

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

### Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr. Andy Crum  
Cllr. Steve Turner (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr. Tim Jones  
Cllr. Roisin Burge

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk: Alison Wright, Ward Cllr David Harlow and 5 members of the public

### Open Session:-

Following a request, the Parish Council had obtained 100 Commemorative Tokens to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Queen. The Organisers of the Millennium Green Event stated that they would not be in a position to distribute the coins at the actual Event. It was also noted that the fund raising car boots carried out had raised sufficient funds for the requirements of the day and the pledge to underwrite the expenses up to £400.00 by the Parish Council would not now be needed. The Parish Council gave approximately half of the coins to Miss Rigby for distribution to the children of Tump Lane. The Parish Council would distribute the remainder of the tokens.

The Open Session closed at 7.40pm.

### 1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies

### 2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

### 3.0 Minutes of previous meetings and matters arising

3.1) The Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Meetings held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were signed as a true and correct record of the meetings.

### 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 reported here (sic):

### "Ward member report, June 2016

#### A49 floral display

*I believe that the issue of the floral tribute alongside the A49 was raised at the last meeting, my suggestion was that the Parish Council speak with the family of the bereaved before moving anything. A lasting memorial of some perennial flowers may be a suitable compromise.*

#### 3 Cross in Hand Cottages

*I have been contacted by Kerri Rawlings whose garden wall has been struck twice by motorists in the last three years, the latest was a 'hit and run'. Clearly Miss Rawlings is aggrieved by the situation and I therefore looked into the accident statistics at the location but because no personal injury was involved there was nothing logged. If Miss Rawlings wants to add barriers at her expense then this would be OK but she will run them past Balfour Beatty first.*

### Neighbourhood planning

The first NDP was officially adopted on 20th May this year following a 96% vote in favour at the local referendum

### Hereford bypass

The A49/A465 stretch of the Hereford bypass is going to planning committee on Monday 6th June. The importance of this road is critical to the future of the county & I would urge anyone who feels strongly about the road to email the council with their opinion".

The Ward Member advised that he had been appointed to the Herefordshire Council Cabinet.

**4.3) Locality Steward** Dave Atkinson was not present. Bulletins had been circulated. Cllr Turner commented that he had e mailed the Locality Steward regarding the verge cutting but had not received a reply. The briefing had stated that the verges were to be cut by the end of May but this had not been done.

The play area at Tump Lane grass had been cut but not picked up. The play equipment had not been replaced. The Clerk would ask Herefordshire Housing what was happening regarding this. It was reported previously that there were no funds available to replace the equipment. Nothing had been heard about the petition as presented regarding Tump Lane. The Petition had gone via Cllr Wilcox to Cllr Rone. Cllr Harlow would chase this up.

## **5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items**

The updates were noted and included readiness for the litter pick that weekend. The issue of the ceasing of supply of materials by Balfour Beatty had been followed up. Balfour Beatty would supply materials to land owners. P3 Footpath Grant may be used to fit them. Cllr Harlow explained that there would be an introduction of new methodology to speed up the progress of the Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's). No formal notification or correspondence on this, as yet.

## **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2016 HSBC Community Account	£11,606.46
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2016 HSBC Community Projects Account	£13,408.00

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

Clerks salary	£228.92
Expenses (mileage £39.15)	£39.15
The Post Office (Tax)	£57.40
Tower Mint Ltd (90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Coins)	£247.80
Bunzl UK Ltd T/A Greenham (Verge markers)	£107.95
Longfield Services (fitting signs etc)	£160.00

**Resolved:** that the payments were passed for payment: (prop. Cllr Turner and sec. Cllr Crum)

Thanks were recorded to the Clerk for obtaining the Birthday Coins.

### **6.3) To approve the End of Year Accounts for 2015/2016**

The End of Year Accounts were presented and approved by the Parish Council. They would now be sent to the External Auditor for examination.

The Chair had spoken with the Internal Auditor and she had requested a donation be made to the Much Birch Church in lieu of an audit fee.

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

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

No further update

### **7.2) To consider options regarding the Wormelow Phone Kiosk**

The BT contact had advised that the kiosk was to be decommissioned and removed. It would be available for purchase. The kiosk had been looked at and it was noted to be in a very poor condition. The Parish Council said that they would not want to move it given the condition. If it were to undergo a change of use as to for example, a book swap, there were concerns as to the location and that there were no real safe stopping points adjacent to it. It was commented that it would be okay for people to walk to it though. The Parish Council expressed concerns regarding the upkeep of the kiosk and would investigate as to any planning application impact should there be a change of use.

### **7.3) To discuss Speed Indicator Device (SID) options**

The provision of a SID(s) for Much Birch had been investigated and evaluated in conjunction with information obtained from neighbouring parishes, which had utilised the facility. There were issues relating to installing, moving and insuring SIDs. It was noted that data previously gathered had not indicated that there were significant issues to be addressed and alternative methods, such as periodic monitoring on the main road A49, were being held. It was resolved that the SID option would be re-evaluated at the time of the Finance Working Party Meeting in November.

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

### **8.1) To consider any planning applications as circulated.**

There had been further applications received for consideration and the comments were returned, following consideration, as follows:

**APPL. NO & SITE ADDRESS:** 161453 – Land adjacent to Laburnum House, Little Birch, Herefordshire

**DESCRIPTION:** Site for proposed dwelling

**APPLICANT(S):** Mrs Sklan c/o Agent

**GRID REF:** OS 350447, 232084

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Outline

The Parish Council had no objections to the proposal.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

The main issue currently was the verge cutting which had been chased up.

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

This would be determined once the appointment of the new Lengthsman had been confirmed.

### **9.3) To receive Report from Footpath Officer**

The Footpath Officer had no further report at present.

### **9.4) Update on litter pick for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June (meet at Community Hall 9.30am)**

The litter pick would be going ahead, around the parish, on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. All volunteers to meet at the Community Hall at 9.30a.m. when kits to assist would be distributed. The Clerk would be obtaining gloves, bags, pickers and hi-vis vests from Balfour Beatty. Arrangements would then be made for any litter picked up to be collected.

## **10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update**

An Event evening with HALC was to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> July at the Community Hall from 7.00pm. Flyers to promote the event would be designed by the Clerk and distributed to the Councillors for printing and delivery.

## **11.0 Correspondence**

**11.1)** Items were noted as per the information and correspondence sheet and included a reply from Cllr Rone regarding the Balfour Beatty materials funding withdrawal and from Anthony Bush at Herefordshire Council concerning a request for information for input to possible forthcoming Information Events.

An email from the Poor Acre Trustees: *“Ben Corbett of Berrys has told me today that he has concluded his initial discussion with the Solicitors and that he will be contacting within the next few days Mrs. X to arrange to see her about the necessary negotiations with her.”*

**12.0 Parishes’ Newsletter and Much Birch Website**

**12.1)** Clerk to supply a précis for the next edition of the newsletter. This would include information regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Event on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

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

All the usual items, plus the Wormelow phone kiosk, donation for internal audit, councillor vacancy.

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

The next Ordinary Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016 from 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall.

*The meeting closed at 8.30pm*

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date