

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Roisin Burge  
Cllr Andy Crum  
Cllr Veronica Thomas

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Ward Cllr Toni; Fagan, Lengthsman; Paul Wright and 3 members of the public. Also present for part of the meeting was PCSO Carol Marsh.

### Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
There were no matters raised during the Open Session.  
The Open Session closed at 7.31 pm.

A short presentation followed from the Pilgrim Hotel owner and their planning agent. Plans to develop some of the grounds of the hotel to give residential property opportunities were described. The outline plans were viewed by those present. The Parish Council would consider any planning application, with regard to comments, if and when a formal application was submitted.

### 1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr David Baldwin and Footpath Officer Steve Owen.

### 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 on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 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. PCSO Carol Marsh was in attendance and updated the meeting regarding local crime trends. There had been six reported road traffic collisions in the surrounding area, three reports of mud on the road and one anti social behaviour incident. There had been sightings of suspicious vehicles and incidents of gate marking and one incident of a wheel made in a window. There had been nine reported shed/outhouse break-ins reported since September. Garden machinery and hand tools had been taken. Scams were an ongoing problem with just 2 cases seeing an amount of £30 thousand being taken from the victims in total. The banks now have a protocol if someone comes into branch seeking to withdraw a large sum of cash, in that they will alert the Police. Checks will then be made to see that the transaction is bona fide.

PCSO Carol Marsh left at 8.12 pm.

**4.2) Ward Councillor** Ward Cllr Fagan advised that she had declared an interest in the Larkrise Application and was therefore no longer involved in this or the footpath. A replacement contact Ward Cllr for the topic would be appointed. The Ward Cllr had requested that the Ladywell Application be referred to Committee.

**4.3) Locality Steward** James Howells, the Locality Steward, had sent his bulletins. Potholes had been filled in Aconbury Close and Parish Lane.

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

The updates were noted and included from Herefordshire Council:

- Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Planning review meeting - Additional date.
- Salt for parishes
- Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations
- Invitations to councillors - The Great Collaboration (Climate Emergency initiative)
- Marches Renewable Energy Grant Scheme
- Current development in the River Lugg catchment area
- Budget 2020/21 and Corporate Plan consultation: 7 November to 4 December 2019

### **HALC**

- Papers from HALC Conference & AGM held on 23/11/19

### **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019 HSBC Community Account	£12,607.24
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019 HSBC Community Projects Account	£12,889.84

#### **6.2) To approve list of payments (circulated separately) and to consider a further request for church clock maintenance (request received)**

The Parish Council resolved to further support the maintenance of the church clock with a supplementary donation of £30.00. They also resolved to contribute £150.00 towards keeping the church grounds maintained.

The following payments were approved:

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

Mrs A Wright (Salary paid in accordance with contract)	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£64.40
Much Birch Community Hall (PC room hire)	£80.40
Cllr A Cook (Remembrance Wreath)	£50.00

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

Nil

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

#### **6.3) To consider the options around possible Smart Water provision in the parish**

It was agreed that a notice would be placed in the Newsletter and on social media to gather possible take-up interest for the scheme.

#### **6.4) Notice board near the bus stop adjacent to the A49, to consider replacement or repair**

It was agreed that the Lengthsman would look at the options for repair or replacement of the notice board.

## **7.0 Village issues update**

**7.1)** To receive any update regarding lighting at the crossing on the A49  
Further update would be given at the February 2020 Meeting.

**7.2)** Grit bins – remove from Agenda

**7.3)** Self Help Gritting Scheme – all okay – the free one tonne of grit had been ordered with Balfour Beatty.

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

### **8.1) To consider any planning applications**

There was one new application for consideration:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 193810 - Gamberhead Farmhouse,  
Wormelow, Herefordshire, HR2 8EL

**DESCRIPTION:** Change of use of land for siting of 3 no. self-contained shepherds huts for holiday let use.

**GRID REF:** OS 349631, 229490

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Planning Permission

The Parish Council considered application 193810 and there were no objections to the proposals.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

Path from shop to Carrot and Wine shop to the pub (Tump Inn) (Much Dewchurch) in a poor condition and drain by the Yew Tree blocked  
Duchy hedge still not cut back at the top and overhanging for high sided vehicles

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

Check grit bin sites and drains/path at Gamber Cottage.

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

Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies.

There was a discussion regarding possible footpath for Tump Lane. This would be looked at alongside any future planning applications.

## **10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update**

Draft papers had been sent to Herefordshire Council and the public consultation would commence on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and run to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Copies would be available to view at various locations and on the website. Circulation of papers would take place.

## **11.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website**

**11.1)** To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website. Clerk to send a précis to the Newsletter. The précis would include information regarding possible provision of Smart Water and a separate article would also be submitted about Smart Water to gauge public support for the proposals.

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

All the usual items would be included.

**13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall. Further Meetings for 2020 would be as follows: 6 Feb, 5 March, 9 April, 8 May (Friday), 11 June, 9 July, 3 Sept, 8 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec 2020. No meeting in August.

***The meeting closed at 8.49 pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date