

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 7th February 2019

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)
Cllr Rosemary Rigby MBE
Cllr Andy Crum
Cllr David Baldwin

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Ward Cllr David Harlow, Footpath Officer; Steve Owen and 6 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were three potholes reported in Wormelow at the turning before the A49 and shop.

There were two potholes by the Acacia Tree in Tump Lane (below the marker posts and before the bungalows).

Little Birch Road had been resurfaced. A big note of thanks for this was noted.

The question of dialogue with the school over parking was raised. The Chair reported that no further communications had been received.

There was a blocked drain on the A49 by the Hollybush lane and opposite the Axe and Cleaver. (Highways England referral)

The Open Session closed at 7.41pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Roisin Burge.

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 3rd January 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.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Harlow had sent the following report (stet):

"Much Birch report - February 2019

Hereford transport package

Improving the way we travel in and around Hereford is important to reduce journey times, cut pollution, create a safer environment for all road users and make the city a better place to live, work, study and visit.

Proposals set out in the Hereford Transport Package include the Hereford bypass and associated improvements to walking, cycling, bus and public spaces, which are designed to make it easier to move about the city and give people more choice about how they travel.

During a public consultation in February and March 2018, 87% of people who responded said they approved of the walking, cycling, bus and public space improvements proposed. Since then, work has been taking place to develop these further.

There is now the opportunity to provide comments on the proposals during a six-week consultation running until Monday 11 March 2019. I would urge you to take part.

Roads

Herefordshire Council are pleased to announce an £5,108M additional funding from central government to run a programme of repairs being carried out to more than 50 B, C and U class roads. There are over 2,000 miles of roads in Herefordshire, and they all need to be maintained and cared for – there were more than 23,000 jobs raised for carriageway repairs in the last financial year alone. The additional investment will enable us to improve the condition of a further 50 B, C and U class roads right across the county. Little Birch road is one local example of how this money is being spent.

Finance

Council tax is rising by 4.9% over the next financial year including a 2% social care levy and we have committed to cutting another £3.9M from our annual budget. The austerity facing local government has to be seen in context – in 2010 we used to get £60.1M from central government, in 2019-20 we will get £0.6M, at the same time social care demand has gone up.

Herefordshire Council has achieved all this through taking tough decisions early for example certain discretionary spending on things like leisure centres and rural buses. During this administration we also took the decision to sell our county farms – we had £50M tied up returning no more than 1.5% per annum and benefiting no more than 50 families, this was unpopular with some but will allow us to invest in other projects with better economic benefits whether that's Enterprise Park, Ross or developments in Hereford.

We have a booming economy in the City with several exciting projects in the pipeline – £9M Cyber centre on Rotherwas, £6M shell store for business incubation, new university, HCA university accommodation near station, city link road land opportunity and first phase of bypass starting within next 8 weeks."

The Ward Cllr advised that the budget was being discussed by Herefordshire Council. A request for information by a resident concerning opportunities at Rotherwas would be sent by the Ward Cllr to the resident.

4.3) Locality Steward Dave Atkinson the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins.

The Ward Cllr left at this point.

5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items and Correspondence

The updates were noted and included:

Update on correspondence with Balfour Beatty regarding grit bin filling. Once past the gritting season the policy to be implemented going forward would be followed up.

Rev. Mark Johnson joined the meeting at 7.57 pm.

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

HEREFORD TRANSPORT PACKAGE (HTP) – WALKING, CYCLING, BUS AND PUBLIC SPACE CONSULTATION

The consultation will run for six weeks from **29 January to 11 March 2019**.

As a parish council you are invited to come along to the public consultation preview event. **This will take place Monday 28 January 2019, between 5 - 7pm**. This will be an opportunity for you to see the exhibition before it opens to the public and to speak to staff about the proposals. Our public exhibition events will be held on:

- **Tuesday 29 January - Thursday 31 January 2019, from 11am to 8pm – at Left Bank.**
- **Monday 4 February - Thursday 7 February 2019, from 10am to 6pm – at Old Market Kiosk.**
- **Tuesday 12 February – Saturday 9 March 2019, during library opening hours – at Hereford Library (display only, unstaffed)**

The consultation runs until **Monday 11 March 2019** and is open to everyone.

Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) – Consultation

We are consulting on the first draft of the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which will form a part of the planning policy framework (Local Plan) for Herefordshire, and would like to know your views.

The paper will be consulted upon from Monday 21 January to Monday 4 March 2019.

The draft plan and more information, such as associated evidence base documents, and details on how to take part in the consultation, can be viewed online at the following web address: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste

Documents can also be viewed online at libraries and info centres across the county.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th January 2019 HSBC Community Account	£12,157.64
@ 13 th January 2019 HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,620.04

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (Feb sal £245.96, mileage £15.75)	£261.71
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£61.60
Much Birch Community Hall (room hire)	£49.00
Dore Community Transport	£400.00
Sub Total	£772.31

Payments to be made from Community account

Much Birch Community Hall (NDP room hire)	£51.00
Data Orchard (NDP Consultant)	£2077.30
Data Orchard (NDP Consultant)	£1408.80
Sub Total	£3537.10

Grand Total £4309.41

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

6.3) To consider request for support from Dore Community Transport

The Company Secretary has sent further financial information in support of the information requested for Dore Community Transport. The Parish Council resolved to award a donation of £400.00 towards the running costs of the Dore Community Transport initiative.

6.4) Update from Mr Brimacombe on the Poor's Acre, Hollybush Lane

Mr Brimacombe (Trustee) came to the Meeting with Mr. Ben Corbett (Land Agent) and they both explained, firstly, the history of the Poor's Acre land, and the Charity, followed by the negotiations with the tenant of the land which had been resolved to allow for the planning permission, as obtained, to be realised. A full account of the history, and matters relating, is held in hard copy with the Minutes. The Parish Council congratulated the Trustees for their resolution of the situation regarding the Poor's Charity asset. A house would now be built on location by private treaty.

7.0 Village issues update including social care briefing from Cllr Burge

The Chair updated the meeting regarding recent speed data collection. The outcomes of data collected at the time of monitoring had not shown outstanding matters of concern. The Team had visited Tump Lane on three occasions and there had been one speeding offence noted and four advisory letters sent. The checks above the school had not thrown up any issues and the A466 towards Llancloudy had registered 35 vehicles during the test time all within the speed limit.

The lights by the Pelican Crossing on the A49 were in progress towards being sorted out. Contact had been made with MP Jesse Norman and a meeting of all parties involved would be held on site to look at the issues and assess possible turning off, dimming of the lights etc. Cllr Cook would attend the site meeting with any other PC representative as may be available.

The Social Care Briefing by Cllr Burge would be postponed until the March 2019 Meeting.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

There were no new applications for consideration this time.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

The Path MB7 from the A49 to Hollybush Lane was impassable. Also potholes noted around the patch (as described in Public Open Session).

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

The Lengthsman was convalescing following an operation. When back in action would look at clearance of path MB7.

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

Steve Owen had sent a report detailing his initial findings. The Parish Council thanked Steve for the helpful information. There were two stiles in need of replacement at path MB8 (New Croft Farm) Locality Steward to be asked to look at this. Also on path MB13 there were crops across the footpath - Pool Spring to the main road. There was a request for a footpath map for the Pilgrim Public House. Cllr Turner passed map to the Footpath Officer.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

Cllr Turner updated the meeting. There was no new information and work was progressing regarding the review of the draft policies. The points were being summarised and circulated. The Steering Group would be taking account of the recent comments made by the National

Planning Policy Framework as regards five year land supply when formulating the policies within the draft NDP.

11.0 Self help gritting scheme

All okay at present.

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 would remind about the Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultation Day on the 16th March 2019 – 10.00 to 4.00 in the Community Hall. Refreshments would be available (advertise).

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

All the usual items would be included. Also for inclusion on the Agenda would be a Social Care Briefing.

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 7th March 2019, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date