

## MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 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 5 members of the public

#### **Open Session:-**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and including introduction and welcome to the new Ward Cllr Toni Fagan.

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

The Open Session closed at 7.31 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 Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Council Meetings, held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 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 Fagan advised that she was catching up with planning matters and undergoing induction to the Council. The situation at Herefordshire Council was still "fluid" and the position would be clarified in the next few weeks. Ward Cllr Fagan advised that she was no both the Planning and Scrutiny Committees.

**4.3) Locality Steward** James Howells the new Locality Steward had sent his bulletins. There was a reminder about the Tump Lane potholes and drain in Wrigglebrook Lane.

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

The updates were noted and included:

Further information on traveller sites

Road Closure program

Items notified to Balfour Beatty for attention on the roads:

1) Potholes and poor road surface at the top of Tump Lane

- 2) Pothole by bus stop between Much Birch School and the A49
- 3) Potholes at Paige's Pitch
- 4) An enquiry please. We have received a request for the consideration of a kerb to be installed on Tump Lane along the side of the Millennium Green (adjacent to Cartref and the Violette Szabo Museum) to protect the verge and the Acacia Tree standing there.

**Reported to Highways England on 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Footpath on the A49 from Hollybush Lane to the Tump Lane junction is overgrown with a lot of stinging nettles making it difficult to use safely.

**6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 HSBC Community Account	£12,571.26
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> May 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 (June sal £257.44, mileage £29.70, stationery £13.73)	£287.14
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£64.40
Came & Company (Insurance)	£280.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£631.54</b>

**Payments to be made from Community account**

Nil	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£631.54</b>

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

**6.3) To sign and approve Annual Governance Statement 2018 – 2019**

The Annual Governance Statement was presented, approved and signed

**6.4) To sign and approve Accounting Statement 2018 – 2019**

The Accounting Statement was presented, approved and signed

**6.5) To adopt Code of Conduct 2019 (circulated with HALC information)**

The revised Code of Conduct was approved and adopted. The Clerk would supply copy to the Web Master for publishing on the web site.

**7.0 Village issues update**

**7.1) To discuss organising a Litter Pick (evaluate need and area)**

This was to be kept under review and carried out as required.

**7.2) To consider request for a "Stop" sign at the junction at the B4348 on to the A466 (near the shop)**

Clerk to write to Balfour Beatty to ask for consideration to be given to this request.

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

The Chair advised that she had communicated through the office of the MP Jesse Norman to follow up on response to the request for action to be taken regarding lighting levels. Cowls had been fitted to the lights and output of lighting reduced from 91 watts to 73 watts. The information supplied was very technical and would be requested in a more understandable format. Local resident opinion, conveyed to the Chair, was that the measures had not made a difference to the lighting issues being experienced. The Chair would be continuing to pursue the

situation for a satisfactory outcome as the issues had not been followed through, as discussed with Highways England, to date.

**7.4) Grit bins – to revisit provision etc.**

The approach for the Winter of 2019 would need to be determined. New bins had been installed to replace the old open ones and some bins had been labelled up as HC property. A full review of the bins was required with the Lengthsman meeting up with the Locality Steward. A review would be arranged.

**8.0 Planning Matters**

**8.1) To consider any planning applications**

There were new applications for consideration:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 191442 - Land east of Castle Pool Cottage, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8BB

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed development of three dwellings with garages and a new access

**GRID REF:** OS 350547, 232252

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Outline

The Parish Council considered the proposals in application 191442 and determined that they could see no grounds for objection.

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 191803 – Wedza Lodge, Llanwarne, Herefordshire, HR2 8JJ

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed timber cladding and single storey extension

**GRID REF:** OS 350331, 229205

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Full Householder

The Parish Council considered the proposals in application 191803 and determined that there were no objections.

A query was raised concerning the possible breach of planning conditions for planning application 183634 for Diggers Den in terms of the height of the roof and also in regard to the alleged final use of the building. The information supplied would be submitted to Planning Enforcement for their assessment of the situation.

**9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

Verge cutting was underway. The Duchy hedge was believed to be still too far out to allow for safe passage of high sided vehicles.

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

Items as advised.

Cllr Turner advised that the Fire hydrant (green concrete markers) were missing from the end of Hollybush Lane. They had been knocked down by a large vehicle and subsequently disappeared. The Clerk would report the issue to Welsh Water for action.

It was agreed that the issue of the sewerage leak in the bus stop near to the Axe and Cleaver would be left on hold and taken up again should there be a repeat of the situation.

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

Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies. He had sent his report. Path MB24 was advised as clear and had been walked successfully.

**10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update**

Cllr Burge gave an update on the situation regarding the Neighbourhood Plan progress. The Steering Group were now into the final run of stages towards completion and it should be ready in the next year. The Draft Plan would be consulted on before going for inspection and subsequent referendum. The Parish Council remains the responsible body overseeing the plan's progress. Requests for information made to Herefordshire Council concerning numbers of homes built in the term period had not, so far, been forthcoming.

Various policies would be required, for example in the treatment of brown field sites. Recommendations would be made regarding size of developments. Findings from the initial Parish NDP Community survey and follow up March 2019 consultation were that in addition to the current larger allocations for which planning permission has been granted for the future smaller developments and infill were the preference of the community. The consideration of defining a boundary around each of the main (historical) settlements of the parish outside which development will not be allowed was also supported by the community.

Clarification would be determined on Code of Conduct matters and declarations of interest, for those participating in the meetings, would be requested each time.

#### **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.

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

All the usual items would be included. Including follow up on crossing lighting on the A49.

#### **13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

*The meeting closed at 8.54 pm*

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date