

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 8th December 2016

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Tim Jones
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)
Cllr David Baldwin

In attendance:

Parish Clerk: Alison Wright, Ward Cllr: David Harlow and 11 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no matters raised specifically during the Open Session.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Andy Crum.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations recorded.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

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

4.0 Reports

5.1) 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, December 2016

Remembrance Day

Thanks must go to all those involved in organising the ceremony on 11.11 at the Millennium green on Tump Lane. It was wonderful to see so many of the parish represented and especially to see the children from Much Birch School reciting the poems they had written. Special thanks to Rosemary Rigby and also to the Pilgrim Hotel (refreshments).

Planning

There have been a couple of planning issues in the parish where I have been actively helping the applicant to liaise with the planning department. The planning process can be frustrating but the officers are simply following the procedures outlined in the Core Strategy and other relevant guidelines. The absence of an adopted neighbourhood plan means that the parish has less influence on planning matters than might otherwise be the case.

Introduction to the Internet

The Parish council may wish to consider organising a free course called 'Introduction to the Internet' which is sponsored by Fastershire. The course is designed for beginners and covers issues such as how to send emails, search for information, shop online & stay safe. The workshops can be organised in the parish & Fastershire will bring the computers (courses take 8 people at a time). For information call 01432 260 609

Council funding

I know that it's the time of year when parishes set their precept for 2017, we are doing the same at a county level and I thought it may be of interest to share some of our thinking; first some background:

In 2010 80% of council spend was funded by central grant, by 2020 all council spend will be funded locally through council tax and business rates. We remain in an austerity period in which the council has identified savings totalling £87m between 2010 and 2020. The council is on schedule to have met the challenge, delivering savings of £70m by the end of 2016/17 (leaving £17M still to go)

We are likely to put up our council tax by 3.9% for the next year which will allow us to keep providing social care to the most vulnerable and to help young people to get a good start in life.

Aside from council tax we are putting great effort into increasing our business rate take by launching an 'economic vision' which will be used to push for new investment into the county.

As a local authority our role is to invest money where we believe the private sector will follow – some examples:

** 368 miles of road resurfaced in the last 3 years and over 200,000 pot-holes*

** rolled out of Fastershire broadband to over 80% of residents and businesses (helping businesses)*

** Enterprise zone established and developed (creating good jobs)*

** Moving the livestock market out of town allowing the development of the Old Market*

Needless to say we will not have enough money to do everything at county level and parishes are likely to be asked to do more and more in the local communities. I'm available if anyone wants to discuss this in more detail, just give me a call.

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

5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items

The updates were noted and included important information regarding the Traffic Regulation Orders and an opportunity to respond to proposals from Ray Wallace, Senior Engineer (Network Regulation) at Balfour Beatty:

"Proposal: Reduction of Speed Limit and Introduction of Weight Limit

Location: A466 & C1264 Tump Lane, Wormelow Tump

As part of the Speed Limit Review of all A and B class roads across Herefordshire several changes were identified as worthy of further investigation with a view to introducing lower and/or extended speed limits and were therefore incorporated into the on-going Traffic Regulation Order Programme. In the case of the A466 and C1264 Tump Lane through Wormelow Tump, it was identified that the existing 40 mph speed limit should be reduced to 30 mph. An assessment of the roads in question has been carried out and it was found that the lengths shown on the attached plan HD/T/WORM/A466/221116/1a, meet the criteria for a reduction to a 30 mph speed limit through the village from the existing 40 mph speed limit.

Vehicle Speeds and Volumes

The 85th percentile speeds and two-way average weekday daily vehicle volume flows were obtained within the existing 40 mph speed limits on both the A466 and C1264 Tump Lane through Wormelow Tump:

A466:	North bound: 38.06 mph, South bound: 40.05 mph, Average Weekday
Daily flows of 5089	
C1264 Tump Lane:	East bound: 34.87 mph, West bound: 36.19 mph, Average Weekday
Daily flows of 975	

Injury Collision History

Injury collision records show that there has been one slight injury collision during the last five year period.

In addition a request was received asking that consideration be given to the introduction of a 7.5t weight limit on the C1264 Tump Lane to encourage large vehicles to use the A466 route to the A49 rather than using the C1264 Tump Lane as a short cut to and from the A49.

The average weekday percentage of large vehicles currently using the C1264 Tump Lane is 1% which is about 10 vehicles and is expected to be mostly through traffic as it is considered that it is unlikely that much of this traffic will be stopping off and visiting a site along the C1264 Tump Lane. As a comparison, the average weekday percentage of large vehicles currently using the A466 is 4% and equates to about 204 vehicles. Again the proposals for the proposed weight limit are on the same plan as the speed limit proposals that being the attached plan HD/T/WORM/A466/221116/1a.

If you require any further information or details on the proposals then please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to receiving your comments on these proposals”.

This item was discussed and commented under item 7.2.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Nov 2016 HSBC Community Account	£12,072.37
@ 13 th Nov 2016 HSBC Community Projects Account	£12,941.75

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Clerks salary (Dec)	£238.96
The Post Office Ltd (Tax)	£59.60
Expenses (mileage £15.30)	£15.30

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

7.0 School Parking and Village issues update

7.1) To receive related correspondence

A councillor advised that the Enforcement Officers were checking parking on the yellow lines, outside the school, and a parent, who had parked on one recently, had received a penalty notice.

7.2) To consider Traffic Regulation Orders for Tump Lane – update and response

The Parish Council considered the proposals outlined under item 5 and commented that they wished the proposals to go ahead as soon as possible.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications as circulated.

There had been two applications for consideration:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 163364 – Land south of Ladywell Lane, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire.

DESCRIPTION: Site for 3 detached dwellings with garages, and access

APPLICANT(S): Mrs Esther Croke

GRID REF: OS 350044, 231861

APPLICATION TYPE: Outline

The comment to be submitted by the Parish Council was to be as follows:

The Much Birch Parish Council has considered the application, and heard representation from parishioners, and are minded to OBJECT to the planning application for the following reasons:

The application shows revised plans for attempting to deal with foul water disposal in the absence of access to a public sewerage system. The Parish Council are concerned that there will be inadequate soak away for the water generated by the properties in an area that is already vulnerable to field water run off and drainage issues. The ground is inherently boggy in nature and there is a question regarding that percolation tests should be carried out?

The lane is considered too narrow to accommodate the required construction traffic and subsequent householder traffic. Considerable inconvenience to existing residents is likely to be experienced.

There is a concern as to the over-bearing nature and overlooking from the new houses leading to a loss of privacy.

There is concern that natural light may be blocked out for the properties below the new builds.

There are also concerns over the access which does not appear to be properly represented on the drawings and will be creating a third access point onto what is a very narrow lane.

There was also the consideration of the following:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 163203 - Land adjacent to Village Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HW

DESCRIPTION: 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.

APPLICANT(S): The Owner and/or Occupier

GRID REF: OS 349699, 230575

APPLICATION TYPE: Outline

The Parish Council had previously held a public meeting about the application and also heard a summary from the applicant's representative.

The Much Birch Parish Council has considered the application and the amendments and has heard representation from the parish residents, concerning the application, and is minded to continue to OBJECT to the proposals.

The reasons for this are as previously conveyed and additionally, whilst the Parish Council acknowledges the attempts that have been made to try to make changes to the priorities of the traffic coming up towards the A49 along Tump Lane and arrangements for passing places and single file traffic, these are not believed to adequately address the issues likely to be experienced in the Lane. It is believed that the proposed arrangements will make life more difficult for the existing residents in Tump Lane, above the Estate, in terms of being able to gain access to their properties and to receive deliveries to their homes. For example near to the property known as "The Slinget", where a passing place is to be located, and a large delivery vehicle will block the passing place and so cause traffic to tail back in both directions. The Parish Council are concerned that the proposals will lead to the possible incidence of conflict between vehicular traffic and pedestrians and there are serious concerns for the safety and welfare of any wheelchair, or pushchair, users who may be forced out into a single track road and into the path of the traffic. The Parish Council are dissatisfied with the proposals relating to pedestrian safety overall.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

- To note the “disgraceful” condition of the road surface in Little Birch Road
- Potholes by the bus stop Kingsthorpe Road and two bad ones in Wrigglebrook Lane U71606
- Issue with manhole, coned off outside the Community Hall.
- Road sign damaged at junction of U71609 and U71603 (sign to Little Birch)

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

- Clear pavement on approach to the school
- Check grips and drainage in Ladywell Lane

9.3) To receive Report from Footpath Officer

- Sign down by “Trewen” MB2, plus MB2 path - clearing needed

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

Cllr Burge updated the Meeting regarding the Steering Group Meeting held on the 1st December in terms of membership of the group, and that the signed Service Level Agreement had been returned to the Planning Department at the Local Authority. A Draft of the Terms of Reference for the Project and a Project Planner were being modelled. The plan could take between 2 to 3 years to complete. The aim was to meet each month before the monthly Parish Council Meeting and to feedback the progress at the Parish Council Meetings. The Local Authority Adviser assisting with plan was Karla Johnson. A grant of up to £9000.00 was available and a draft budget would be prepared. The dedicated Face Book Page was ready to receive progress updates.

The next meeting of the Steering Group would be held on the 2nd February from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall. All welcome. Clerk to arrange hall bookings for the calendar year.

11.0 Self-Help Gritting Scheme

There was nothing additional to report this time. Scheme is in place.

12.0 Correspondence

12.1) Items were noted as per the information and correspondence sheet and included the information regarding the Traffic Regulation Orders that were being considered for Tump Lane.

13.0 Parishes’ Newsletter and Much Birch Website

13.1) Clerk to send a précis to the Newsletter. This would include details of the next Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting.

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

All the usual items would be included plus the Hereford Safer Roads Partnership and local speeding initiatives.

15.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 5th January 2017 from 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall. Cllr Burge gave her apologies, for the January Meeting, in advance.

The meeting closed at 8.53pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date