

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5th November 2015

Present:

Cllr. Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr. Ben Roberts
Cllr. Steve Turner (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Tim Jones

In attendance:

Parish Clerk: Alison Wright, the Locality Steward: Dave Atkinson, the Ward Cllr David Harlow, a reporter from the Hereford Times and 4 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Open Session commenced. It was noted that there would be a Remembrance Service held on the Millennium Green from 10.30pm on Friday 6th November.

Mr Joseph, resident of Tump Lane, presented a copy of the petition containing 335 signatures concerning road traffic issues in Tump Lane. The original petition had been presented to Herefordshire Council. The petition was received by the Chair. The Parish Council has previously lodged requests for traffic regulation orders for Tump Lane in terms of a weight restriction and reduction in speed limit. These requests were currently at numbers 18 and 63 on the list for action and would likely be looked at in an estimated time frame of 2017 for the first one and 2020 for the second. Cllr Rone had been asked if the two requests could be considered simultaneously but this had been advised as not being possible due to someone else's request being "bumped out of order". Cllr Rone had advised that he had not advanced any TRO requests on safety grounds, to date.

Mr Joseph asked for a correction to be made to the name given in the Ward Councillor's previous report where Mrs Joseph, his wife, had incorrectly been referred to as "Mrs Preedy". This was noted.

The other details of the e mail messages from Ward Cllrs Rone and Harlow were referred to. The requests were in and Cllr Rone was the only one who could authorise the movement of the TRO requests.

Cllr Harlow explained about an e mail form Graham Hornsby from Balfour Beatty concerning three pending TRO's, the two in Tump Lane and one for a speed reduction for Wormelow, on the A466. The A466 request was at No.7 in the list and it was going to be looked into to see if the three related TRO's might be looked at together. Mr Hornsby had seemed to have indicated that this may be a possibility. The question was asked that if this proposal was to be agreed by Mr Hornsby or Balfour Beatty could anyone then say "no" to this?

There was a further discussion on traffic calming measures with the mention of a chicane. Funding for this type of calming would need to be found from an external source and may therefore take some time to procure. It was acknowledged that even if speed limit restrictions had been altered it would not have influenced the recent incident with the speeding vehicle in Tump Lane.

Cllr Harlow would be looking for the e mail from Graham Hornsby and would circulate this once received. This could add pressure to the situation. The Hereford Times had published an article about the extended bypass and the petition regarding this had received fewer signatures than the one from Tump Lane regarding the concerns there. Further discussion then took place, with the Locality Steward, also regarding the option of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Permanent SIDs, like the one in Much Dewchurch, do

check you when you come up to them. The physical flash reinforces the message. The cost of a permanent SID would be looked into by the Locality Steward and also the possibility of a group of parishes sharing a SID on a rotational basis would be investigated. Costs were discussed and the Locality Steward would check with the replacement person now that Mr Sell had retired.

Miss Rigby mentioned a traffic survey carried out in Tump Lane about eight years previously when the verges were continually disappearing due to heavy goods traffic. This was still ongoing and the Locality Steward agreed to provide road markers at the location of the Millennium Green. The recipient of the markers in Barrack Hill gave thanks for these at the Meeting.

Mr Joseph explained that he had contacted the Pontrilas Sawmill and Allensmore Nursery and that they had both confirmed that their heavy goods vehicles should not be using the lane as a "cut through".

The Open Session closed at 8.00pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence and co-option of councillor(s) plus signing of forms

There were apologies received from Cllr Crum. There were no further co- options made.

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 8th October 2015 were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

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

There had been an e mail update received from Dick Brimacombe, Trustee.

"Dear Alison,

I have just phoned Berrys the Land Agents who tell me that the Outline Planning Application for 1 house on the Poor Acre should be submitted to the Council within the next 2 weeks. It will probably take a couple months or so to obtain a determination.

Best wishes

Dick"

5.0 Reports

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

The PCSO was not present. Bulletins with updates had been received and circulated.

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

Ward member report, November 2015

Road safety

Outside the school –

- *I spoke with Revd Mark Johnson and Mother Superior on 21.10.2015 with regard to potential solutions to the parking problems outside the school; the sisters will be having a discussion about possibly allowing parents to park their cars at school times in their car park at Poor Clares. This partial solution, if accepted by the sisters, should mean fewer cars from Poor Clares onwards up the hill.*
- *Email Update received on 02.11.15 below. Using the convent is not an option.*

“Good afternoon David, I am not quite sure if it was you or one of the other councillors who rang the convent regarding the use of our present Car Park for the school. I have not as yet mentioned the matter to the sisters as I doubt very much if it would pass Health and Safety. Cars coming down the drive and children running up would be rather dangerous. The main reason is in the winter the drive would be unsafe for parents and children. Even our chaplain, Fr. Antony, leaves his car at the top of the drive in the bad weather. I well appreciate the problem but I do not think the use of our car park would be a safe or sensible solution. We were not long here when we had to enlarge the existing car park to enable a fire engine access. I tried to phone you but without success, we as a community care very much about the children and are sorry not to be able to have some positive contribution to offer. You would be most welcome to call to see me, if it would be helpful.

Sincerely yours

Sr. Anne Magdalen (Mother Abbess)”

- *I visited Mr Padden at Fairview on 27th and 29th October to explain the delay in sorting out the road issues outside his house but he was away. I left a note, he has been in touch and we are due to have a meeting in early November.*

Tump Lane –

- *I met up with Eric and Doreen Joseph together with Keith James on 27.10.15 to discuss road safety on Tump Lane and to collect the signatures on Eric’s petition. Eric will be attending tonight’s PC meeting so that he can present the Parish council with a copy of the petition. He will be handing the original to Herefordshire Council in December.*
- *BBLP have a traffic regulation order list and Tump Lane/Wormelow features at numbers 7,18,63 on the list. I have asked them to consider merging these three proximate TROs as a way of getting some forward momentum. I am awaiting a response although they will probably say that the main road through Wormelow (A466) is a different class of road and therefore my suggestion is not possible.*

Core Strategy

The full council met on 16.10.15 and adopted the core strategy; an adopted neighbourhood plan is now vital but will take time. It may be worth considering joining forces with another parish such as Little Birch. I have shared an existing final stage plan with Cllr Turner.

Can Parish councils do more?

This is a strategic question that I was asked at the last MBPC meeting and one that is being discussed at Shire Hall. The short answer is that PCs will be asked to do more and have the ability to raise council tax precepts by an unlimited amount, it is possible that locals will be far happier to pay more tax if they see the money being spent on their own doorsteps. How far these extra powers go is what I need to clarify...

Kings thorn bus stop

I chased the councillor for Much Dewchurch about the bus stop issue, see comment below in response: ‘the survey has confirmed that there is asbestos on site of the bus stop, therefore there will be a meeting that BBLP will contact us both about in due course’

County news...

High Town fire damaged building

Herefordshire Council met with representatives of the owners of the fire damaged buildings in High Town, Hereford on Thursday 1 October and is encouraged by their willingness to facilitate a sale to enable the site to be redeveloped.

The council can confirm that Hereford based architect Hook Mason Ltd has now been instructed to seek pre-application advice from the council’s planning service to obtain a more marketable development with the aim of selling the property and bringing the buildings back into use as soon as possible.

Hereford Library

Herefordshire Council is reviewing its position following the unexpected discovery of asbestos at Hereford Library.

As traces of asbestos have been found at the venue, it is in the best safety interest to remove it completely and that work will start later this year. As yet there is no firm date as to when those works will be completed.

There has been a considerable increase in the use of Belmont Library to compensate for the closure of Hereford Library, and a drop-off point is available at the Shire Hall. In addition we plan to open a temporary provision at Hereford Town Hall as soon as we can. Options for temporary relocating the Museum and Arts Gallery are being explored.

5.3) Locality Steward Dave Atkinson reported that the Barrack Hill works and signs had been done. He stated that there was not much to report back on but there would be free of charge replacements for the damaged salt bins. An inventory of litter bins was being undertaken. There would be shared duties on litter going forward between Herefordshire Council, Balfour Beatty and the Lengthsman. The cancelled Balfour Beatty update seminars would be rescheduled. New 30mph signs for The Thorn had been requested. Generally the footpaths had no major issues to report.

6.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items

The updates were noted.

7.0 Financial Report

7.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Oct 2015 Community Account	£12059.30
@ 13 th Oct 2015 HSBC Community Projects Account	£14,408.00

7.2) The following payments were approved:

Clerks salary	£334.04
Expenses (mileage £15.30, stamps £6.48)	£21.78
Much Birch Community Hall (room hire)	£35.00
Dore Community Transport (Donation)	£200.00

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

7.3) To consider and adopt new Communications Policy and Publications Scheme

The revised Communications Policy and Publications Scheme were approved and adopted.

7.4) To consider possible assistance with Public Liability Insurance for the Millennium Green subject to accounts being made available

The Ward Cllr had been in discussion with a resident about the insurance. It was explained that in order for the Parish Council to consider a request for financial support they would need to see a copy of the accounts to establish the need for a contribution. If the accounts could be made available then the matter could be considered. Miss Rigby said that she would ask the Treasurer to furnish the accounts. It was noted that should any consideration result in a donation to a given body then this would not determine that a precedent had been set in respect of ongoing, or future, support.

7.5) To consider matters relating to the precept and to organise Finance Working Party to discuss same and also to confirm Cllr Roberts in role as FWP Member

A Meeting would be held between this date and the December Meeting to discuss the finances and precept. Cllr Roberts was confirmed as a member of the Finance Working Party.

7.6) To consider possible donation to Dore Community Transport

This was discussed and the accounts and usage by the parish noted. It was resolved that a donation of £200.00 towards the running costs of the organisation would be made. Proposed Cllr Cook and seconded by Cllr Turner. Carried.

7.7) To consider possible donation to Much Birch Community Hall building project

This was discussed and it was resolved that a donation of £1000.00 be made from the Community Fund. Proposed by Cllr Cook and seconded by Cllr Jones. Carried.

8.0 School Parking and related issues update

8.1) To receive related correspondence and any updates.

The Ward Cllr Report identified the update from the Convent. A request to have the traffic regulation order outside the school reviewed via the ward councillor without specifying final details to be made. Request to re-emphasise the TROs for Tump Lane as well. The TRO for the school road would include all the way up to the C1263 from the A49 junction to the speed limit sign by the "Burcot" property.

8.2) To consider the traffic regulation order (TRO) outside the Much Birch School

As detailed in Ward Cllr Report

8.3) To consider Speed Indicator Device (SID) options and or speed survey at the Thorn

Locality Steward to assist with considering action as joined up approach with possible neighbouring parishes, St Weonards, Welsh Newton, Llangarron and Garway. Details as discussed in Open Session re making contact with Roger Sell's replacement and finding out costs for shared and single hire.

9.0 Planning Matters

9.1) To consider any planning applications as circulated.

There had been one further application received:

APPL. NO & SITE ADDRESS: 152855 - Churchfield, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HU

DESCRIPTION: Proposed kitchen extension and loft conversion to main house and conversion/extension to the existing garage to form gymnasium.

APPLICANT(S): Mr M Wilson

GRID REF: OS 351044, 230174

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The Parish Council commented that there were no objections to the application.

10.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Ongoing reports, as discussed with Locality Steward previously and bollards to be installed by the Millennium Green.

10.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Ditching works were on request and in hand

10.3) To receive Report from Footpath Officer

There were no further updates re the footpaths. There was a gate required for MB4. To liaise with Locality Steward re location and see if the Lengthsman would be prepared to fit this. Gate would be free issue from Balfour Beatty.

11.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update on position

The re was no further update re the plan. Little Birch had decided to proceed with a Plan. There could be some co-working on approach for research. Cllr Turner to discuss this with Mike Morley of Little Birch Parish Council. There may be a possibility for any Information Events to be hosted jointly. It was stated that the Parish Council role in the Neighbourhood Plan was an important one. Growth of property numbers for the county up to 2031 was a minimum number of 16,500. The National Planning Policy Framework at National level then led to the local plan, or Core Strategy, and then to the Neighbourhood Plan at parish level. All documents would sit together to shape development. A referendum would be held to determine acceptance of a finished Neighbourhood Plan.

A member of the audience asked if an action plan could be devised to set the process off and if a decision would be taken to determine whether a plan would be undertaken. The Chair agreed that she would look at some information with a view to producing a flyer that could accompany the delivery of the Birches Newsletter. A decision on whether to proceed had not yet been formally taken and input from the public would be needed to make it happen. The Hereford Times journalist left the meeting at 9.00pm.

12.0 Self-help winter gritting scheme

Grit supplies were in place.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1) Items were noted as per the information and correspondence sheet and included a request for support from the Parish Council for the “erection of a road safety mirror at the end of the lane as it emerges on to the main road (in Wormelow)”
The Parish Council recorded their support for the proposal.

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 another request for support in setting up a Steering Group to commence the undertaking of a Neighbourhood Plan.

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

All the usual items plus setting the precept demand for 2016/2017 and feedback from Finance Working party meeting.

16.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 3rd December 2015 at 7.30pm in The Much Birch Community Hall. Ward Cllr Harlow gave his apologies, in advance, for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date