

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 8th February 2018

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Andy Crum
Cllr Tim Jones

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright, and 5 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The drain outside No. 49 Tump Lane was full with grass growing from it. The bin by the bus shelter on the green outside the Wormelow Garage had not been emptied.

The footpath, from the garage to the shop in Wormelow, was on the list for clearance.

The idea of cycle racks was discussed for the area by the bus shelter at Kingsthorpe. This suggestion would be conveyed to the Much Dewchurch Clerk who would need to pursue the idea with the landowner. Much Birch Parish Council would be in support of the idea of racks where people could leave bikes when travelling by bus etc.

The Open Session closed at 7.40pm.

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.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

3.1) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th January 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 notifications of break-ins in other parts of the County.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Harlow had sent his report as detailed here (sic):

Much Birch Parish Council

"Ward member report, February 2018"

Parking matters

As discussed at recent Parish council meetings the parking issue outside the primary school is worsening as the school increases in popularity and therefore in numbers. Whilst we are delighted to have such a highly rated school in the parish we must try to find a solution to the parking along the road during school drop off times.

To this end I visited the Poor Clares Monastery next door to the school on 31st January where I met with Mother Superior. Whilst very understanding of the parking problems Mother Superior did not feel able to offer the Monastery's car park as an solution. This is a shame but I would now suggest the PC look at other options to the parking problem.

Tump Lane planning appeal

I wrote to the Planning Inspectorate to voice my opposition to the Tump Lane planning appeal. Conversations with many residents of Tump Lane left me in no doubt that the vast majority of local people were firmly opposed to the Larkrise development.

If I hear anything about the appeal date I shall communicate this to the community via the clerk.

Hereford bypass consultation

The Hereford Bypass was identified as one of the early priorities of Midlands Connect's 25 year transport strategy for the region, published in 2017. Plans for the Hereford Transport Package – the Hereford Bypass and associated walking, cycling, bus and public realm improvements will be exhibited on the 6, 7 and 8 of February 2018.

The exhibition will be available for public view between 11am and 8pm in the pod next to The Coffee Corner at Old Market.

There will also be an evening session on Tuesday 13 February 2018 from 6pm to 9pm at Whitecross High School."

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: A request for support from the Carrot and Wine Stores. The Clerk would give a reference to say that the store and post office had been well received by local residents.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th January 2018 HSBC Community Account	£11,766.11
@ 13 th January 2018 HSBC Community Projects Account	£12,225.69

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (Feb salary £301.52, tax refund £115.20 mileage £15.30)	£432.02
Longfield Services (Lengthsman)	£60.00
Longfield Services (P3 – Footpath)	£60.00
Much Birch Community Hall (Room hire)	£43.75
Skyfire Consulting Ltd (web hosting)	£105.00
Sub Total	£700.77

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil	£0.00
Grand Total	£700.77

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

6.3) To consider donation towards the Birches Newsletter

The request for a donation towards the Birches Newsletter was approved and £350.00 was added to the list of payments.

7.0 School Parking and Village issues update

7.1) To receive related updates and correspondence plus yellow line traffic regulation order recommendations (feedback)

The comment was made that the volume of traffic trying to access the school at drop off and pick up times just could not be accommodated anywhere but on the road currently. A resident who was present explained that the school were in constant dialogue with parents and guardians about considerate parking ethics. "Kiss and Drop" initiatives had been implemented and "parking warden" volunteers had done what was possible to help marshal the traffic safely. The question was posed that if some land was found somewhere, would parents etc. use it? There may be some land available following a conversation that a councillor had shared with a local landowner. The proposed yellow line changes would address the issues outside the property "Fairview" with loading etc. being made legal. Double yellow lines would be across the whole school frontage in the new proposal. Points A and B of the proposal were agreed as these would reduce the restrictions around Fairview. The Parish Council would comment back, to Mr Hemblade, that everything else should be left as it currently is and that only the changes proposed in points A and B were endorsed by the Parish Council.

The resident present said that she would speak to the school governors concerning ideas to progress the idea of possibly using a local piece of land as a car parking area. The idea would be brought to the attention of the Governing Body.

There had been some communication received regarding the possibility of a pedestrian crossing on the A49. There had been some concerns raised by a local resident in terms of lighting, noise and urbanisation. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to communicate with the sender of the information to enquire what other possible ideas had been considered and what the driving factors behind it were.

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

The Clerk had received some update information and was waiting for the data and decision information to be communicated.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any update on planning appeals as may be detailed here:

There was one new application for consideration and one appeal:

Application Reference & Site Address: 130945 - Land at, Tump Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HW

Description of development: 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.

Appellant's name: Larkrise Co-housing and Herefordshire Housing Ltd

Appeal reference: APP/W1850/W/17/3180227

Appeal start date: 12 December 2017

There was no update on the appeal status for Application 130945 at the time of the meeting. Details were awaited.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 174691 – Court Farm, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HT

DESCRIPTION: Proposed general purpose building

APPLICANT(S): Mr Mark Green

GRID REF: OS 350470, 229966

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The Parish Council discussed the proposals of application 174691 and resolved that there were no objections to the proposal.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Road U71605 Hollybush Lane all edging falling away. Resurfaced previously.

Barrack Hill – broken edging opposite Anfield House.

Potholes at the bottom of The Thorn outside the “Chalice”. Pothole outside Cress Cottage in Wrigglebrook Lane.

Tree issues on MB23 would need to be landowner dealt. Locality Steward to be notified.

Overhanging trees on Little Birch Road and at bottom of Barrack Hill.

Parish Lane and Ticklewithy Pitch side of road issues (Little Birch).

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

General seasonal clearing and maintenance would be ongoing.

The Footpath Officer

The Footpath Officer advised that a finger post was required for MB2 and path MB30 would be checked re any issue.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11/01/18 were highlighted and are included here:

“Record of Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering group meeting 11 January 2018”

Present. Dave Goldsmith (Chairman), Tricia Egerton, Lesley Gare, Chris Gooding (Data Orchard) Chris Grover, Maz Jooma, Geoff Nichol, Rosemary Rigby, Steve Turner (PC), Roisin Burge (PC)

1. Apologies Shirley Coates

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

3. Approval of Minutes of meeting 28 September 2017.

These were agreed and approved as a true record. Note. The meeting proposed for 26 October was cancelled due to members of the group needing to spend time on delivery and collection of NDP questionnaires. The meeting of 30 November was postponed as results from analysis of questionnaires not yet available.

4. Matters arising.

Covered in items 5, 6, and 7.

5. Review of Questionnaire reports.

Electronic access to the initial results and analysis of questionnaires for three areas, Community, Housing and Business had been circulated to members of the group prior to the meeting. Area 4 ‘Call for land’ analysis has not yet been completed and at this stage remains in the confidential data bank of Consultancy Data Orchard. It is anticipated that this area will be considered at a future meeting which will be attended by the Data Orchard specialist consultant for this area of NDP development.

With reference to two written requests for consideration of specific areas of land available’ (previously registered with the Parish Council) for consideration when the NDP reached this stage of development. It was agreed that RB (PC) should pass these to Data Orchard to add to the data held on ‘Calls for land’ for future consideration/action.

Introduction.

Chris G (DO) introduced the session stating that returns were relatively high and the overall results from the community consultation on trend with those of other similar rural communities.

5.1 Community. Vision and Objectives. Key Findings

Feedback on this section was very positive with 80-90% of returns supportive of the Vision and Objectives set out. "The aspects with greatest importance were, 'the rural nature of the Parish,' 'Living in an area with a thriving natural habitat' and 'Sensitive management of farming practices'. A further opportunity to enhance and refine Vision and Objectives will be available at a later consultations.

5.2. Housing. Key Findings

84 households returned a 'Housing Needs Questionnaire' of which 73 indicated no additional housing need now or over the next 5 years. The remaining 11 described a need for additional homes either now, over the next five years or both. "7 Additional homes are currently needed". IN response to what type of residential development should take place over the next 13 years? "The only types of development that weren't on balance supported i.e. more disagreed than agreed were 'executive homes' (4 or more bedrooms) and flats or apartments. The proportion of people having no opinion was fairly high and exceeded the number disagreeing in a number of cases" Note.

Further detail and analysis please refer to full report.

5.3. Business. Key Findings Total number of respondents 55

"Of the types of employments listed there was the greatest support for Tourism, leisure and crafts (78%) and Community services 73 % and the highest opposition for Transport, storage and distribution (55%) followed by Industrial and manufacturing (47%). Further detail and analysis please refer to report

5.4. Call for land.

Please see introduction to 5. To be discussed at future date

6. Next Step.

Chris G (DO) advised that the next step in the NDP process will be to review the proposed Vision and objectives alongside the detailed results of the consultation. From the analysis there is a need to identify the key recommendations to be further developed to inform policies for an evidence based Much Birch NDP. (Note some of the detail of the feedback may not be appropriate to planning policy).

Chris G (DO) proposed that the next public consultation should focus on the feedback from surveys and what the group propose to do with the data i.e....."This is what the community have said" "This is what we might do....Policy Options A/B/C/D"

The process of translating/refining 'identified issues/statements' into 'policy options' (for further consideration by the community) can be a challenging task and in order to assist with this Chris G undertook to forward some examples of 'NDP policy development' statements. It was also suggested that reference might be made to the completed /published NDPs of Eardisley and Weston under Penyard.

Action agreed. It was agreed that on receipt of the additional information/ reference materials members of the group would prepare draft policy options for each area of the Much Birch NDP (based on evidence available to date). The Meeting of 1 February will be attended by Data Orchard Consultant Bill Bloxame who has specialist knowledge in this area and will be able to advise how we can progress (avoiding pitfalls) from "what the community have said "to a full set of planning criteria "

7 AOB

Chris G (Finance/budget) circulated a budget report (April 2017-December2017) which has been discussed with the funding section of NDP/Herefordshire Council. Chris will apply for a further grant to 31 March 2018.

The Chairman advised that the Community Questionnaire prize draw was completed at the Parish Council Meeting (7 December 2017) and the winner was Bob Barnett.

Date of Next meeting 1 February 2018"

11.0 Self help gritting scheme

No further update this time.

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. Dates of the 2018 Neighbourhood Plan Meetings and Parish Council Meetings had been sent through for the calendar but were not on as yet.

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, Larkrise Development Appeal.

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting would be held on Thursday 8th March 2018, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date