

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5th April 2018

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Andy Crum
Cllr David Baldwin

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright, Ward Cllr David Harlow and 3 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A resident reported that some, seemingly discarded, barbed wire had been placed on the Millennium Green. The rolls may have fallen from a passing vehicle.

Water was running down Tump Lane and the drains were believed to be full and or blocked. A verge had been damaged during diversions down the Tump Lane. If registration numbers could be taken, when damage was observed, then reports could be sent to the relevant companies.

The future of the winter gritting needed a discussion with interested parties.

The Open Session closed at 7.40pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Tim Jones and Ward Cllr David Harlow.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

3.1) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th March 2018 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 Harlow had sent his report as detailed here (sic):

Much Birch Parish Council

"Ward member report, April 2018

Local matters

Nothing specific to report apart from some planning matters which MBPC will be aware of

Potholes

Herefordshire Council have been awarded more cash to help with potholes. This funding, which totals £1,252,647, will be used to repair more roads, addressing the equivalent of 23,000 potholes and build in protection to help make the county's roads more resistant to future severe weather. According to BBLP we have seen an 84% increase in dangerous potholes since the Beast from the East and her slightly smaller but equally irritating sister.

This money is in addition to monies flowing from the AMEY contract plus usual council spending all of which will see a considerable improvement to the county's road network this summer. To manage expectations there are thousands of miles of roads in Herefordshire and not all will be improved but we will certainly to the maximum possible with the money available.

Economic news

We have been asking local businesses in rural Herefordshire to come forward and make applications to the EU run LEADER scheme. We were in the bottom quartile of English counties for take up of this grant six months ago but following a call for projects I'm delighted to report that we are now in the top 3 English counties. LEADER is a grant scheme offering grants of up to £100k for businesses and communities in the county looking to start or grow.

If there are any projects you know of in the rural part of Herefordshire this is perhaps the last chance to get them included. For more information please contact Dawn Turner on 01432 383023.

Poppies

Just a quick update on the poppies, visitor numbers are above expectation at approx. 2200 – 2400 per day (even during some poor weather) and should the daily numbers remain constant we will exceed the 100,000 visitor mark. This is clearly excellent news for the city and specifically the hard pressed retailers struggling in the face of changing national shopping patterns.

So far no major traffic or parking problems to report so this truly is a good news story”.

4.3) Locality Steward Dave Atkinson the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins.

5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items and Correspondence

The updates were noted and included:

Dear Parish/Town Clerk

The first two courses have now taken place with 50 clerks attending representing 88 councils. The reaction to these courses has been very positive with one clerk e mailing:-

“Dear Anthony and Anthony,

Thank you so much for organising and delivering the GDPR workshop. I found it truly informative and I really appreciated the no-nonsense practical approach that was taken. It has confirmed my view that common sense and reasonableness should prevail.

Thanks once again.”

Our final course is taking place on April 10th at 2pm in Plough Lane Hereford (see below). If you are not one of the “50” and have not already signed up for the 10th April, you are invited to book with me asap as there are only 15 places left.

With Kind Regards

Anthony

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th March 2018 HSBC Community Account	£10,711.57
@ 13 th March 2018 HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,288.69

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (Apr sal £301.70, mileage £18.45, stamps £6.96, home office £50.00)	£377.11
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£75.20
Much Birch Community Hall (PC)	£42.00
Sub Total	£494.31

Payments to be made from Community account

Much Birch Community Hall (NDP)	£42.00
Sub Total	£42.00
Grand Total	£536.31

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

6.3) To consider policies regarding GDPR (Data Protection Regulation) changes from 25/05/18

7.0 School Parking and Village issues update

7.1) To receive related updates and correspondence

A letter had been sent to the school noting actions taken by the Parish Council to date and updating regarding possible options.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any update on planning appeals as may be detailed here:

There was one new application for consideration and one appeal:

Application Reference & Site Address: 130945 - Land at, Tump Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HW

Description of development: Residential development comprising up to 20 dwellings, including up to 10 affordable dwellings with associated new access (via Tump Lane) and car parking arrangements for both existing and proposed and community facility.

Appellant's name: Larkrise Co-housing and Herefordshire Housing Ltd

Appeal reference: APP/W1850/W/17/3180227

Appeal start date: 12 December 2017

There was no further update on the appeal status for Application 130945 at the time of the meeting.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 174711 – Land at Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire

DESCRIPTION: Application for approval of reserved matters for the access following outline application 153630

GRID REF: OS 351314, 230187

APPLICATION TYPE: Approval of Reserved Matters

The Parish Council discussed the content of application 174711 and resolved that there were no objections.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

There had been a change of management team members at Balfour Beatty. There were ongoing issues of roadway being ripped up by large vehicles at Hollybush Lane and subsidence being experienced on the road that had been resurfaced.

Little Birch Road was in very great need of resurfacing. Also many potholes were requiring attention.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Path near Wormelow would be cleared and seasonal clearance of grips and gullies to be carried out.

9.3) To note any matters/works relating to footpaths

Apologies had been received from the Footpath Officer. A communication had been received regarding the possible registration of a local path. This was considered and the Clerk was asked to respond to the enquirer that the Parish Council, after considering the usage and path in question, would not be seeking the registration of the path. This would not preclude a resident from asking for the path to be formally recorded.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

Cllr Burge updated the meeting regarding the meeting held on the 29th March. The Steering Group were moving into the next stage of the process including looking at collected data and settlement boundaries. Site identification, for varying sizes of developments, was being considered.

11.0 Self help gritting scheme

The Working Party (Cllrs Turner and Crum) would liaise with Little Birch and Mr Mason about the future plans for the scheme.

12.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website

12.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website. Clerk to send a précis to the Newsletter.

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

All the usual items would be included plus Larkrise Development Appeal and new Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) from 25/05/18.

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meetings (Annual Parish and Annual Statutory) would be held, consecutively on Thursday 3rd May 2018, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date