

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Meetings of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 8th May 2014

Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Chair)

Cllr. Andrew Crum

Cllr. Stephen Turner

Cllr. Tim Jones

In attendance:

Parish Clerk, Alison Wright, and from 7.30 onwards 21 members of the public

Annual Parish Meeting

There being no attendees wishing to speak to Council at the beginning of the meeting at 7.00pm, for the Annual Parish Meeting, the Chairman welcomed those present and the Annual Statutory Meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

1.0 Election of Chair

Cllr A Cook was proposed by Cllr S Turner and seconded by Cllr A Crum, acceptance of office form signed

2.0 Election of Vice Chair

Cllr S Turner was proposed by Cllr A Cook and seconded by Cllr A Crum, acceptance of office form signed

3.0 Apologies for Absence

There was one apology for absence, from Cllr Norris.

4.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5.0 Minutes

5.1 The Minutes of 3rd April 2014 were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

6.0 Reports

P.C.S.O. from West Mercia Police

PCSO Kevin Powell was not present.

Ward Councillor Cllr Norris had sent his apologies.

7.0 To appoint Councillors to Working Groups

The Working Group appointments were resolved as follows:

- Planning - All Councillors
- Finance - Cllrs Cook, Norris and Turner
- Employment - to be convened when necessary
- Self Help winter Gritting - Cllrs Crum and Turner

8.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items

The updates were noted and an action to raise the issue of non reply from Mr Lee Jones, to the last letter concerning the yellow lines outside the school, to his line manager was requested.

9.0 Financial Report

9.1	The following bank balances were noted:	
	@ 13 th April 2014 Community Account	£10164.41
	@ 13 th March 2014 HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,408.00
9.2	The following payments were approved:	
	Clerk's salary	£289.45
	Expenses (mileage £15.30, stamps £6.36 and ink £14.00)	£35.66
	Tax due on salary	£72.20
	Much Birch Community Room Hire	£52.50
	Herefordshire Council (Planning Apps)	£24.00

Resolved :- That the payments listed above were approved and passed for payment and Cllr A Cook declared an interest in the Herefordshire Council invoice

9.3 Daffodil Bulbs

The idea of the daffodil bulbs, as introduced in the April meeting, by Chris and Colleen Grover was supported. Cllr Turner would ask them to get an idea of numbers of bulbs required and prices and then following purchase approval the Parish Council would reimburse the cost of the bulbs. Cllr James mentioned a special Victorian variety of daffodil called the Double Sulphur Phoenix and spoke of the wish to try to re-establish the variety. It may be possible for some of these bulbs to be included too and Cllr James could kindly arrange this, if required.

10.0 Planning Matters

There were two planning applications to discuss as follows:

- 1) Site: Land at former Mushroom Farm, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HY
 Description: Outline planning application for 5 no. detached dwellings and garages and access onto A49
 Application No: P140554/O
 Grid ref: OS 351402, 229720
 Application Type: Outline

- 2) Site: Land at Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, Hereford,
 Description: Erection of three dwellings and construction of new vehicular access
 Application No: P140593/O
 Grid ref: OS 350320, 232160
 Application Type: Outline

The planning applications had received submissions from residents and the group present handed over a pack of information that had been prepared in relation to the Barrack Hill application and the reasons for objecting to it. A spokesperson, Mr Burton, explained the reasons why the residents were objecting to the Barrack Hill application.

The parish Council listened to all that was said and considered the pack and then discussed the application. The Parish Council then resolved to make the following comments on P140593/O Land at Barrack Hill: "The Parish Council object to the application on the grounds of drainage, loss of natural habitat, loss of green field land and the loss of the natural boundary between Lower and Upper Barrack Hill. This is long established agricultural land. The development is not in keeping with the surrounding area and tends towards an overbearing nature. Not in line with criteria outlined by Government on "infill" sites.

The second application regarding the Mushroom Farm was then discussed and a letter of objection read out in full. After consideration of all of the points made, the Parish Council

commented as follows on Application P140554/O: “ Whilst the Council would like to encourage development of the site, there are concerns as to access to and from the A49 given that the developer does not own the land on either side of the access/exit point. The Council are minded to object to the application on the grounds of unsafe access and egress from the proposed site.”

The comments would be returned to the Herefordshire Council Planning Department. The group would be kept up to date with developments on the Barrack Hill application via the spokesperson, Mr Burton’s, e mail.

11.0 Parish Plan Sub Committee Update

The previous plan paperwork had been circulated and a meeting would now be held.

12.0 Much Birch School Parking and Road issues update

The Highways Agency had passed back the issue of the A49 crossing to the Local Authority. Replies were still awaited from some quarters. Cllr Turner had decided to resign as a school governor. The Parish Council were disappointed to have lost Parish Council representation on the Governing Body and would advise the School of this and let them know that the School parking issues would remain a fixed item on the agenda.

13.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

13.1) Balfour Beatty: - The school footpath had still not been scoured of overgrowth and consequently widened, a further request for clearance to be sent. Also triangle as mentioned previously – OS Ref required)
The drains outside no’s 36 and 37 Tump Lane are blocked

13.2) The Lengthsman: - TBA

13.3) Footpaths: - A new Footpath Officer was appointed, Cllr Jones, proposed by Cllr Crum and seconded by Cllr Cook. Cllr Crum to pass over the footpath maps to Cllr Jones. No further details to report at this stage.

14.0 Correspondence

Noted as per sheet and including a request from the Governance Services Department for information on whether the Parish Council wished to operate a system of allowances and reimbursements for members. After hearing the content of the letter, from Governance Services, the Much Birch Parish Council resolved that they would not be setting a table of allowances or reimbursements, at present but may consider ad hoc payments if appropriate. The Clerk would advise Governance of this decision.

15.0 Parishes’ Newsletter and Much Birch Website

15.1 Clerk to supply précis for the next edition of the newsletter and to include planning comments submitted by the Parish Council regarding the Barrack Hill and Mushroom Farm applications.

16.0 Matters to be raised on the Agenda of the next meeting

Local Charities, invite Mr Brimacombe to the next meeting for an update on the Charities activities.

17.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Ordinary Meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 5th June 2014 at 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date