

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 10th July 2014

Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr. Andrew Crum
Cllr. Stephen Turner
Cllr. Tim Jones
Cllr. Keith James
Cllr. Jon Norris

In attendance:

Parish Clerk, Alison Wright and 4 members of the public

Open Session:-

The commencement of the open session heard an update on the situation regarding Wormelow Stores in that the land, but not the buildings, had been sold, to a developer, by private treaty. The question of publicity, regarding planning applications, was raised and it was reported that on occasions planning notices had allegedly been removed. There was a concern over the lack of publicity for planning applications following the Planning Authority decision to only notify minimally of applications. The Clerk would follow this up with Planning to see if there could be a rethink on the notification policy.

The tenant of Parish Land at Rosebank commented that a tenancy agreement was in place for the duration of his occupancy and that he held the wayleaves for drainage on the property.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There was one declarations of interest, the Clerk, Mrs Wright, in item 6.3.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

3.1 The Minutes of 5th June 2014 were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting. Matters arising: The telephone kiosk, as mentioned at the last meeting, was again discussed. The owner, British Telecom, would be willing to sell the item for a nominal £1.00 fee but would expect the purchaser to arrange all removal and resiting fees and to deal with any potential planning issues in regard to this. Disconnection fees would also apply and would be likely to be in the region of £700.00 and this cost would also need to be met by the purchaser. BT wished to remove the kiosk because "no one uses it" and normally in these circumstances the developer, who was desirous of developing the land, would pay the disconnection and removal costs as a goodwill gesture.

After discussion, a motion was proposed "Does the Parish Council have any objection to the removal of the kiosk?" This was proposed by Cllr Norris and seconded by Cllr Crum and carried. The issue of whether the Parish Council would be interested in purchasing the kiosk was to be explored further, when more information had been obtained on the subject. Cllr Turner would investigate issues such as removal and associated costs and report back to the Parish Council so that a final decision on the matter could be taken.

4.0 Reports

P.C.S.O. from West Mercia Police

PCSO Kevin Powell was not present. An update on crime trends was given comprising bulletin items and included advising of a burnt out car at a local bus stop, dismantling of a vehicle and theft of car parts in Kingstone and the theft of a bike and batteries at Orcop.

Ward Councillor Cllr Norris gave his report and said that he had been attending many meetings about planning applications, with “hows”, “whys”, design questions, sustainability and access questions. There were the issues of access regarding public transport and the fact that some facilities are inaccessible unless one has a car. He talked about planning in the context of local, potentially village, and national design trends. Cllr Norris advised that the Sanctuary Application in Tump Lane was back for appeal and read out the draft of a letter that he wished to send to the owner of the field where the Sanctuary Application had been applied for. With minimal revision, in terms of a reference to a link with Larkrise application, the Parish Council resolved that they would endorse the letter and the final model would be circulated to all councillors, before this was done, and the letter delivered to the recipient.

5.0 Clerk’s Update on Action Items

The updates were noted and representation on road issues had been conveyed to Balfour Beatty. It was resolved that the Clerk would write to the owner of the hedge past the school and request that it be trimmed back to make the footpath accessible for pedestrians. There had still not been a response from the School regarding road issues and Cllr Turner would provide the Clerk with details of the Chair of Governors, Rev. Johnson, so that he could be advised of the situation.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1 The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th June 2014 Community Account	£9514.25
@ 13 th June 2014 HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,408.00

6.2 The following payments were approved:

Clerk’s salary	£305.20
Expenses (mileage £21.60, postage £1.83, cartridge £11.99)	£35.42
Tax due on salary	£76.40
Much Birch Community Hall (room hire)	£52.50

Resolved: that the payments were passed for payment

6.3 Clerk’s Replacement Computer

This was discussed and a donation of £150.00 was resolved towards the replacement costs.

6.4 To discuss possible sale of Parish Land at Barrack Hill

An approach had been received, from the tenant of one of the pieces of Parish land, expressing a wish to purchase it - if it were available for sale. Following discussion the following was resolved: A proposal was made “to consider the sale of both pieces of Parish Land”, proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Norris, carried, with one abstention from Cllr James.

It was further resolved that an up to date valuation should be obtained, from an independent valuer, and any costs attached to this would be borne by the Parish Council with the proviso that such costs be added to the purchase price of the land, should the sale go ahead. The tenant of the land at Rosebank requested that he be present when the land was valued and it was agreed that he would be notified formally of the Parish Council’s intentions once the valuation had taken place.

6.5 To discuss possible donations to the Churchyard and Clock as per requests from the Much Birch Parochial Church Council

The Parish Council had received written requests from the Parochial Church Council for help with the costs of churchyard upkeep and Parish Memorial Clock maintenance. It was resolved that the following donations would be made: £100.00 towards the churchyard and £168.00 for the clock.

7.0 School Parking and related issues update

It was noted that Andrew Lee-Jones had retired from his post at Balfour Beatty. The continued lack of response to e-mails, on parking and yellow line issues, would be taken up by the Ward Councillor at a higher level.

8.0 Planning Matters

There was one planning application to discuss as follows:

- 1) Site: Wingfield Lodge, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HJ
Description: Proposed demolition of existing single storey extension, conservatory and garage. Proposed replacement two storey rear extension
Application No: P141641/FH
Grid ref: OS 349739, 231110
Application Type: Full householder

The Parish Council resolved to make the following comments, they supported the application.

A further application had been received and this would be the subject of a public meeting, to be arranged. An extension to the closing date would be requested and the meeting would be advertised and open to all. Details are as follows:

Site: Court Farm, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HT
Description: Site for 18 no. dwellings, associated car parking, access and landscaping.
Application No: P141830/O
Grid ref: OS 350322, 230432
Application Type: Outline

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

9.1) Balfour Beatty: -

- Verges need cutting on the A49 at the exit on the top of Callow where the C1263 joins the A49, road disintegrating, tunnel collapse? Run offs blocked.
- Junction of Wrigglebrook Lane with Ticklewithy Pitch U71606 by Wrigglebrook Cottage, grass overgrown
- Deterioration of coloured tarmac on the A49 by the crossroads with surgery, church. (Highways Agency).

9.2) The Lengthsman: -

- To clear and trim grass around road signs, grit bins, notice boards and to clean bus shelter by "Fairview". Seasonal strimming and clearance.
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9.3) Footpaths: - No issues to report

10.0 Parish Plan- to consider review of 2004 Parish Plan

No update this time.

11.0 Correspondence

These were noted as per sheet and included information about an Oil Club whose aim was to co-ordinate fuel oil deliveries, information about filming at meetings and resultant protocols plus an update on speeding concerns, in that the Police would be carrying out speed checks following letters of complaint about excessive speeds on the A49. There had been a letter concerning the message about bonfires from the May newsletter.

12.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website

12.1 Clerk to supply précis for the next edition of the newsletter. This would be for the September issue and would follow the September meeting. There was no newsletter in August. The précis for September would include details of the "Oil Club" as advised to the Parish Council, the object of which was to co-ordinate fuel oil deliveries.

13.0 Public spending reduction to social care provision - update

The Clerk had circulated a draft letter, to be sent to the Head of Commissioning, on the subject of the social care spending reduction and resultant impact and this was reviewed. The point was clarified that the figures quoted were as reported by the company concerned and that there no actual links with Herefordshire to the actions being taken in Liverpool over similar issues. The letter was then cleared for sending to the Head of Commissioning, on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

Potential sale of Parish Land, update on issues from Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council

15.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Ordinary Meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 4th September 2014 at 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall

Due to the confidential nature of the business of this agenda item, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it is proposed to put forward a motion to exclude members of the public during discussion of this agenda item

16.0 Clerk's Annual Review

The Clerk and public left the Hall and the Councillors discussed the Clerk's annual review. The Clerk rejoined the meeting and was advised that an incremental award, to the next point on the pay scale, had been resolved from 1st June 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date