

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5th January 2017

Present:

Cllr Tim Jones
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair) (Chair for the meeting)
Cllr Andy Crum

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright, Locality Steward; Dave Atkinson
and 1 member of the public

Open Session:-

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was a question, from a member of the public, as to when the Planning Application 130945, for Tump Lane, would be going forward to the Planning Committee for determination. The Clerk would enquire about this, from the Planning Case Officer, and then let the enquirer know the date. No other matters were raised specifically during the Open Session. Open Session closed 7.33pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Alison Cook (Chair), Cllr Roisin Burge, Cllr David Baldwin and Ward Cllr David Harlow.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations recorded.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

4.1) The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th December 2016 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 his report as detailed here (sic):

Much Birch Parish Council

"Ward member report, January 2017

Planning

Much Birch is making great strides towards producing a neighbourhood development plan but currently the plan is still at an early stage; until MB gets to 'regulation 16' stage the NDP does not carry weight in the planning process. It is likely that MB can get to reg. 16 stage towards the end of 2017 but until then any applications in 'open countryside' are likely to be unsuccessful. Whilst frustrating it may be worth holding off with these type of planning applications until the MB NDP carries more clout.

December council

The December council was uneventful apart from the presentation to Sascha Kindred of the honour of becoming 'Honorary Freeman of the county'. Sascha is a world record setting multi gold medal winning Paralympian who has dominated his sport of swimming for many years. Sascha lives in Hereford and trains in Leominster & does a lot of work with the community.

The main business of the meeting was to approve the capital budget and to adopt the county's economic vision. Both of these were done & more details are available on Herefordshire Council's website.

February council

The main item for discussion at this meeting will be agreeing the council tax budget for 2017/8; like parish councils Herefordshire Council as a unitary authority is getting less in the form of grants and is having to make some tough choices. The proposal is likely to be that we increase council tax by the maximum possible (3.9%) in order that can continue to deliver services to the most vulnerable in society.

Aside from the above it has been a quiet month since we last met in December....”

4.3) Locality Steward Dave Atkinson the Locality Steward was present at the Meeting. Bulletins had also been circulated. The Locality Steward advised about the Highways Maintenance Plan of Balfour Beatty and the change of emphasis between contractor and client from “maintenance” to “managed deterioration”. Risk assessments would be undertaken to determine whether defects were safe and could be left alone. The condition of the road stock and restoration/maintenance was discussed. “Safe passage” had to be provided. Defects noted were:

- Manhole issue outside the Much Birch Community Hall.
- Potholes at top of the Thorn, opposite bus stop
- Issue of moving wall. Residents had now moved on.
- The request for a drop kerb at the Thorn. This could be planned in and Cllr Turner would arrange to meet with the Locality Steward to discuss.
- Ticklewithy Pitch up to the Minster was “on the radar of Balfour Beatty”.

The Locality Steward left the Meeting at 7.52pm.

5.0 Clerk’s Update on Action Items

The updates were noted and included an update on submission for planning application 130945 as follows:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 130945 - Land at, Tump Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HW

DESCRIPTION: 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.

APPLICANT(S): The Owner and/or Occupier

GRID REF: OS 349699, 230575

APPLICATION TYPE: Outline

*The Much Birch Parish Council has considered the application and the amendments and has heard representation from the parish residents, concerning the application, and is minded to continue to **OBJECT** to the proposals.*

The reasons for this are as previously conveyed and additionally, whilst the Parish Council acknowledges the attempts that have been made to try to make changes to the priorities of the traffic coming up towards the A49 along Tump Lane and arrangements for passing places and single file traffic, these are not believed to adequately address the issues likely to be experienced in the Lane. It is believed that the proposed arrangements will make life more difficult for the existing residents in Tump Lane, above the Estate, in terms of being able to gain access to their properties and to receive deliveries to their homes. For example near to the property known as “The Slinget”, where a passing place is to be located, and a large delivery vehicle will block the passing place and so cause traffic to tail back in both directions. The Parish Council are concerned that the proposals will lead to the possible incidence of conflict between vehicular traffic and pedestrians and there are serious concerns for the safety and welfare of any wheelchair, or

pushchair, users who may be forced out into a single track road and into the path of the traffic. The Parish Council are dissatisfied with the proposals relating to pedestrian safety overall.

Also included were updates on road defects logged with Balfour Beatty, information from Herefordshire Council on the Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre (HARC), listed telephone kiosks and war memorial sandblasting. Also received was an update of information from HALC including details of training options and legislative changes affecting parish councils. There was to be no capping of precept levy for 2017/2018. Precept and Lengthsman/Footpath Grant Funding requirement forms had been completed and submitted.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Dec 2016 HSBC Community Account	£11,468.11
@ 13 th Dec 2016 HSBC Community Projects Account	£12,941.75

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Clerks salary (Jan)	£298.60
The Post Office Ltd (Tax)	£74.60
Expenses (mileage £15.30)	£15.30
Longfield Services (Lengthsman)	£240.00
Much Birch Community Hall (Room hire)	£91.00

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

7.0 School Parking and Village issues update

7.1) To receive related correspondence

No additional items to report.

7.2) To discuss Herefordshire Road Safety Partnership and local speeding initiatives

The Parish Council deferred discussion of this item to the 9th February 2017 Parish Council Meeting.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications as circulated.

There had been one application received for consideration:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 163681 – Land at Minster Cote, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HT.

DESCRIPTION: Conversion and extension of existing garage to form a 3 bed holiday letting accommodation, and alterations and extension of existing residential store building

GRID REF: OS 350546, 230541

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The application was reviewed and the comment to be submitted by the Parish Council was to be as follows:

The Much Birch Parish Council has reviewed the application and is in **support** of the proposals.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Notes taken of current defects by the Locality Steward under his update item 4.3)

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

As previously advised and also the Highways Agency to be reminded of encroachment of undergrowth on footpath of the A49. The Lengthsman had cleared the excessive growth of weeds etc. on the pavement past the school and convent grounds.

9.3) To receive Report from Footpath Officer

No items to report currently. To report back on Footpath MB2 at the February meeting

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

Cllr Turner updated the Meeting regarding the Steering Group Meeting situation. There had not been a meeting since December 2016. The dates of the meetings for 2017 would be confirmed.

11.0 Self-Help Gritting Scheme

There was nothing additional to report this time. Scheme is in place.

12.0 Correspondence

12.1) Items were noted as per the information and correspondence sheet and included items covered under Clerk's update. Clarification would be sought regarding the role of the parish Tree Warden.

13.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website

13.1) Clerk to send a précis to the Newsletter. This would again include details of the next Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting.

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

All the usual items would be included plus the Hereford Safer Roads Partnership and local speeding initiatives. Also to be included update on Tump Lane Planning Application 130945.

15.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 9th February 2017 from 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date