

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Present:

Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)  
Cllr David Baldwin  
Cllr Roisin Burge  
Cllr Andy Crum  
Cllr Tim Jones

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Ward Cllr; David Harlow, Lengthsman; Paul Wright, and 6 members of the public

### Open Session:-

The Vice Chair Cllr Turner (Chair for the meeting) welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a happy new year.

The Open Session closed at 7.34pm.

### 1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Alison Cook.

### 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 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were signed as 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 2018"

*"I've been off for a couple of weeks now which has given me time to reflect on our recent achievements. It is easy to forget all the good things that have been happening so please take time to work through these bullet points and see what you think:*

*Our Economy, Corporate and Communities' Services*

*· In financial management, the council is on target to reduce expenditure by the equivalent of £97 mill by 2020.*

*· This is historically one of the greatest challenges for local authorities across the UK*

*· Herefordshire Council's delivery on these most challenging goals, described by the external auditor in 2017 as a "fantastic achievement"*

- *Plans for a new city bypass – ending 40 years of debate.*
- *£47mill funding through the LEP, enabling the link road stages to commence.*
- *City link built on time, on budget.*
- *Southern link road now being scheduled.*
- *A major new retail centre, Old Market, the 5th fastest rising in the UK.*
- *4 of the regional LEP's top 6 business cases for future growth bid funding.*
- *Energy-from-Waste plant, built in partnership with Worcestershire, on time, on budget.*
- *All residual household waste now mainly converted to energy, rather than taken to land-fill.*
- *Plans developed with Police, Fire and Rescue for a new One Herefordshire Hub.*
- *Integrated services with the DWP, deliver better services to residents in one place.*
- *Public realm improvements being delivered to Hereford centre, with plans to continue through High Town.*
- *A successful new relationship with Balfour Beatty/ BBLP maintaining and improving our road network.*
- *Successfully bid for £5mill of national road improvement 'pot', with major road improvement programme moved forward from Sept'17.*
- *Filled over 250,000 pot-holes across the county.*
- *Resurfaced 328 miles of county roads – 19% of entire network.*
- *Won most improved Council award for road network, at the LGA awards.*
- *Rolling out Fastershire broadband to over 80% of county.*
- *Core Strategy and LTP adopted – setting out the framework for economic growth.*
- *Sold over 50 buildings/sites, moved towards sustainable council accommodation at much lower cost.*
- *Enterprise zone established, now a highly successful development.*
- *Successful government award of £2.8mill for new Centre for Cyber Security in the Enterprise Zone.*
- *Joint University Development Board of council and external lead partner, produced Business Case for new university.*
- *Now awarded £23mill funding from government, for the first new university in 21 years in England.*

- *Launched Economic Vision, with Invest Herefordshire, spearheading drive for inward investment.*
- *Success in major legal cases, including Amey, of high value to the council and residents.*
- *HARC - Investment by the authority in purpose built archive and record centre.*
- *Brings archive, archaeology unit, historic environment record, biological records and land searches together in one building.*
- *Masters House in Ledbury: Restoration, development as a historic building in Ledbury.*
- *Created a multi-use centre of activity: Winner of regional RIBA award for 2016.*
- *Replacement Street Lights - completed replacement of all 12,000 street lights, now LED.*
- *Digital adoption – services available on-line as convenient, cost effective way for residents/ businesses to access services.*
- *Includes payments on-line - 24/7.*
- *New website launched to increase ease of access for residents – easier functionality, navigation. Won a national award.*
- *Libraries - retained the county network, investing in self-serve and with new models of delivery including community run libraries.*
- *Awarded £335,000 for one Public Estate bid, 2017.*
- *Successful joint bid (EEC and AWB) from Herefordshire and Northamptonshire for £796,000 to support Aged Veterans and their families.*

#### *Our Children's Wellbeing Services*

- *Helped to keep thousands of children, and young adults safe – around 750 children every single day of the year.*
- *Around 300 children kept safe in our Looked After system.*
- *Since Ofsted removed council from special measures in 2014, the council has made Childrens Wellbeing our highest priority.*
- *We have monitored progress through peer reviews, showing improvements, positive direction and ambition for our services.*
- *Positive Ofsted inspection of Adult & Community Learning in 2016.*
- *2016 Ofsted inspection for Special Educational Needs and Children with Disabilities – very positive.*
- *Supported 3 year rise in pupil attainment across all Key Stages: Herefordshire now above the England average – we were below it.*

- *Early years' outcomes for children have improved from among the lowest in England, to the top quartile.*
- *Established school capital investment strategy - £100m public/private investment over 20 years, securing £8m within the first year.*
- *Sharing funding of new school build with the Education Funding Agency which frees up monies for other developments.*
- *Built new school at Colwall Primary, in record time against urgent need – and received our full capital bid from DfE for £3.2mill.*
- *Developed New Horizons to enable young adults with learning disabilities to stay in Herefordshire to build their independence rather than have to go to out of county residential colleges*
- *Developed with Action for Children an intensive placement support service to reduce the need for children with complex care needs to be placed in out of county residential provision*
- *Increased the number of local foster carers by 9%, against a national backdrop of reducing numbers*
- *Reduced agency staffing in last year by 50% - and in last 3 years from 60 to 16 in children's social care. Around 85% of staff now permanent.*
- *Collaboration with Design Council on service development with communities.*
- *Introduction of first Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub in West Mercia.*
- *Development of new approach to provide housing for vulnerable young adults.*
- *Commitment to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children despite wider financial pressures.*
- *Reduction in number of children at risk of significant harm within the county.*
- *Development of family based short breaks for children with a disability to give parents more choice.*

#### *Our Adults' Wellbeing Services*

- *Helped to keep thousands of vulnerable older people and people with learning disabilities safe and well.*
- *We support around 3,000 older citizens every day of the year.*
- *In national social care quality of life survey, we're now fifth best in England.*
- *Overall client satisfaction greatly improved and we've jumped to fourteenth out of all of England's 152 top tier local councils.*
- *Now in top half of English councils in 73% of national adult social care outcomes measures, top quartile for 36% - a huge step forward.*

- *We achieved the nationally highest specific target for reduction in Delayed Transfer of Care.*
- *Our direct payment rates have jumped from 23% in 2014/15 to 33% in 2015/16, an improvement which makes us 43rd nationally.*
- *Our permanent admissions into residential and nursing care for clients aged 65 and over drastically fell from 655 in 2014/15 to 416 in 2015/16, an improvement which moved us to 18th nationally.*
- *Trusted Care's recent national review of CQC rated care homes has ranked Herefordshire as having the highest average rating in England.*
- *Successful re-establishment of the council as commissioner of adult social care, building a modern social work approach, with staff back from the NHS in 2013.*
- *This set us in a direction of controlling delivery of our core services and a determination to keep getting better at it.*
- *Reduction in spend of around 9%, despite pressure from demographic trends/ increasing unit costs delivering care (nat living wage, stakeholder pensions etc)*
- *Smooth pick up of responsibility for Health Visiting, School Nursing from NHS*
- *Approval of a new housing strategy and housing allocations policy, in a context of major national system change*
- *Development of a new blueprint for social care, transforming our relationship with service users, providers, and VCS stakeholders*
- *Conversion of telecare from a service cost serving a small number, to a self-funding service supporting a large number of vulnerable people*
- *Peer Review 2014, with clear conclusions that directorate is improving and on right trajectory.*
- *Transforming culture of social care both in the council and in the community.*
- *Playing leading role in developing an influential new relationship with the NHS in Herefordshire.*
- *Council successfully taken on all public health functions transferred to it in 2013, including the Health Visiting service in 2016.*
- *Childhood immunisation rates at herd immunity levels of 95% coverage for all programmes, reducing risk of serious illness to local children.*
- *Joint work is under way with local businesses to improve the health and wellbeing of employees.*
- *Health care associated infections at lowest levels in hospital/ community settings through joint work of AWB, NHS and public health.*
- *The County was chosen as a national pilot site for diabetes prevention programme that is funded by the Department of Health.*

· Herefordshire is rated as having one of the lowest rates in the country for premature death rates.”

**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:

“Dear Clerk,

*Please find attached the latest edition of the Neighbourhood Planning in Herefordshire newsletter. Could you please forward this onto any interested Councillors or Steering Group members within your Parish.*

regards

Neighbourhood Planning Team”

**“Information from Ward Cllr Harlow regarding parishes commissioning direct from Balfour Beatty”**

**The Carrot and Wine Stores** would be starting a **Post Office Service** with effect from 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018 starting at 1.00pm.

### **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 HSBC Community Account	£12,396.03
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,910.69

#### **6.2) The following payments were approved:**

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

Mrs A Wright (Dec salary £241.32, mileage £15.30)	£256.62
HM Revenue & Customs (Tax)	£35.60
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£292.22</b>

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

Nil	£0.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£292.22</b>

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

### **7.0 School Parking and Village issues update**

#### **7.1) To receive related updates and correspondence**

A revised plan for the regulation of parking in the vicinity of the school had been received but only that afternoon. It was agreed that an extension to the deadline for comments would be requested. Ward Cllr Harlow would speak with the Sisters at the Monastery and Cllr Baldwin would liaise with the Rev Mark, Chair of Governors to invite the school to participate in the discussion. The initial comments were that the proposals would not cure the problems being experienced.

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

This had been chased up again.

#### **7.3) Hollybush Lane entrance from A49 – update**

This item would be removed from the Agenda for the time being.

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

### **8.1) To consider any planning applications as circulated and update on related matters**

There was one new application for consideration and one appeal:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 174471 - Downlands, The Thorn, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AN

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed erection of a new timber framed garage

**APPLICANT(S):** Mr Matthew Agnew

**GRID REF:** OS 349944, 232104

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Full Householder

The Parish Council discussed the proposals of application 174471 and resolved that there were no objections.

**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

The Parish Council had objected to the application 130945, originally, and the Herefordshire Council had refused planning permission. The continuing issues of the narrowness of the road and lack of safe passage, including the absence of footpaths, were still of concern and the Parish Council would be reiterating their objection to the Planning Inspector.

The Ward Councillor left the Meeting at 8.08pm.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

There were potholes in Wrigglebrook Lane at the junction of the U71606. The grit bin had gone missing from the corner near Minster Farm, co-ordinates ref: 5050, 3060.

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

General seasonal clearing and maintenance would be undertaken.

#### **The Footpath Officer**

The Footpath Officer advised that a tree required clearing from path MB23.

## **10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update**

The Questionnaires had been received back from the analysis process. Steering Group Meeting dates had been arranged for 2018, and Meetings were open to all. Dates were as follows: 1st February, 1st March, 29th March, 26th April and the 31st May 2018. Start time for all meetings is 7.30 in the Much Birch Community Hall.

## **11.0 Self help gritting scheme**

The recent snow had brought the scheme into use. There were some queries over snow clearance but the agreement had been for gritting, not snow removal. The arrangement gritting had been carried out as previously discussed. The future of the scheme would be looked at and grit stocks were depleted.

## **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. The dates of the 2018 Parish Council Meetings and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings would be included in the February edition.

**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 and donation for the newsletter.

**14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

The next Meeting would be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

***The meeting closed at 8.22pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date