

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 7th June 2018

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Andy Crum

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright, and 12 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Members of the public thanked the parish council for moving ahead with the signs for Forge Lane.

A resident advised that the Violette Szabo Museum had received planning approval for an extension to the premises and thanked the PC for supporting the planning application for the extension project.

Another resident asked the Parish Council for their views on the Hereford Transport Package road proposals and the council asked for more information so that they could look in more detail at the possible impact of the proposals. The CPRE had previously highlighted the issue to communities lying along the routes likely to be affected by additional traffic volumes and resultant pollution.

The Open Session closed at 7.40pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr David Baldwin and 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 Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Council Meetings held on the 3rd May 2018 were signed as true and correct records 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 detailed here (sic):

Much Birch Parish Council

“Ward member report, June 2018

“Roads in Much Birch

I'm visiting the parish with Cllr Barry Durkin (Cab, roads) on Thursday to look at some roads in the area (Little Birch road junction with Barrack Hill, Wrigglebrook Lane and Aconbury Close). If there are other particularly poor roads please let me know. I'll be working to get these prioritised if deemed particularly bad.

Waste

Recycling and Waste 2017/18 Update

Herefordshire council recycles 41% of the waste it collects, most of the waste that remains is sent to an Energy from Waste plant in Worcestershire under a joint contract between the two County Councils. There it is burnt in controlled conditions to generate electricity to be fed into the national grid.

- *75,000 tonnes of household waste is collected by the council last year (2017/18)*
- *The average amount of waste produced by each household in Herefordshire is 900kg per year*
- *The Energy from Waste plant accepts 200,000 tonnes of waste from councils in Herefordshire and Worcestershire each year, it generates around 17 Megawatts per hour, enough to power 30,000 homes.*

For a nominal fee the council also provides:

- *A large item collection service*
- *Garden waste collection (in pre-paid green sacks)*

Check the website for further information www.herefordshire.gov.uk/recycling

Materials Accepted:

(Household Waste Only)

- *Garden Waste*
- *Furniture & bicycles for reuse*
- *Paper and Cardboard*
- *Scrap Metals*
- *Household Electrical Goods*
- *Energy saving light bulbs*
- *Fluorescent Tubes*
- *Household Batteries*
- *Waste Wood*
- *Soil and Rubble*
- *General Household Rubbish*

Only Accepted in Hereford:

- *Plasterboard*
- *Cement Bonded Asbestos*

IMPORTANT

If you wish to bring your household waste using a commercial vehicle and/or trailer you will need a permit. Visit our website for further info: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/recycling

No business/commercial waste may be deposited at Household Recycling Centres

City centre upgrade

The second phase of work to upgrade Hereford City Centre will begin on Monday 14 May 2018 with the refurbishment of Commercial Street. Balfour Beatty Living Places on behalf of Herefordshire Council will carry out refurbishment works on the Commercial Street area of High Town with neighbouring traders kept informed of progress throughout the works.

The work is the second phase of a refurbishment project that will be consistent with look of Widemarsh Street and High Street."

4.3) Locality Steward Dave Atkinson the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins.

4.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items and Correspondence

The updates were noted and included:

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Notification of new Code of Conduct

End of Year Accounts

Internal Auditor has verified the accounts for end of year 2017 – 2018. Status is to be advised to PKF Littlejohn regarding accounts for 2017 -2018. Thank you recorded to the Internal Auditor.

An e mail had been received via the website concerning issues of a resident entering and leaving their property on the A49. There had been some accidents recorded and also near misses. The resident had been advised, by "Highways England" (who has responsibility for the A49), that until fatalities occurred there was nothing that could be done. The recent accidents, resulting in fatalities, had been advised as being due to "driver error". It was suggested that lit up "Vehicle Emerging" signs may be used by a householder to caution drivers that an entrance was nearby when a vehicle was coming out. The Chair would respond accordingly to the correspondent.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th May 2018 HSBC Community Account	£12,724.87
@ 13 th May 2018 HSBC Community Projects Account	£13,115.93

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (June salary £241.32, mileage £36.45)	£277.77
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£60.20
Longfield Services (Lengthsman)	£145.00
Sub Total	£482.97

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil this time	£0.00
Sub Total	£0.00
Grand Total	£482.97

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

6.3) To approve end of year accounts (in two stages 6.3.1 and 6.3.2)

6.3.1) The Annual Governance Statement 2017 – 2018 was approved and signed.

6.3.2) The Accounting Statement 2017 – 2018 was approved and signed.

6.4) To consider road signage for Forge Lane (name plate and HGV info)

The Lengthsman and Locality Steward had met on location to look at the possibilities for place name signs and possible HGV Advisory signs. The possibility of two post mounted and one wall, or post mounted, name signs plus HGV signs were being finalised in conjunction with the highway requirements. The final costs for supply and fitting would be notified for a final decision at future meeting.

6.5) To consider requests from Much Birch Church re mowing and clock

It was resolved to make the annual contribution towards the upkeep of the memorial clock of £168.00.

The request for help with mowing would be referred to the July Agenda.

7.0 School Parking and Village issues update

7.1) To receive related updates and correspondence

A school parent advised that the “Kiss and Drop” system was continuing to work well for dropping children at school. There were still people parking along Tump Lane at afternoon pick up time.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any update on planning appeals as may be detailed here:

There was one new application for consideration and one appeal:

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

There was no further update on the appeal status for Application 130945 at the time of the meeting.

8.2.1) Planning consultation: **180208 – Land at Tump Lane**, Much Birch: Outline planning application for up to 20 dwellings, including 10 affordable dwellings, with associated new access (via Tump Lane), car parking arrangements (for new and existing dwellings), community building (up to 200 m²), new POS (extension of existing play area) and new stretches of footpath with passing places (north and west bound along Tump Lane).

The Parish Council heard representations from members of the public present and considered the application. It was resolved to comment as follows:

“In regard to application number 180208 for Tump Lane, the Parish Council has considered the proposals and wish to formally OBJECT to the planning application on the grounds that, whilst some attempt has been made to look at footpath issues, the solutions proposed do nothing to address the concerns over pedestrian safety going towards the A49 and this is a considered main route to facilities such as the Church, Surgery, Community Hall and Much Birch Primary School.

There is no footpath provision at the junction with the A466. The proposed development is not in the currently defined settlement area. The planting of a hedge between the proposed new housing and the existing housing is thought to be incompatible with the aspirations of integration and could be seen as divisive.

This list is not exhaustive and any comments made on issues, that have not been adjusted since the previous application was made, still apply.”

8.2.2) Planning consultation: **181443 – Land adjoining Gilston**, The Thorn, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe: Application for variation of condition 2 of planning permission P153074/F. To allow amendments to design

The Parish Council discussed the content of application 181443 and resolved that there were no objections.

8.2.3) Planning consultation: **181762 – Mosscroft**, Kingsthorpe, Hereford: Proposed ancillary accommodation

The Parish Council discussed the content of application 181762 and resolved that there were no objections.

8.2.4) Planning Consultation: **181848** - 181848 - Land east of Castle Pool Cottage, Little Birch, Hereford: Proposed development of three dwellings with garages and new accesses.

The Parish Council considered the application. It was resolved to comment as follows:

“The Much Birch PC wishes to **object** to the proposals contained in application 181848 for the following, non exhaustive, reasons:

The proposed location field is believed to be a greenfield site. The development is not using the whole field. The houses proposed are believed to be too large for what is a small area and appears to constitute over-development of the plot. The proposals also require extensive established hedge removal and it is believed that access would be better consolidated than to have three separate punch through areas creating three access points.”

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

It was alleged that there was hedge encroachment onto the highway at property known as “Seathwaite, Barrack Hill.

It was alleged that the hedge billowing out was affecting high sided vehicles on the road from A49 towards the school.

Both situations would be advised to the Locality Steward for review.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Thank you was recorded to the Lengthsman for work at Hollybush Lane. Request to look at ditches around Pages Pitch, drain also blocked lower down the road.

9.3) To note any matters/works relating to footpaths

New Footpath Officer would be sought.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

Cllr Burge updated the meeting regarding the meeting held on the 26th April 2018.

“Record of Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering group meeting 26 April 2018.”

*Present. Steering Group; Dave Goldsmith (Chairman) , Lesley Gare, Chris Grover ,Coline Grover, Geoff Nichol, Steve Turner (PC), Roisin Burge (PC),Bill Bloxsome (Data Orchard)
Chris Gooding (Data Orchard)*

1. Apologies Shirley Coates, Tricia Egerton

2. Declarations of Interest. There were no declarations of interest.

3. Finance

The Budget spend for year 1 was confirmed £5100 with £4000 remaining for year 2 (Original grant money available £9000). All payments have been passed (as required) to the Clerk to the M.B. Parish Council

Discussion about the budget for year 2 identified the need to apply for additional funds to cover the extra work on site assessments arising from the complexity of the layout and number of settlements in the parish.

Action. Chris Gooding (Data Orchard) to submit a revised assessment of costs for year 2 to include site assessments undertaken by Data Orchard Independent consultant

4. Approval of Minutes of meeting 29 March 2018.

These had been circulated and agreed.

5. Matters arising.

Mr Bill Bloxsome provided feedback on his informal review of parish boundaries including the previous settlement boundaries (ref UDP and Much Birch Parish plan 2004). Examples of factors which will need to be taken into account in planning for future Housing and development in Much Birch Parish (reference Herefordshire Core Strategy and MB Community consultation feedback) were given. Mr Bloxsome confirmed that if the Much Birch NDP is able to demonstrate the identification of sites and potential for achievement of delivery of housing numbers required for the area then the Neighbourhood plan will have significant weight in future planning decisions and may in some instances take precedence over the core strategy.

Settlement Boundaries. Action. The Chairman undertook to locate maps of the parish (previously purchased for initial community consultation) and it was agreed that these need to be updated in order to gain an accurate view of development that has taken place on the edges of boundaries since the original settlement boundaries were drawn.

6. &7

(i) Call for sites for consideration for future Housing development in Much Birch.

Mr Bloxsome (DO) advised that about 40 sites had been submitted for consideration plus some arising from the Herefordshire Council SHLAA consultation of 2015. All who have submitted sites will be contacted by Mr Bloxsome who will advise that sites will be required to be made public (as part of the ongoing community consultation) but the ownership will not be publicly identified.

(ii). Development of criteria for Assessment of sites

Mr Bloxsome (DO) referred to the objectives that should inform the setting of criteria in particular the results of the Much Birch Community consultation/survey 2017 together with a standard range of criteria and critical issues. The key areas arising from in an initial discussion of 26 possible areas for inclusion in a MB Criteria for Assessment policy were discussed, agreed and noted as follows:

1-5 retain

6 remove

7,8,9 retain

10 remove

11,12,13 retain

14 remove

15,16 retain

17 remove

18-22 retain

23 Avoid coalescence of settlement areas.

24-26 retain

8. Community Presentation and Consultation 2.

It was agreed that this will probably take place in autumn 2018 when further work has been done on updating of maps of settlement boundaries, the refinement of policies, proposed criteria for independent assessment of sites and site assessments.

9. AOB. Agenda items for next meeting

Updating Parish maps/settlement boundaries.

The identification of sites

Further development Criteria for Assessment of sites.

Date of next meeting Thursday 31 May 2018"

11.0 Self help gritting scheme

The Working Party (Cllrs Turner and Crum) advised that there was no update currently on the scheme.

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 Clerk would advertise for a new Footpath Officer and advise regarding co-option opportunity for a new parish councillor.

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

All the usual items would be included plus Larkrise Development Appeal, Forge Lane signage and Church mowing.

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 5th July 2018, from 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

15.0 To discuss NJC 2018 Pay Award for the Clerk from 1/04/18

The implementation of the NJC Pay Award to the Clerk's salary was resolved from 1/04/18. This was proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Cook. Carried.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date