

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 9th March 2017

Present:

Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair) Chair for the Meeting
Cllr Andy Crum
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr David Baldwin
Cllr Tim Jones

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Ward Cllr; David Harlow, Lengthsman; Paul Wright and 7 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. A member of the public present thanked the Parish Council Chair and the Ward Cllr David Harlow for their representations made at the recent Planning Committee Meeting where the Larkrise Planning Application for Tump Lane had been determined. There was concern expressed regarding damage to the verges caused by large vehicles and the forthcoming weight restriction and speed limit reduction traffic regulation orders were underway.

Members of the public spoke of their concerns regarding large vehicles using Hollybush Lane that were becoming stuck due to the banks and narrowness of the lane. Drivers were knocking the banks and sometimes were only able to get out of the situation by causing damage to the roadside and anything close by. Some action had been taken at Bigglestone Farm to cut away the bank and there was concern expressed about the stability of a tree on the bank. Some of the root system had been cut away. The Highways Inspector had been in attendance on site and had stated that the situation would be monitored. There was not believed to be a risk of the tree falling, currently, and only the peripheral root systems had been cut. The situation would be monitored by the residents also and they would keep the Parish Council informed via Cllr Turner.

Open Session closed 7.40pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Alison Cook.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There was a declaration of interest recorded for Cllr Stephen Turner in relation to Planning Application number 170308, Land at Underhills, Hollybush Lane.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

3.1) The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th February 2017 were signed as a 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 Harlow had sent his report as detailed here (sic):

Much Birch Parish Council

“Ward member report, March 2017

Planning

I attended an event in Bartestree on the evening of 23.02 held for the 17 parishes across the county who have had their NDPs adopted; there were some excellent speeches covering topics as diverse as: community shops, community transport initiatives, community sports facilities etc etc.

The evening reemphasised to me that NDPs are about much more than just housing and that Herefordshire Council has various officers in place to help with issues such as funding and enterprise support.

I note that several local applications have been contentious and would suggest that planning issues should get easier once MB get to reg. 16 stage.

Great British spring clean

I know that MBPC are passionate about living in a clean environment and I believe last year held a parish clean up with LBPC. The Great British spring clean is being held nationwide in March this year & Herefordshire Council is encouraging local parishes to get involved. Herefordshire Council spend over £1M each year on street cleaning.

To take part in the campaign and set up your own clean up event visit

www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk, you can also register on our website

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/stopthedrop so you can advertise your event locally and encourage family, friends and neighbours to join in.

As soon as you have registered to organise a litter pick you MUST let Balfour Beatty know by ringing 01432 261800 so they can arrange to collect your bags of litter after your litter pick.

Balfour Beatty also have a limited number of litter packs available that can be borrowed free of charge. The Helping Hand Company are sponsoring the campaign by donating some of these packs.

Car parking charges

Herefordshire Council have implemented changes to some Hereford city centre car parks from Monday 27 February to enable greater flexibility for residents, commuters and visitors to the city. Motorists who purchase an off peak season ticket will see the cost fall to £75 a year or £25 a quarter, with the off peak parking time extended for use from 5pm to 9am.

Merton Meadow car park will see the introduction of a simple £1 per hour tariff, up to £5 for 24 hours (or £4 for 24 hours if bought before 8am). The current Sunday tariff of £3 all day will remain, with the introduction of an hourly Sunday tariff to offer more flexibility to visitors to the city. Commuters to Merton Meadow who purchase a new weekly (Monday - Friday) tariff on a Monday will see the cost reduced to £20 for five days.

For long stay visitors to Hereford, St. Martins 2 (overflow) car park will see the daily tariff reduced from £5 to £3 a day.

Ward Cllr Harlow also added that the 2017 Budget had seen an £8 million investment contribution towards the Hereford University project made available by Central Government. He stated that the University would be good for the economy of Herefordshire as grants were being phased out and would be gone by 2020 leaving the council tax and business rates as the key income streams. The Cyber Security Centre was being set up in conjunction with Wolverhampton University on the Enterprise Zone at Rotherwas. This would facilitate “dirty lab testing” of IT projects.

The idea of the Probation Service Community Pay Back for “offenders” to help with community projects was discussed. Cllr Harlow would feed back and investigate the finding that litter picking on the highway was reportedly not allowed due to health and safety.

There were some questions around the funding for the University and Cllr Harlow said that the money would be handled through the Herefordshire Council and that there would be a pilot intake year of 30 students going through at no charge to the students. The business case for the University had been completed in conjunction with the Herefordshire Council. The public would be consulted regarding progression of the scheme.

The erection of a tower for Skylon Park was being progressed and would be going forward for planning permission. It would be sited at Rotherwas, behind Arctic Circle.

4.3) Locality Steward Dave Atkinson the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins. He was not present at the meeting.

5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items

The updates were noted and included the invoicing of the Council for reimbursement of the Lengthsman Grant.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Feb 2017 HSBC Community Account	£10,753.61
@ 13 th Feb 2017 HSBC Community Projects Account	£12,941.75

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Clerks salary (Mar)	£238.96
Tax (adjusted for end of year)	£69.60
Expenses (mileage £15.30)	£15.30
HALC Annual Subscription	£607.99

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

Cllr Burge thanked the Parish Council for supporting her attendance at the recent Planning Training Workshop, held by HALC. She commended the course.

7.0 School Parking and Village issues update

7.1) To receive related correspondence

No additional items to report.

7.2) To discuss Herefordshire Road Safety Partnership and local speeding initiatives

The Parish Council would confer on the roads where it was believed it would be beneficial to speed watch. The Clerk would query the decision not to allow the scheme to be carried out by parish volunteers on the A49 as "volunteers" had been observed taking readings in Peterstow, on the A road. There was also a question raised as to how many checks were being undertaken currently, by the Police, on the A49.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications as circulated.

There were three new applications up for consideration:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 170148 - Cotstone, Holly Bush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HX

DESCRIPTION: Conversion of the existing garage to be converted into a Sports Massage Therapy business.

APPLICANT(S): Mrs Sophie Morgan

GRID REF: OS 350881, 230325

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Parish Council considered the application 170148 and there were no objections to the application.

Cllr Turner left the room for the duration of the discussion of the application 170308.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 170308 - Land at The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Herefordshire

DESCRIPTION: Construction of 3 detached dwellings with garages and associated drainage, landscaping and alterations to existing access.

APPLICANT(S): S M and L M Turner

GRID REF: OS 350957, 230346

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Parish Council of Much Birch heard representation from a member of the public who circulated a paper highlighting the concerns that he also verbally presented to the Meeting. The Parish Council subsequently discussed the application 170308 and there was no clear outcome of objection to, nor support for, the application with opinion being split 50/50.

There were, however, concerns regarding the proposal, which the Clerk was asked to convey, as follows:

- 1) Lack of infrastructure
- 2) Access. Potential for risk to pedestrians due to there being a narrow, single track road with high banks and no footpaths or verges
- 3) Generation of additional traffic
- 4) Does not reflect the Core Strategy recommendations in terms of the type of houses proposed (size etc)
- 5) Use of potential agricultural land for house building
- 6) Design of proposed properties is not believed to be in keeping with the local vernacular

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 170402 - Land at Red House, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire

DESCRIPTION: Proposed wheelchair accessible detached dwelling for the applicant's parents with first floor carer's accommodation.

APPLICANT(S): Mr Hartland

GRID REF: OS 351280, 230198

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Much Birch Parish Council considered the application 170402 and commented that although they had no objection to the proposal they would, however, like to raise the issues of access on a narrow, single track lane, pedestrian safety, lack of infrastructure and traffic concerns.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Matters were in hand following previous reporting. Potholes

The issue of the number of caravans sited at the site at the end of Laskett Lane on the junction with the A49 was being looked into by the Enforcement Team. As well as the PC enquiry, an independent enquiry had set this in place.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

The Lengthsman would be carrying out works as previously advised. Any additional tasks would be notified.

9.3) To receive Report from Footpath Officer

MB2 path – this path had been walked and checked. The path was pronounced clear.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

The Chair of the Steering Group was present and updated the Meeting. An email from Karla Johnson regarding the SEA and other statutory documents to support the plan would be forwarded to the Chair of the Steering Group by the Clerk. A review of consultants to assist with

the plan had been undertaken and comparisons made. The recommendation by the Steering Group was that Data Orchard be appointed and this would be formally ratified at the Parish Council Meeting in April. Work to apply for grant funding would be commenced to maximise the time frame for funding availability.

11.0 Poultry sheds – odour concerns

This item would be considered at the April 2017 Parish Council Meeting.

12.0 Correspondence

12.1) Items were noted as per the information and correspondence sheet and included information about the Great British Spring Clean and the Wormelow Kennels agent would be keeping in touch regarding any plans to develop the previous kennels site.

13.0 Parishes’ Newsletter and Much Birch Website

13.1) Clerk to send a précis to the Newsletter.

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

All the usual items would be included plus update on the Hereford Safer Roads Partnership and local speeding initiatives. Also to be included chicken broiler houses plus Environment Agency and silt issues.

15.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 5th April 2017 from 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall. Cllr Baldwin gave his apologies for the April Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date