

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### Present:

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

### In attendance:

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

### Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was a “thank you” to the Parish Council for the memorial wreath presented at the Remembrance Service on the Millennium Green. The wishes for a very happy Christmas and New Year were exchanged.

The issue of parking in the vicinity of the school was then raised by a member of the public and was discussed at some length by those present. Problems were occurring during dropping off and picking up times in addition to parking when events were taking place in the school. Cars had been observed parking right up to “blind bends” and were frequently causing issues for passing of other vehicles. Previous suggestions and ideas including use of other land parcels for car parking were discussed. The ADL report and recommendations, for parking regulation, was undergoing consideration and the final outcomes were awaited. The school was oversubscribed and many pupils were travelling in from outside the catchment area. A recent “near miss” was reported of a parent opening a door into oncoming traffic. The Parish Council had to concede that the solving of the problem, as it stands, is not viable. The Clerk would write to the Chair of Governors and the Head to reiterate the concerns and ask if consideration and due care could be taken when parking etc. It was agreed that the Ward Cllr would contact the Monastery regarding any possible land and parking options and Cllr Crum would also speak to a local landowner to see if any land, for a leasing agreement for parking, could be made available.

The Open Session closed at 7.50pm.

### **1.0 Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies received from Cllr Tim Jones.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 were signed as true and correct record of the Meeting. There was some confusion with the reported footpath requirements, which were clarified thus: Footpath MB2 needs a new gate to replace an existing stile subject to consultation with the landowners, Mr and Mrs Hamilton. Path MB30 requires general clearance of overgrowth.

There was also an update on the covering of trailers when carrying loads. The legal position was that loose loads, such as vegetables and fruit, should be secured and covered during transit. The level of the commodity should also be below the level of the top of the trailer to prevent spillage.

If any trailer were seen to be contravening the law then the registration number should be taken and the Police informed.

#### **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, December 2017**

###### **TRO outside Much Birch school**

*The consultants have sent out a revised consultation document to address the issues outside Mr Padden's house and the school. We expect to have their recommendations early in the new year.*

###### **City link road**

*The City Link Road will open to the public on Monday 11 December 2017. The actual cost of construction of the CLR is less than the original forecast with land acquisition and professional fees above forecast. Taking into account the risk and inflation allowance the scheme comes within the business case budget agreed.*

*The road will mark a significant milestone in the regeneration of Hereford City following on from the successful opening of Old Market in 2012.*

*Once open the new road will provide an east to west route and a direct walking and cycling link from the Great Western Way to the hospital, railway station and colleges. The road's opening will also reinstate a second entrance to Merton Meadow car park in time for the Christmas shopping period.*

###### **Shopping in Hereford this Christmas**

*Herefordshire Council has decided to issue vouchers for free parking to encourage customers to visit independent businesses in Hereford this Christmas. The scheme is in partnership with the Hereford Business Improvement District (BID) team and aims to promote independent businesses during the busy Christmas period.*

*The parking vouchers are available for local independent businesses to issue to customers. They can be used throughout December for 3 hours free weekend car parking at the Town Hall car park (access via East Street) and Greyfriars overflow car park (the section under the bridge) on Saturdays and Sundays. They can also be used for 2 hours free parking (Monday to Saturday) in the limited waiting bays on Castle Street. These locations are a short walk from the Independent Quarter on Church Street and the surrounding area.*

*Don't forget: Herefordshire Council car parks in Hereford city centre, including the Old Market and on-street pay & display, are free for shoppers after 4pm every Wednesday until Christmas*

###### **Speed in rural villages**

*Last week was National Road Safety Week, organised by the national road safety charity Brake. This year's campaign encourages everyone to be more aware of their speed and slow down. In the UK and particularly in villages like Much Birch speeding is still a major problem. It causes needless collisions, untold suffering and stops people living safe and healthy lives as we have seen in our area over the last twelve months.*

*Over the last ten years, Herefordshire saw an overall decrease in serious road accidents across the county, however in the last two years, these number have started to rise. Research suggests that if the speed of traffic is reduced by just 1mph, there would be a 5% reduction in casualties. Drivers who reduce their speed will also save money by using their car more efficiently.*

*Please help everyone stay safe this winter by being speed aware, and drive appropriately for the weather conditions. Follow @HfdsStreets on Twitter for the latest winter road updates, including gritting.*

**4.3) Locality Steward** Dave Atkinson the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins. The hedge by the ditch in Wrigglebrook Lane had been trimmed back. The high hedge on the school road was still overhanging at the top and was an issue for high sided vehicles. This was being monitored by the Locality Steward but may need the Duchy to be contacted to trim back further. The

highways assessment of Little Birch Road with a factor 35 was questioned. What does this mean? The risk factor and the high Duchy hedges would be followed up with the Locality Steward.

#### **5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items and Correspondence**

The updates were noted and included:

Thank you letter for donation from Dore Community Transport.

Information about Hereford Tree Week

**From the Ward Cllr:** Information about Marches Growth Hub Events 2017 – 2018

#### **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 HSBC Community Account £12,396.03

@ 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 HSBC Community Projects Account £14,910.69

##### **6.2) The following payments were approved:**

##### **Payments to be made from main account**

Mrs A Wright (Dec salary £301.50, mileage £15.30, stationery £6.50) £323.30

Cllr A Cook (Remembrance wreath) £50.00

**Sub Total £373.30**

##### **Payments to be made from Community account**

Data Orchard (NDP Consultancy) £2685.00

**Grand Total £3058.30**

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

#### **7.0 School Parking and Village issues update**

##### **7.1) To receive related updates and correspondence**

No further information received. The matter was discussed during the Open Session.

##### **7.2) To receive any update on Herefordshire Road Safety Partnership and local speeding initiatives**

No further update. The wish to participate would be reiterated.

##### **7.3) Hollybush Lane entrance from A49 – update**

The improvements and kerbs for the entrance were now lodged and were waiting approved funding for progression.

#### **8.0 Planning Matters**

##### **8.1) To consider any planning applications as circulated and update on related matters**

There was one new application for consideration:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 174294 - Much Birch Voluntary Controlled School, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HL

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed scrap store, play pod and tyre park

**APPLICANT(S):** The Owner and/or Occupier

**GRID REF:** OS 350097, 230924

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Council Development Reg 4

The Parish Council discussed the proposals 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**

Sign post to Little Birch and grit bin by the sign post both required replacement.

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

The Lengthsman would be undertaking seasonal cleaning and strimming etc. as appropriate. Also to look at paths MB2 and MB30. Blocked drain by the Chalice on Barrack Hill.

**The Footpath Officer** had sent his apologies.

**10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update**

The draw was made for the £50.00 cash prize from all those residents who had returned their questionnaires. Dates for the 2018 meetings would be published soon. The Steering Group would be looking at the analysis results in the new year ahead of an open meeting. The Steering Group would meet on the 11<sup>th</sup> January and would then revert to meeting one week before the Parish Council Meeting.

**11.0 Self help gritting scheme**

The scheme remained in readiness for inclement weather conditions.

**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. The dates of the 2018 Parish Council Meetings and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings would be included in a future edition.

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

All the usual items would be included plus any further information on school parking issues.

**14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

The next Meeting would be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

***The meeting closed at 8.31pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date