

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held on the Zoom Platform, during Covid 19 Virus Pandemic, Thursday 8th April 2021 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr A Crum
Cllr D Baldwin

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan plus one member of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was a discussion regarding the parish litter picking initiative. Thanks were recorded for all of the effort that was going into keeping the area clean and tidy. Ward Cllr Toni Fagan had instigated the idea and a team had built around her with the idea of keeping the momentum going and organising regular picking ventures to keep on top of the situation. Enquiries would be made, by the member of the public present, about holding the litter picking equipment on a permanent basis so that it could be used whenever required. The member of the public would send further details to the Chair. Publicity on social media could be used to garner volunteers, as required. The Open Session closed at 7.40 pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Footpath Officer Steve Owen.

The Parish Council had received the resignations of Cllr Steve Turner and Cllr Veronica Thomas. The Parish Council recorded their thanks to both councillors for their contribution to the work of the council, and for the benefit of the community. The Clerk would write to both councillors to formally thank them for their valued contributions to the work of the parish council.

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 via Zoom on the 4th March 2021, were approved as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4.0 Reports

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

Golden Valley Briefing sent when received.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised about concerns regarding meeting up face to face again after the expiration of the temporary permission for councils to meet on remote platforms. The end of the permission was being challenged in the courts and with a view to looking at legal ways to challenge the need to meet in person.

The Ward Cllr also commented on the “fantastic” effort regarding the litter picking and formally thanked the member of the public present who had played a major role in co-ordinating what had been a “fabulous” result.

The Ward Cllr noted that the former kennels site on principle application for up to nine dwellings had been refused permission.

The Ward Cllr described what was happening with judicious verge cuts to try to encourage wild flowers and also reiterated the importance of people keeping their ditches clear, especially in more developed areas. The avoidance of dumping mowing clippings in ditches was highlighted. The lanes in Much Birch were generally thought to be too narrow for the cutting idea to be very effective and visibility and importance of safety were emphasised.

The Ward Cllr referred the councillors to the Leaders Report which had given a “comprehensive” round up of news affecting the Herefordshire Council etc.

A comment was noted that a parishioner had followed a refuse lorry along the Rotherwas relief road and there was litter flying off the lorry as it progressed along the road. This situation would be raised regarding the importance of preventing further littering with loads coming off the refuse vehicles in transit.

The Ward Cllr and member of the public left the meeting at this point, 7.49 PM.

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

5.0 Update on Correspondence

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Mar 2021 HSBC Community Account	£10,415.19
@ 13 th Mar 2021 HSBC Community Projects Account	£8,012.84

6.2) To approve list of payments (circulated separately)

The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Clerk paid in accordance with contract
HM Revenue & Customs (tax) £77.00

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil

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

The bank review, by HSBC, would be completed following consultation between the Chair and the Clerk.

7.0 Village issues update

7.1) To receive any update on Village issues – the Chair advised that the Thorne would be subject to closure during the oncoming week. The designated diversion was unsuitable for HGV and blockages may well be anticipated in the areas of Forge Lane and Paige’s Pitch.

7.2) Parish Land – update (correspondence refers). The land agent had been advised officially that the parish council would not be acceding to the request to lay cables across the parish land.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

There were no further applications for consideration of comments.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

The Lengthsman would refer up any issues that he observed or could not deal with. No further potholes were advised.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Ongoing works to be completed.

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

The Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent a comprehensive report, previously.

10.0 Parishes Newsletter and Much Birch Website

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

11.0 Neighbourhood Plan

To Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan would be going forward to referendum on May 6th. The Clerk would circulate the “do’s and don’ts” for any potential final awareness advertising.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also the possibility for co-option of new councillor and to look at the bank signatory situation

13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meetings of the Parish Council, Annual Parish and Annual Statutory, would be held on the Zoom Platform on Thursday 6th May 2021, from 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.06 PM

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date