

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 6th December 2018

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Rosemary Rigby MBE
Cllr Andy Crum

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright and 2 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members of the audience raised the issues of pothole repair quality at the bottom of Tump Lane, the drain being blocked by the shop up from the Yew tree on the A466 and the overgrown hedge over the path by the "Reading Room". Also raised was the matter of the bollards on the left hand side of Tump Lane going towards the Wormelow end of Tump Lane. The Chair had been in contact with Balfour Beatty about the damage caused to the bollards during seasonal verge cutting. The Chair would look into chasing up the replacement bollards. It was understood that a job had been raised by the Locality Steward to have them replaced.

The ditch close by to the area of the bollards would be looked at regarding possible clearance by the Lengthsman.

The "cats eyes" road light markers had still not been replaced on the Wormelow Road.

The Open Session closed at 7.45pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr David Baldwin and Ward Cllr David Harlow.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded other than Cllr Cook regarding reimbursement for wreath payment under item 6.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

4.1) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th November 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.

There were warnings about people impersonating the HMRC to get cash from victims of a telephone scam.

Over the past few days we have received many calls from the public reporting a scam phone call allegedly from Revenue and Customs - the below is from the government website

HMRC is aware of an automated phone call scam which will tell you HMRC is filing a lawsuit against you, and to press one to speak to a caseworker to make a payment. We can confirm this is a scam and you should end the call immediately.

This scam has been widely reported and often targets elderly and vulnerable people.

Other scam calls may offer a tax refund and request you to provide your bank or credit card information. If you cannot verify the identity of the caller, we recommend that you do not speak to them.

If you've been a victim of the scam and suffered financial loss, report it to Action Fraud. The calls use a variety of phone numbers. To help our investigations you should report full details of the scam by email to: phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk, including the:

date of the call, phone number used, content of the call"

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Harlow had not sent a report this month.

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: update on the installation of the new grit bins.

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Road work updates.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th November 2018 HSBC Community Account	£12,834.65
@ 13 th November 2018 HSBC Community Projects Account	£18,359.43

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (Dec sal £307.45, mileage £15.75)	£323.20
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£77.00
Mrs A Cook (Remembrance wreath)	£50.00
Much Birch Community Hall (room hire PC)	£42.00
Sub Total	£492.20

Payments to be made from Community account

Much Birch Community Hall (room hire NDP)	£28.00
Longfield Services (grit bins and disposal)	£351.80
Glasdon UK Limited (Grit bins)	£2489.59
Radbournes Limited (grit for bins)	£600.00
Sub Total	£3469.39

Grand Total £3961.59

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

6.3) To consider request for support from Dore Community Transport

It was agreed that the Secretary of Dore CT would be asked for more details of full annual accounts in relation to local parish use to enable consideration of the request which would be postponed awaiting the further information.

7.0 School Parking and Village issues update

7.1) To include crossing lighting update

This would be chased up by the Chair who had sent an enquiry to the Contract Management.

7.2) Speeding concerns on the A466

A communication had been received concerning speeding on the A466. The Community Speed Watch Team was now involved. The Parish Council had been represented on location in Tump Lane with the Community Speed Watch Officer concerning the placement of a data collecting device to inform the extent of the speeding issues in Tump Lane. The device will be in place for a one week period and will collect data from both directions. Concerns about speeding through Wormelow Village would also be addressed.

7.3) Communication from Cabin Childcare Ltd. regarding parking outside school

A communication had been received concerning the lines outside Cabin Child care. A draft reply would be circulated to the members for their approval before sending.

It was noted that the Parish Council was still receiving comments from local residents about the issues of “danger from parking” around the school area.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

One application was considered:

Planning Consultation 184113 Land north of Gilston, The Thorn, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, HR2 8AN - Application for variation of condition 2 of previous planning permission 153074 and condition 1 of planning permission 181443 (To allow an extension to one of the dwellings)

The Parish Council discussed the proposals in planning consultation 183634 and resolved that there were no objections to the proposal.

Access in Parish Lane

A possible breach of planning conditions, regarding access, had been advised to the Parish Council concerning a property in Parish Lane. This would be referred to the Enforcement Team to look into.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

The Little Birch Road had been advised as a repair item for 2019.

The Duchy hedge had been cut back but not far enough according to a report at the meeting which indicated that high sided vehicles were still being driven over to the other side of the road to avoid the billowing top part of the hedge.

A drop in road level at the Thorn junction with Wrigglebrook Lane (outside Gilston) could be seen as a potential hazard.

The hedge at Wrigglebrook Cottage was reported as being out over the highway and it was stated that about 18 -20 inches of road width could possibly be reclaimed if it were to be cut back.

Pilgrim Hotel – rear access onto Tump Lane – kerbstone reported as being raised.

Aconbury Close – still awaiting the replacement signpost and drainage issues were advised.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Works would include: grit bin filling and the ditch by the bollards in Tump Lane.

9.3) To note any matters/works relating to footpaths and to appoint new Footpath Officer

A prospective Footpath Officer volunteer would hopefully be in attendance at the January 2019 Parish Council Meeting.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan

Record of Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering group meeting

1 November 2018 at Much Birch Community Hall

Present. Steering Group; Dave Goldsmith (Chairman) , Martin Booy, Tricia Egerton, Chris Grover , Geoff Nichol, Chris Pickering Grey, Steve Turner (PC), Roisin Burge (PC),

1. Apologies. Lesley Gare, Bill Bloxsome (Data Orchard)

2. Declarations of Interest. There were no declarations of interest.

3. Approval of Record/notes from meeting 27 September 2018

The record was agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting of 27 September 2018

4. Matters arising.

5. Review of Data Orchard Consultancy 'Housing site assessment'

In the absence of consultant Bill Bloxsome (unavoidably detained due to traffic gridlock in Hereford city centre) discussion of this item was postponed.

In place of this item the group further discussed and agreed the outstanding 'Draft Objective MB2' Development strategy'

A date for the next public consultation in order to provide the public with an update on progress to date , and to seek views/comments on the draft Much Birch NDP was also discussed. Late February/early March were proposed dates.

7. Finance

No matters arising

8.(I) Dates of meetings 2019 to be held at Much Birch Community Hall 7.30pm.

The following dates were agreed.

Thursday 10 January, Thursday 31 January, Thursday 28 February, Thursday 28 March

Thursday 2nd May, Thursday 30 May, Thursday 27 June, Thursday 29 August

Thursday 26 September, Thursday 31 October, Thursday 28 November.

8(ii)Working group meeting with Bill Bloxsome (Data Orchard) 12 November 2018

Site Assessments update.

At this stage Bill Bloxsome is part way through the task and there is still a great deal to be done before the assessments are completed.

As this is an area of work which it was agreed must be 'contracted out to the appropriately qualified consultants 'and completed independently circulation of the outcome and recommendations will not take place until the assessments are completed.

8(iii)Public consultation date 2019

IN preparation for the Much Birch NDP 2nd Public consultation event the group were referred (for background reading) to the Pembridge NDP public consultation documentation which is available /accessible on line.

8(iv)Agenda items for next meeting (29 November 2018)

Date for March MB NDP Public event /consultation

Further work on Draft plan

Roisin Burge

11.0 Self help gritting scheme

The allocation of grit to assist with the scheme, from Balfour Beatty for Much Birch Parish, had been requested. It was resolved that a letter should be sent to the Stakeholder Manager at Balfour Beatty to request information and satisfaction regarding the non filling nor seemingly the non adoption of the entire parish grit bin stock. A grit bin update note would be prepared for social media circulation via web site and Facebook.

An enquiry about a new bin for Wrigglebrook Pitch would be responded to and a bin would be supplied at the same time as the planned grit bin filling by the Lengthsman.

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. Also to send separate article about the Neighbourhood Plan and to include the Steering Group Meeting dates for 2019. This would include information about a Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultation Day on the 16th March 2019 – 10.00 to 4.00 in the Community Hall.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also on the Agenda for January - Grit bins and consideration of donation for Dore Community Transport.

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 3rd January 2019, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.39pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date