

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 7th March 2019

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright and 4 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Members of the public raised the following issues; Tump Lane opposite Rectory Gardens (before exit from the Pilgrim) rough stretch of road surface. There was a drainage issue on the A466 by the Yew Tree and by the shop going towards the public house plus the drain on the Kingsthorpe Road was still flooding onto the road.

The Open Session closed at 7.40pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Rosemary Rigby MBE, Ward Cllr; David Harlow and Footpath Officer; Steve Owen.

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 7th February 2019 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 not sent a report for March. He had sent his apologies for the meeting.

4.3) **Locality Steward** Dave Atkinson the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins. He had advised that he would be leaving his post as Locality Steward at the end of March 2019.

5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items and Correspondence

The updates were noted and included:

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Details about the forthcoming May Elections have been received.

Stagecoach Bus Services Network Review & Consultation: More information and response leaflets at: west.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com

Great Hereford Spring Clean

Changes to refuse collection arrangements

6.0 **Financial Report**

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

@ 13 th February 2019 HSBC Community Account	£11,696.03
@ 13 th February 2019 HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,620.04

6.2) **The following payments were approved:**

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (Mar sal £307.65, mileage £17.10)	£324.75
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£76.80
HALC Subscription (2019 - 2020)	£658.08
Little Birch Village Hall (Newsletter donation)	£350.00
Skyfire Designs (web hosting)	£112.50
Sub Total	£1522.13

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil

Sub Total	£0.00
Grand Total	£1522.13

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

7.0 **Village issues update including social care briefing from Cllr Burge**

Cllr Burge gave a report on Social Care, details below:

A Symposium on Social Care Herefordshire 25 January 2019

“Hosted by The High Sheriff of Herefordshire Nat Hone DL

Key aims and themes of the symposium

To provide up to date information about the pressures and challenges facing those who in Modern British Society are responsible for the provision of help to vulnerable people of all ages i.e. the state, commercial and charitable organizations.

To acknowledge membership of the caring profession to be a very high calling and to which society does not give proper value for what they do on our behalf. This must change.

There is a need to match our expectations for outcomes to the amount we are prepared to pay.

Speakers

The Hon. Mr Justice Keehan (High Court Judge) “ The legal aspects of Social Care”

Mr Justice Keehan spoke of the increasing in work load of the courts (in relation to children at risk of significant harm) which has risen by 25%. This increase is presenting challenges for judges and the judicial system. In response to the increasing demand and in order to alleviate pressure on judges and the court system a group has been set up to review and recommend how the legal and care systems might work more effectively together e.g. develop improved pre-proceedings work and thus reduce the numbers coming to public law proceedings. The group are currently considering a have a number of areas for improved practice development.

Richard Humphries King's fund "Social Care as a profession"

Mr Humphries provided a background to the development of Social services leading up to the current situation of increasing pressures arising from a number of sources. People are living longer, have increasingly complex needs, and there is a high turnover of staff within the care sector. There is no additional money to meet these challenges and so we will need to be more creative and imaginative in ways in which we spend the cash we have. Mr Humphries gave examples of initiatives which are providing a positive outcome including Kington Local services. He posed the question "Can we do something different in Hereford to let things grow?"

Dr Ian Tate "Social Care's interface with Health.

Dr Tate is currently chair and clinical lead of the NHS Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Vice-chair of the Herefordshire Council's Health and Wellbeing board

Dr Tate has a commitment to the holistic care of individual patients in his role as GP and across Herefordshire. He provided an interesting focus for discussion about partnership and collaboration across the full range of care/support needs from personal self-care (a need/responsibility for all) to the support needs of people with more complex health and care issues and how these might be met through effective collaboration by a range of personal service providers.

Final Discussion/Panel

A focus on how the information shared and additional examples of good practice might be taken forward in Herefordshire."

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

There were two new applications for consideration:

Planning Consultation – 190559 – Elm Cottage, Much Birch, HR2 8HY

Description: Demolition of existing rear and side single storey sections and construction of new rear extension including alterations to existing roof.

The Much Birch PC considered the application 190559 for Elm Cottage and there were no objections to the proposals.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 190594 - Walmere, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AW

DESCRIPTION: Proposed variation of condition 2 of planning permission SH881829PF (extension to provide additional living accommodation for disabled parents) to allow permitted accommodation to be rented.

The Much Birch PC considered the application 190594 for Walmere and there were no objections to the alteration of regulation

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Potholes on the Wrigglebrook to the Minster road U71606 (lower part)

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Lengthsman to be on "light duties" to start back but to look at the footpath by the Axe and Cleaver where it crosses Holly bush Lane plus the drains on Barrack Hill between Little Birch Road and Wrigglebrook Lane.

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

Steve Owen had sent his apologies. He had identified a number of “non-urgent” observations in the report as sent.

9.4) Pelican Crossing lighting - update

The Chair reported back following a site meeting with Highways England. There were plans to install cowling on the lights as turning them off completely was not an option. There were a number of ideas being explored, including looking at light density levels, and the Chair had kept the interested parties informed of developments. The Chair would follow up what the situation was and, although there were no guarantees, it was hoped that improvements would be achieved.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

The next public consultation event would take place on the 16th March 2019 at the Much Birch Community Hall from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. There would be information on how far the plan had progressed plus display boards, stands and refreshments. The numbers quoted for housing delivery are minimum ones and with no upper limit. Policies would be put into place to help determine future building specifications.

11.0 Self help gritting scheme

All okay at present. Some grit bins had now been labelled as adopted. A new audit of the bins would be carried out after the winter and reported back.

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. Local Elections information would be on the website.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also to look at arranging a Litter Pick

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 4th April 2019, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall. Cllr Cook gave her apologies in advance for absence at the April 2019 Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date