

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 4th July 2019 from 7.30 pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

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

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was commented that there had been a recent installation of multiple sets of traffic lights near to the Wormelow Shop. It had not appeared that anyone had come to carry out any tasks there. It this was for a utility then the cost of the lights would be charged to them. There was also a report of an Ivy covered tree blowing right of the junction at the bottom of Tump Lane.

One resident present gave an update on the welfare of another resident who had suffered a broken hip.

The Open Session closed at 7.36 pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from 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 6th June 2019, 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 Fagan advised that the Council were in purdah due to the forthcoming Whitecross by-election. Lots of e mails had been received regarding the Western Bypass. The recently declared Climate emergency required action in regard to the Local Plan and the Ward Cllr said that the planning system was not helping the situation. The Ward Cllr advised of a drive round the parishes with the Locality Steward and local problems had been highlighted. The resurfacing of the top of Tump Lane was subject to Asset Management decision. The Wormelow junction sign would be looked at (potentially). There had been an accident below the Wormelow Shop and someone's leg had been broken. This was alleged to have occurred because of mud on the road and the landowner had been contacted by Defra. The Ward Cllr went on to say that there were concerns regarding public transport and coping with the numbers of cars that were following the villages getting so much new housing.

There had also been e mails concerning the future of waste management with the Waste Strategy also up for review.

The new proposals for verge cutting, to encourage wild flowers and pollination corridors, were noted along with the requirement to balance this with road safety and visibility. Schemes would be looked at. There would also be a new Hedgerow Manifesto to come. The Ward Cllr explained that she was also going to coffee mornings and holding surgeries to meet with parishioners.

The Ward Cllr left the meeting at 7.44 pm.

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:

Request for Road sign for junction B4348 - A466- Much Birch Parish

This had been referred and the outcome of the inspection was awaited.

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Herefordshire Traveller Sites Development Plan Document
Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan consultation results

Other Correspondence

To consider a request for road name signs for Old Rectory Gardens

Grit Bin Inventory

Due to circumstances this had been delayed but will be carried out over the summer and prior to "grit bin season".

Freedom of Information Request

The Clerk had dealt with a FOI Request for information concerning the Council's use of HALC. This had come from a journalist working for the Hereford Times.

Hydrants at Hollybush Lane

Welsh Water had been contacted and asked to look into the missing Hydrant Markers at Hollybush Lane.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th June 2019 HSBC Community Account	£12,571.26
@ 13 th June 2019 HSBC Community Projects Account	£10,797.44

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (July sal £321.90, mileage £15.30)	£337.20
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£80.40
Mrs A Wright (Aug sal £257.44)	£257.44
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£64.40
Much Birch Community Hall (room hire)	£42.00
Sub Total	£781.44

Payments to be made from Community account

Much Birch Community Hall (room hire NDP)	£28.00
Sub Total	£28.00
Grand Total	£809.44

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

7.0 Village issues update

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

The Chair advised that comments had indicated that the baffles, as installed, had made the reflection worse on one side. The results had been reviewed and the report had indicated that the front baffles, that should have reduced the lighting, would be removed. The Contractors had admitted that there was a problem and this information had been fed back to local residents who were affected. The follow up to questions asked would again be chased up by the Chair and there should be more information at the September Meeting.

7.2) Grit bins – update – an inventory of the grit bins would be carried out.

7.3) To consider a request for road name signs for Old Rectory Gardens

The request for road name signs was considered by the Parish Council and it was decided that they would not be provided by the Parish Council at that time.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

There were new applications for consideration:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 191173 - Land south of Ladywell Lane, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire

DESCRIPTION: Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 163364/0 (site for three detached dwellings with garages access)

The Parish Council considered the amendments that had been made to the reserved matters application 191173. The Parish Council stated that insufficient alteration to the proposal, e.g. ridge height, has been made to alter the comments made previously. The original comments would be reiterated.

The Parish Council considered the proposals in application 191173 and determined that

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 192090 – Diggers Den, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HS

DESCRIPTION: Variation of condition 2 of previous application Ref 183634 (Fodder and implement shed) – to allow height difference.

The Parish Council considered the proposals in application 192090 and determined that there were no objections to the proposal of variation of condition.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Hollybush Lane sign – as coming from the Ross direction and opposite the Axe and Cleaver had been damaged in an accident. (Balfour Beatty – Highways England)

Minster – mud on the road. Wrigglebrook mud on road had been reported and cleared. Mud placed on verge and which would be washed back down was under reporting by the Chair to the Environment Agency.

The Thorn towards Little Birch Road – road overgrown between neighbouring property to jasmine Cottage and before the footpath plus Bower Cottage, The Thorn – hedge encroaching onto the road.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Grit bin inventory. Blocked drain at Upper Wrigglebrook Lane past Jasmine Cottage - water lying/drain issue (brook?). To unblock pipes.

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

Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies. He had sent his report. Some footpath clearance was required at Aconbury Close. The FPO had used a hedge trimmer to clear part. Lengthsman would take a look and liaise with Footpath Officer.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

Cllr Burge gave an update on the situation regarding the Neighbourhood Plan progress. Funding had been secured to complete the plan. There should be a draft plan ready for presentation for approval by the Parish Council at the October Meeting. The Regulation 14 draft would be sent informally to the Herefordshire Council for various assessments. It was hoped that the Plan would be finished and adopted by Christmas 2020.

11.0 Parishes’ Newsletter and Much Birch Website

11.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website. Clerk to send a précis to the Newsletter. To include information regarding the Footpath Officer and link on Much Birch website to Herefordshire Council website for footpath details.

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

All the usual items would be included plus grit bins.

13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 5th September 2019, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date