

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 3rd March 2016

Present:

Cllr. Ben Roberts
Cllr. Steve Turner (Vice-Chair) in Chair for the Meeting
Cllr. Andy Crum
Cllr. Roisin Burge

In attendance:

Parish Clerk: Alison Wright, Ward Cllr David Harlow and 4 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Cllr Turner who was in the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Open Session commenced. There was a brief update on the situation regarding the bus shelter at the Thorn. The Parish Council had sought assurance regarding disability access for the new shelter and had supported the neighbouring Council of Much Dewchurch in their decision over the replacement of the existing shelter. There was comment made regarding the expense of this at a time of cuts being made in other areas and questions were asked as to whether the replacement was, in fact, essential.

Ward Cllr Harlow was not present, at this time of the meeting, and comment was made as to a "revelation" made by him at the Little Birch Parish Council meeting regarding the volume of new houses to be built around the proposed new "by-pass".

There was also some feedback information regarding previous comments and an enquiry on refugees and asylum seeker numbers. The Office of the MP Jesse Norman had referred the enquiry back to Herefordshire Council. Further information about expected numbers was available on the Herefordshire Council web site.

The Open Session closed at 7.48pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllrs A Cook and T Jones.

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 Ordinary Meeting held on the 4th February 2016 were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4.0 To receive any update regarding the Much Birch Old Charities concerning the Poor Acre

There had been an e mail update from Mr Brimacombe:

"I have talked to Berrys the Land Agents this morning and they tell me that there is a slight hiccup with the Planning Permission in that the Council wants an Environmental survey. This may well be done today and the results produced by early next week, if there are no problems the Planning Permission will be given on the 14th March.

When Permission has been obtained the Rev. Mark and I will have a Meeting with Ben Corbett of Berrys prior to him starting negotiations with (name) regarding relinquishing the tenancy etc."

5.0 **Reports**

5.1) **P.C.S.O. from West Mercia Police**

The Bulletins with updates had been received and circulated. Cllr Turner read out some items from the current report. There had been the theft of a ride on mower and items from a garage at the Pilgrim Hotel, the attempted theft of a Landrover at the Callow and a break in at the Callow Gun Club with theft of items. Ward Councillor Harlow now joined the meeting.

5.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Harlow had sent his report as reported here (sic):

Ward member report, March 2016

NDP

Sam Banks from Herefordshire Council gave an informative presentation on neighbourhood planning to an audience from Much Birch on 9th February and there appeared to be a reasonable number of potential volunteers in attendance. I look forward to an update from the Parish council on this matter.

Parking on Tump Lane

I have organised a meeting with Herefordshire Housing (HH) on 01.03.16 to discuss the parking problems for residents on Tump Lane, this was raised by Mrs. James at 32 Tump Lane who can rarely park near her house and was recently told by HH that she had to park on the main road which is not an ideal solution. I will update the PC on this meeting

Traffic and speed limit order requests (update from Graham Hornsby)

"Hello Councillor Harlow,

As requested I can update you as follows:

The prioritised waiting list for Traffic and Speed Limit Order requests was updated in early January 16 and is currently in its first draft form and contains 152 requests for investigations into the provision of Orders or changes to existing Orders.

Within that 152 the following requests which are of interest to you are positioned at:

A466 Wormelow Village and Tump Lane – reduction of existing 40 mph speed limit to 30 mph - number 7

Tump Lane weight restriction – number 18 (though if appropriate it could be investigated and progressed at the same time as the investigation into the speed limit in Tump Lane)

Review of existing waiting restrictions adjacent to Much Birch School (and surrounding area) – number 34

Review of the existing 60 mph speed limit between Much Birch School and Kings Thorn – number 131

You will note I mention above that the list is in draft form. This is because there is currently a review of the list being undertaken with a view to possibly grouping together certain types of requests with consideration being given to outsourcing elements of this work. The aim being to work through the waiting list quicker.

However, due to this review being work in progress it is difficult to give a meaningful estimate of the timescales associated with the above mentioned requests but as soon as the situation becomes more certain I will update you accordingly.

I am sorry for the uncertainty regarding the timescales but I hope this information is sufficient for now to answer any queries.

Kind regards

Graham

Graham Hornsby

Traffic Regulation Order Officer | Balfour Beatty"

Roads – City Link road.

Most of the preparation for building this road is coming to an end and procurement of the main contractor will be concluded during February. Several contractors have shown interest and we are hopeful of a competitive tender to build this project. Considerable amounts of Asbestos has been

found and disposed during the course of preparing the site. We hope to see completion of this road link Mid-summer 2017.

Hereford Bypass

The original draft proposals looked at a potential corridor for the Hereford Relief road from the A49 in the south, going west of the city to the A49 in the north, and consideration to continue to the A4103 Worcester road. This corridor is subject to route selection in phases in conjunction with all statutory partners.

The first phase is the South Wye link from the A49 south to the A465 Abergavenny road, which should be subject to a planning application in March 16. Over the last couple of months and following the first planning consultation, some additional work has been required to deal with issues raised by a statutory consultee. Having satisfied these concerns a further consultation period will follow ahead of the planning application coming to Planning committee.

The route selection went through a comprehensive process and consultation which enabled a successful bid for funding to build the road and do some additional sustainable travel options in and around Belmont. Subject to normal processes and procedures, phase 1 of the relief road (South Wye Link) will begin once planning is approved.

The process for the further sections of the HRR are in place and a considerable amount of work will be required for route selection within the corridor, archaeology and preparation of plans for consultation and adoption, and ensuring all funding opportunities through the many channels open to us, are pursued.

It must be stressed that Herefordshire has adopted the Core Strategy after years of consultation. The Western Relief Road is adopted as part of that strategy because it opens up the infrastructure to allow the strategic housing sites to be built out and sends a message to business that Herefordshire Council will support business growth by having infrastructure in place to get in, out and around Hereford.

To support our priorities of adult and children wellbeing and economic growth, this county must invest in the minimum requirement of a bypass for the city to unlock the potential for housing and business opportunity to raise our income level to support the priorities.

Ward Cllr Harlow gave a brief update regarding the parking issues in Tump Lane which had now been resolved for the residents that had been affected. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Harlow for his report and information.

5.3) Locality Steward Dave Atkinson was not present. Bulletins had been circulated.

6.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items

The updates were noted and included

7.0 Financial Report

7.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Feb 2016 HSBC Community Account	£10,634.55
@ 13 th Feb 2016 HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,408.00

7.2) The following payments were approved:

Clerks salary	£320.50
Expenses (mileage £22.05)	£22.05
The Post Office (Tax)	£37.40
A Cook (NDP Meeting refreshments 9/02/16)	£10.80
HALC Subscription 2016/2017	£571.80
Standard Signs (Pages Pitch Road names)	£319.39
The Lengthsman	£384.00

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

8.0 School Parking and related issues update

8.1) To receive related correspondence and any updates.

As previously advised

8.2) To consider the traffic regulation order (TRO) outside the Much Birch School and those for Tump Lane

The Ward Cllr had found out the updated TRO list positions and advised same in his report at item 5.

8.3) To receive any update re Speed Indicator Device (SID) options

Additional prices had been advised as per the Locality Steward. This item would be moved to the next agenda.

8.4) To receive any update re the A49, Safer Roads Partnership Scheme and Highways England

There had been feedback received from the Safer Roads Partnership as follows:

"Dear Mrs Wright,

Thank you for your e-mail regarding traffic on the A49 in Much Birch. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to you.

I have done some research into the recent collisions that you have referred to and also checked our most recent speed data and enforcement statistics.

While I can not give full details regarding the collisions, I can confirm that they were not as a result of excessive speed.

We have carried out speed enforcement on the A49 in the Much Birch area and also taken speed data over a 24 hour/7 day period. Our speed data suggests that compliance with the speed limit is on the main good and this is reflected in the low numbers of offences that our vehicles have detected. As a result of this we have no plans to continue regular Safer Roads Partnership enforcement here, though Sgt Freer will be working with the West Mercia Police's "tasking team" to have various traffic related deployments in the area.

At a recent meeting I raised the issue of Much Birch with my colleagues from Highways England and they confirmed that they are aware of the issues you have raised and are looking into them. While they did not commit to any specific measure or alterations to the location I will continue to press them and work with them to investigate what options are available to make the environment safer for residents.

Kind regards

Ian Connolly

Traffic Management Advisor

Warwickshire Police & West Mercia Police Safer Roads Team"

9.0 Planning Matters

9.1) To consider any planning applications as circulated.

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

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 160039 - Land at Former Mushroom Farm, Much Birch, Hereford
DESCRIPTION: Proposed reserved matters of ref 140554 5 no. detached dwellings and garages and access onto A49.
PARISH: Much Birch
APPLICATION TYPE: Approval of Reserved Matters

The Much Birch Parish Council has no objections to the application.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 160313 - Much Birch Voluntary Controlled School, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HL
DESCRIPTION: Retention of timber building for purpose of providing before and after school care and a nursery class.
APPLICANT(S): The Owner and/or Occupier
GRID REF: OS 350140, 230872
APPLICATION TYPE: Council Development Reg 4

The Much Birch Parish Council has no objections to the application.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 160195 - Colley Wells, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HU
DESCRIPTION: Proposed three bay garage with one bay enclosed.
APPLICANT(S): Mr George Snell
GRID REF: OS 350569, 229601
APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Much Birch Parish Council has no objections to the application.

It was noted that the following application had received planning permission, in spite of concerns raised by the Parish Council, but with relevant conditions applied:

Date of Application: 30 November 2015 Application No: 153552 Grid Ref: 350370:231787
Proposed development: SITE: Land adjacent Rangers Lodge, Little Birch Road, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire
DESCRIPTION: Proposed new 3 bedroom detached dwelling

10.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

- Notification had been received of issues on the road surface adjacent to 1, Gamberhead Cottages on the B4348. This road had been dug out and patched and a "sleeping policeman" had been installed some time previously but the road surface had deteriorated further and water was lying on the road and being splashed up against the cottage by heavy traffic passing by. Verges were also being destroyed by heavy traffic.
- Potholes on Ticklewithy Pitch

- Potholes in Tump Lane
- Hedge overgrown at Skippet Road (details to be advised re contact name)

10.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Gates to be fitted and to carry on with ditching works - as advised previously.

10.3) To receive Report from Footpath Officer

The Footpath Officer had sent his apologies. Work was in hand to install the two new footpath gates and Cllr Turner and the Lengthsman would liaise on this.

10.4) To consider possible litter pick options and an event to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday

This item would be moved to the next Agenda

11.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

To discuss feedback from Neighbourhood Plan Event on 9th February 2016

This event had included a good presentation by Sam Banks of Herefordshire Council and the details of what the Neighbourhood Plan is and how it works had been covered.

There had been quite a low turn out of people at the event and feedback dictated that perhaps more notice on social media might help this. Maps of the defined parish areas had been received but the Tump Lane area appeared to be missing from the collection of maps. The Parish could come up with its own defined parish area and providing that this was accepted, following public consultation, then it would go forward. It was suggested that Lynda Wilcox from HALC had given an informed overview of the Plan to a neighbouring parish and this could be a suggestion for the way forward in Much Birch. A Working Group is needed to energise the idea. It was noted that if the parish do not undertake a Neighbourhood Plan voluntarily then a Development Plan Document (DPD) could be assembled by Herefordshire Council and this would then drive the planning arena for the parish in the absence of a Neighbourhood led plan. Figures had been requested from Sam regarding the number of houses built since 2011 but this information had not come through, as yet. There was some input from the Ward Cllr at this point regarding 106 monies and the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) payments. These payments could boost a community's income by 25% of CIL revenue for those parishes with a plan and 15% for those without one. The idea of a further event with HALC would be explored and the comments regarding more notice on social media being required were noted.

12.0 Self-help winter gritting scheme

Grit supplies were ready and on standby.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1) Items were noted as per the information and correspondence sheet and also included an invitation to purchase commemorative medal tokens to celebrate the forthcoming 90th birthday of the Queen. This was considered and declined. Notification had been received regarding the precept payments, also the Clerks Direct Journal and a thank you from the Much Birch Community Hall Committee for the donation towards the refurbishments.

14.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website

14.1) Clerk to supply a précis for the next edition of the newsletter. This would include a further update re the Neighbourhood Plan

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

All the usual items, plus possible ideas for a Queen's 90th Birthday Event, litter picking and dog fouling, future Neighbourhood Plan Event with HALC?

16.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 7th April 2016 at 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date