

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 8th March 2018

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Tim Jones
Cllr David Baldwin

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright, PCSO Lowri Anderson and PCSO Adam Westlake and 3 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PCSO Lowri Anderson and PCSO Adam Westlake were in attendance and they gave an update on local policing issues. There had been one recent crime in the area, a burglary at Kingsthorne where items had been taken and there had been a vehicle fire. It was advised that people had been going around trying to get into cars by trying the handles in Hereford. The issue of speeding in Tump Lane was noted and the Safer Roads Partnership had been data collecting. A new laser gun, to target speeding, had been supplied for police use.

The Open Session closed at 7.40pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Andy Crum 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 Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th February 2018 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. The PCSOs updated the meeting during the Open Session.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Harlow had sent his report as detailed here (sic):

Much Birch Parish Council

“Ward member report, March 2018

Local matters

There have been few headline grabbing stories this month in Much Birch, aside from a few planning issues there has been very little to report. I'd imagine that road issues will come to the fore following this latest episode of bad weather with more pot holes etc

In the absence of other stories it's worth highlighting the work undertaken by Balfour Beatty to keep the county's roads moving; on a snowy winters night BBLP grit over 1000 miles of Herefordshire roads including 600 'priority routes' including the A49 and A466 in our area.

The county's salt bins also have to be fully stocked with just under 5,000 tonnes of salt available to the 30 strong gritting team operating 16 gritting trucks, 4 snow blowers and 2 quad bikes. It costs Herefordshire Council more than £30,000 a night to keep the roads clear at times like these – just some indication of where your council tax goes...

Whilst we're talking about roads I've attached an article at the end of this report that shows that Herefordshire is no worse than other counties when it comes to road maintenance. Tax payers up and down the country want better roads, we just have to work out how to pay for them!!!

Economic news

As many of you know I hold the Economic brief at the council and there have been various bits of good news to report. The Enterprise Zone in Rotherwas goes from strength to strength with Much Birch's Ken Davies in the final stages of building out his factory and R&D facilities as well as many other success stories (Shell store finances coming together, cyber centre developments)

More good news came with the planning committee granting planning permission to Model Farm in Ross which is a 15 hectare employment site which should be able to support 1000 jobs once built out. We hope to start work on the business park later this year."

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

5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items and Correspondence

The updates were noted and included:

Dear Parish/Town Clerk,

*We are emailing to ask if your Parish/Town Council would please consider signing up to Herefordshire Council's **Stop the Drop** Litter Pledge?*

Last week Herefordshire Council held a Litter Stakeholder meeting for organisations, businesses, community groups and individuals who are actively working to reduce litter in the County, to ensure partnership working and to discuss the way forward.

*We also launched the **Litter Pledge** in order to try and encourage everyone to commit to doing their bit.*

There's a litter pledge for businesses, schools, community groups and individuals and the link to the pledge is here:-

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/107/litter/7

Everyone who signs the litter pledge will receive a certificate for displaying in their premises/area to encourage others to do the same and will be featured on the Herefordshire Council website.

We know that Parish Councils are very good at keeping their parishes clear of litter and many of you organise community litter picks as well. The litter pledge is a way of gaining recognition for this. Signing up to the pledge will also demonstrate your Parish Councils' commitment to reducing litter in your area.

*We're hoping to get 100 pledges signed in time for the **Great British Spring Clean** <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean> which is over the weekend of 2-4th March 2018, and obviously many more after that.*

For more information about the Stop the Drop Litter Campaign please have a look at our webpages via this link www.herefordshire.gov.uk/stophedrop

We look forward to hearing from you,

With Kind Regards

Jane Denny

HALC

Important information received regarding new data legislation and training (GDPR).
Information Corner and NALC update circulated.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th February 2018 HSBC Community Account	£11,178.49
@ 13 th February 2018 HSBC Community Projects Account	£12,225.69

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (Mar salary £301.52, mileage £16.65)	£318.17
HALC (subscription 2018 - 2019)	£601.74
Sub Total	£919.91

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil	£0.00
Grand Total	£919.91

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

6.3) Birches Newsletter Correspondence

Also for reissue: Donation to Birches Newsletter (payee incorrect on previous cheque)

7.0 School Parking and Village issues update

7.1) To receive related updates and correspondence

No further details had been received or feedback from previous interaction. A letter to be sent to the school noting actions taken by the Parish Council to date and updating regarding possible options.

7.2) To receive any update on Herefordshire Road Safety Partnership and local speeding initiatives

The Clerk had now received a reply and Much Birch will not be participating in the scheme following an assessment made by the Safer Roads Partnership.

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.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 180740 – Birchfield, Holly Bush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HX

DESCRIPTION: Proposed change of roof pitch from 30 to 40 degrees to provide first floor accommodation comprising of two bedrooms and a bathroom

GRID REF: OS 350897, 230263

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The Parish Council discussed the content of application 180740 and resolved to support the proposal.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Tree down at by way near Belleview and the Pump House, opposite the bus stop and near the school. Lorries were driving over the curved edge at the end of Hollybush Lane.

There was a deep gully on Barrack Hill opposite Cllr Burge's home and concern regarding cars dropping down the edge of the highway.

New grit bins required, locations to be determined.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

On going routine works.

9.3) To note any matters/works relating to footpaths

The Footpath Officer advised that there was no further update this time.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

The meeting planned for the 1st March had been postponed and was rescheduled for the 29th March 2018. Policy drafting was in progress and these had been sent to the consultant. There would be another public consultation meeting held in the summer.

11.0 Self help gritting scheme

No further update this time. The grit bins that had been filled were soon emptied in the recent snowy conditions and all now required refilling. Some routes had not been cleared and the Chair would check with the Locality Steward regarding clearance of Wrigglebrook area. It would also be checked regarding commissioning of additional snow clearance. There was a thank you recorded for everyone working together and co-operating during the recent bad weather conditions. It was always a concern that carers etc. would be able to access their clients when road conditions were prohibitive.

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.

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

All the usual items would be included plus any further information on school parking issues, Larkrise Development Appeal and new Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) from 25/05/18.

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting would be held on Thursday 5th April 2018, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.16pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date