

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 6th February 2020 from 7.30 pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright and Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan.

Open Session:-

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

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 9th January 2020, 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 Fagan was in attendance at the Meeting. Ward Cllr Fagan updated the meeting regarding the fact that she would be speaking to the planning application for Ladywell Lane at the Planning Committee. If anyone had any additional comments then please to let the Ward Cllr know ahead of the meeting.

There would be a Herefordshire Council Budget Meeting held on 14th February and an alternative budget will also be presented.

The nitrate levels in the River Lugg catchment area may be addressed by deployment of a massive reed bed filtration system. All planning applications are currently suspended and the same problem on levels exists for the River Wye. The monitoring agencies were reported as being under funded and there was a moratorium on house building in North Herefordshire. There had been a windfall sum of £2.2million awarded due to Herefordshire achieving so many house builds and the council were looking at more council provided housing.

The Ward Cllr highlighted new rules for the use of septic tanks and they had to be proven to work to certain specified standards.

There was comment about the validity of Neighbourhood Development Plans and refusals of planning permission were noted to be going ahead still if against the NDP for a parish.

The Core Strategy was under review. There were currently questions as to who would fund reviews of parish's NDPs.

The repayment of the £3.8million Local Enterprise Partnership Grant funding for the Southern Link Road (on pause and review – grant funding expired) was being queried by Herefordshire Council who had considered the payment to be a grant.

4.3) Locality Steward James Howells, the Locality Steward, had sent his bulletins.

5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items and Correspondence

The updates were noted and included from Herefordshire Council:

- Get your town and parish council ready for the Great British Spring Clean.
- Hereford Transport Package and South Wye Transport Package decision
- HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY - JANUARY 2020

HALC

Subscription due for 2020 – 2021

Climate Change Workshops near you!

Request for help from Dore Community Transport

Thank you letter has been received from the Treasurer.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Jan 2020 HSBC Community Account	£11,957.05
@ 13 th Jan 2020 HSBC Community Projects Account	£10,801.84

6.2) To approve list of payments (circulated separately)

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
Longfield Service (Lengthsman)	£135.00
HALC Subscription 2020 – 2021	£689.09
Much Birch Community Hall (room hire)	£48.00

Payments to be made from Community account

Mrs A Wright (Salary paid in accordance with contract)	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£13.40
Much Birch Community Hall (room hire)	£32.00

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

The Parish Council determined not to proceed with the scheme at the present time due to potential lack of take up interest within the parish.

7.0 Village issues update

7.1) To receive any update regarding lighting at the crossing on the A49

There had been e mail updates received on this topic. The current position was that Highways England was stating that there was currently nothing to support the assertion that people were going through the red lights. There would be a further meeting of Highways England, the Parish

Council and Police Road Safety Advisory. The date and time of the meeting would be confirmed, as would the attendees from the Parish Council.

7.2) Self Help Gritting Scheme – all in place. Much Birch grit quota had been delivered to the gritting scheme co-ordinator.

7.3) Matters being dealt with by Environment Agency – update, if any, on Wriggle brook Lane silt issue and oil spill.

The Chair updated the meeting regarding the soil on road issue. Action would be taken if the spoil was not cleared from the highway by the landowner.

The source of the oil leak had still not been established. The Environment Agency had visited the local properties and had monitored storage tanks. The tanks were being checked each week but still the source of the spill had not been found.

The Chair advised of some communications concerning a recent altercation outside the Much Birch Primary School, which had been reported, by those concerned, to the Police.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

There were no new applications for consideration. The Ward Cllr would be speaking at Committee regarding the planning application 163364 for Ladywell Lane.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

The junction on the corner of the C1263 (“Conker Corner” by the bus stop and notice board up from the school) the Lengthsman had cleared three gullies but the drainage system on the A49 appeared to be totally blocked downhill towards Ross direction.

Outside “Buddleia” in Wrigglebrook Lane there was a huge pothole.

Water coming out of the bank near to “Chances Cottage” could be a Water Board issue?

Potholes at Lower Wrigglebrook and Marsh Farm had been marked up.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Thanks had been received for the Lengthsmans clearance works at the footpath and around near to the Gamber Cottages. The Lengthsman reported that were still drainage issues on the B4348 near to the Gamber Cottages.

The Lengthsman had cleared gullies at Paiges Pitch, where it crosses Wrigglebrook Lane and Upper Wrigglebrook Lane. There were some queries with the gullies and their directional flow plus there were blockages that may need jetting (outside Threeways”).

U71603 - between Wrigglebrook Lane and Paiges Pitch – gullies need emptying and the system needs jetting.

The culvert had been cleared near to “Cress Cottage” and the area strimmed back.

The Ward Cllr left the meeting at 8.20 pm.

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

Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies. Steve had sent in some examples of the new worksheets he would be using to report on footpath matters.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

The Neighbourhood Plan was still out for public consultation until 00.00 on 11th February 2020. Opportunities to comment would continue up until the advertised time.

Comments were filtering in.

11.0 Parishes’ Newsletter and Much Birch Website

11.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website. Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter. The information provided by the Clerk, for the most recent

newsletter, had not been included in the edition. There was a previously published Smart Water communication in there and the January Meeting précis was missing. The date of the February 2020 Parish Council Meeting had also been incorrect in the edition last published. The Chair had contacted a representative of the Newsletter and copies that had been circulated were being checked also. There would be a précis of the February Meeting submitted and details about the decision not to proceed with the Smart Water initiative at the present time. There would also be a separate notice detailing the decision.

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

All the usual items would be included. Items would include signage on the A49 for the crossing and lights.

13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 5th March 2020, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall. Further Meetings for 2020 would be as follows: 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 8.45 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date