

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 3rd January 2019

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Locality Steward; Dave Atkinson, Lengthsman; Paul Wright, Footpath Officer; Steve Owen (appointed at the meeting) and 3 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members of the audience raised the issues of grit bin filling in Tump Lane. Several bins required filling up. There were also a number of seemingly abandoned signs, including A frame ones on the verges of the A49, scattered around the parish roads which required removal following completion of the activity they had warned about. There were two signs remaining in Wrigglebrook. The Locality Steward made a note and a call would be made requesting removal of any signs that were finished with. The Open Session closed at 7.40pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from 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 6th December 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 when available. It had been quiet over the Christmas period.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Harlow sent the following note:

"Please accept my apologies for tonight's meeting, I have another engagement this evening. There is little to report from HC perspective apart from I successfully took the planning application for Castle Pool cottage to appeal in December and the application was refused by the committee. I believe that both MBPC and LBPC were against this development. I shall provide a fuller report next month.

Kind Regards

*Cllr David Harlow
Birch Ward
Cabinet Member Economy & Communications"*

4.3) Locality Steward Dave Atkinson the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins. He was in attendance at the meeting.

The Locality Steward spoke about the recent issues with the salt bins county wide. The filling with grit was being cut back as a money saving initiative. The query about grit bin filling, raised by the Clerk the previous month with the Stakeholder Manager, would be looked at to see what had been completed following a "job done" notification. There was a query raised regarding the official gritting routes.

The Little Birch Road was due for resurfacing in 2019.

The issue of the Duchy hedge overhanging and hampering large high sided vehicles was again reiterated. The Locality Steward would talk to the Duchy again about the overhanging canopy.

5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items and Correspondence

The updates were noted and included: Following up the filling issues with the parish grit bins.

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Cabinet update plus the Enforcement Team had responded to an enquiry regarding access at a local property in Parish Lane.

HALC

Briefing notification sent.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th December 2018 HSBC Community Account	£12,461.45
@ 13 th December 2018 HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,918.04

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (Jan salary £246.16, mileage £15.75)	£261.91
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£61.40
Sub Total	£323.31

Payments to be made from Community account

Longfield Services (Lengthsman)	£270.00
Sub Total	£270.00
Grand Total	£593.31

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

6.3) To consider request for support from Dore Community Transport

The Company Secretary had asked for financial support for Dore Transport and advised that the parish residents had used 422 journeys representing 7.3% of the organisations activity for the year in question. The PC asked for further information about the annual accounts before arriving at a decision.

7.0 Village issues update

There were potholes on both sides of the Acacia Tree in Tump Lane.

The ditch in Tump Lane was still awaiting clearance.

The verge opposite the flats on Tump Lane was being crushed by large vehicles all of the time. There were still no cat's eyes on the Wormelow Road. The telephone kiosk on the Wormelow Road had now got the lights back on following an error by the electricity supplier that had led to the wrong kiosk being disconnected temporarily. It was stated that maintaining roads was crucial as this would be a legacy. The roads were being repaired on a "risk to public safety" basis currently.

The issue of a scam phone call from an HMRC pretender was raised. It was suggested that perhaps an awareness session could be arranged with the Police to help people avoid being caught out and alarmed by this type of criminal activity.

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

Items as noted by the Locality Steward earlier in the meeting.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Works would include: ditching general and possible sign clearing. Also would clear the weeds which were growing on the path to the Much Birch School.

9.3) To note any matters/works relating to footpaths and to appoint new Footpath Officer

A prospective Footpath Officer volunteer was in attendance and he was appointed to the role. He is Mr Steve Owen from Garway. Thank you to Steve for volunteering for the role. Steve would report on Footpath issues to the Parish Council. He would aim to walk the paths twice per year. The Locality Steward would check out possible damage to a stile on Path MB15.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

The next Steering Group Meeting would take place on 31 January 2019 at the Much Birch Community Hall from 7.30 pm. The Group would be looking at policies and options. The next scheduled public consultation would take place on 16th March 2019 and would be publicised ahead of the event.

11.0 Self help gritting scheme

The allocation of grit to assist with the scheme, from Balfour Beatty for Much Birch Parish, had been delivered.

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 send repeat information about a Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultation Day on the 16th March 2019 – 10.00 to 4.00 in the Community Hall.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also on the Agenda for February - Grit bins and consideration of donation for Dore Community Transport. Also for inclusion on the Agenda would be a Social Care Briefing. Thanks were recorded to Councillor Turner and the Lengthsman for all of their work regarding the grit bins.

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date