
One application had been received:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 150717 - Land at Wrigglebrook Lane, Much Birch, Herefordshire
DESCRIPTION: Proposed detached single storey bungalow with storage/garaging under.
APPLICANT(S): Mr & Mrs D J Davies
GRID REF: OS 350470, 230856
APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Parish Council reviewed the application, looked at artist impressions of the proposed residence and heard representation from the applicant, Mr Davies. Following discussion, the Parish Council resolved that there were no objections to the application, from their perspective.

- 9.2) To consider any update regarding fencing requirements on parish land:  
A telephone message had been received, from the tenant, where he had stated that the matter would be resolved by the date of the next Parish Council Meeting (14/05/15).
- 9.3) To discuss any outcome of the Ward Councillor's request for longer lead time for all planning applications (as discussed at March Meeting):  
Ward Councillor not present and no update received on this - to date.

#### **10.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

- Balfour Beatty:- Issue with road surface at junction onto top of Callow Road through Kingsthorpe C1263 at junction with the A49
  - Subsidence on Barrack Hill above Ivy Bine Bed & Breakfast and about 100 yards past the post box on the U71609
  - Little Birch Road requiring resurfacing- on wish list.
- 10.2) Lengthsman: - Had been active in the parish, clearing, strimming and washing signs. Works were ongoing. Claim for further tranche of funding had been evidenced and submitted.
- 10.3) Footpaths: - A kissing gate was ready and waiting to be installed on path MB4, to replace a rickety stile half way down the field and the gate was still at Cllr Turner's house, awaiting fitting. The P3 scheme funding as applied for would fund such items to be installed. There would be the responsibility to keep the footpaths clear by strimming and to repair and replace broken/missing stiles with gates etc. subject to landlord consent. Balfour Beatty would generally supply the gates and the fitting would be paid for from the P3 Grant monies awarded. Walkers and landowners do appreciate the initiative. Field gates are also available with pedestrian gates inset for locations necessitating such items.

#### **11.0 Parish Plan- to consider review of 2004 Parish Plan**

This item would be removed from the agenda.

#### **12.0 Correspondence**

12.1) Items were noted as per the information and correspondence sheet and included further lengthsman forms, external audit papers, elections communications and notices.

#### **13.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website**

13.1) Clerk to supply a précis for the next edition of the newsletter. The Meeting discussed postings on the Parish Website, in light of recent requests and confirmed the current position regarding postings. There will be a policy review and, following training undertaken by the Clerk, she will also be able to add postings, if required. The Chair drew attention to a recently published story in the Hereford Times concerning Dilwyn Parish and the issues pertaining to the public house community asset transfer process. Message - community assets have to be handled with caution.

#### **14.0 Matters to be raised on the Agenda for the next meeting**

To include all of the usual updates and items, and also to create a timetable for a review of all relevant policies in order to incorporate the most up to date models. Usual Annual Statutory Meeting appointment of Chair, Vice Chair and officers and signing of acceptance of office and declaration forms.

#### **15.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting(s)**

The next meeting(s) would be – the Annual Statutory and Ordinary Meetings both to be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015, from the earlier time of 7.00pm.

***The meeting closed at 8.12pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date