

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 2nd November 2017

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright, and 2 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The 30mph signs were up in Tump Lane. The weight limit reduction and new speed limit were now in force.

The path through Much Birch on the A49 was overgrown. This had been advised to Highways England.

The phone kiosk library was going well and people were borrowing the books.

A Remembrance Service would be taking place on the Millennium Green, by the war memorial tree, on 10th November. Children would be in attendance from the Primary School and would be singing as a choir.

There was an update on the fund raised new ambulances.

The Open Session closed at 7.40pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from 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 5th October 2017 were signed as 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, November 2017

Speed restrictions in Tump Lane and on A466

It is great to see the new restrictions on Tump Lane and on the Monmouth road, credit must go to the parish council for keeping up the pressure for this T.R.O to take place over many months and years. Thanks also to the residents of Tump Lane for ensuring that road safety has remained high on the agenda. A good result!

Parking review outside school

I recently added my thoughts to those of the PC that parking restrictions outside the school should be altered in line with the proposals of ADL traffic. In short the situation in front of 'Fairview' and 'Old School House' needs to be addressed to allow the residents to carry on their day to day activities without fear of the traffic warden. Traffic restrictions need to be extended the whole length of the school so as to minimise traffic problems in the area.

Puffin crossing on A49

News reached us in mid-October that funding has been found for the design and construction of a puffin crossing outside Much Birch school during 2018, this is further excellent news as this stretch of the A49 is fast and dangerous.

Poppies coming to Hereford next Easter

We are honoured to have been awarded the 'weeping windows' poppy display next Easter. Details available from the link below. Volunteers will be sought nearer the time to help visitors.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/410/poppies_weeping_window_coming_to_hereford

County's care homes rated best in West Midlands

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has revealed that Herefordshire is providing some of the best care for adults in the West Midlands.

The latest CQC inspection report shows that Herefordshire has the highest proportion of 'Good' or 'Outstanding' care homes and the second highest proportion of home care providers in the region. Herefordshire has 29 nursing homes, providing specialist care for medical conditions such as dementia. The CQC has inspected all but one of these and rated 24 of them (86%) as being 'Good'. This means we have the highest proportion in the West Midlands.

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

At the recent Code of Conduct meetings for Parish and Town clerks the Monitoring Officer (Claire Ward) was asked a number of questions regarding dispensations and the process for awarding dispensations.

In response to these questions I am now attaching the latest guidance on this topic on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.

With Kind Regards

Anthony

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Sept 2017 HSBC Community Account	£10,904.97
@ 13 th Sept 2017 HSBC Community Projects Account	£17,266.17

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (Nov salary £376.90, tax refund £100.00 mileage £15.30)	£492.20
Sub Total	£492.20

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil this time

Grand Total £492.20

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

6.2) To approve precept and budget for 2018 – 2019

The Finance Working Party had considered the budget and precept for 2018 -2019 and the recommendation was put forward that the precept remain at £6750.00 and any shortfalls would be met from the reserves as held. This was unanimously agreed.

6.3) To discuss request for support from Dore Community Transport

The Parish Council discussed the request for support and noted that 222 trips had been taken by parish residents during the preceding 12 months. It was resolved that a donation of £400.00 towards their work would be made by the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the Dore Community Transport contact phone number would be recorded in the Minutes for information. The booking line number to call is: **0845 202 0144**

7.0 School Parking and Village issues update

7.1) To receive related updates and correspondence

No further information received.

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

No further update. Much Birch parish is currently on a wait list.

7.3) Hollybush Lane entrance from A49 – update

Cllr Turner advised of a recent incident at the location of Hollybush Lane where a lorry carrying livestock (chickens) had hit a wall and punctured a tyre. This was highlighted as a welfare issue and further demonstrated the difficulties being experienced, at the location, due to the size of the vehicles that were being used. This situation would be reiterated to Balfour Beatty and the Locality Steward had been copied into the photographs that had been taken at the time of the incident.

7.4) Traffic Regulation Orders for Tump Lane signs

The new signs were now in place and the orders had been confirmed in a press release.

7.5) Uncovered crop loads on trailers - update

The Police had been contacted regarding the loose loads on trailers and shedding of items. They had requested that registration numbers of the vehicles, when observed, be phoned through so that the matter could be investigated. The Clerk would check out the NFU policy on the sheeting of loose loads, such as potatoes and apples etc.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications as circulated and update on related matters

There were no new applications for consideration.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Ticklewithy Pitch had a pothole requiring repair. The Little Birch Road is still very much in need of resurfacing.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

The Lengthsman would be undertaking seasonal cleaning and strimming etc.

The Footpath Officer advised that a finger post was required by Belle View where the gate is currently on path MB2.

Cllr Turner would send details of the landowners where gates are possibly required on path MB30.

The hedge by the drop in the road at Ladywell Lane is still overgrown.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

Cllr Burge updated the meeting regarding the phenomenal response from residents who had completed and returned their questionnaires. 82% of those receiving a questionnaire had taken the time to fill in and return them. This was greatly appreciated and the information collected would be analysed and fed back to inform the next steps for the plan.

11.0 Self help gritting scheme

The scheme was in readiness for inclement weather conditions.

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. Clerk would include a big "thank you" to all those who had completed a Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire and to all those who had helped distribute and collect them.

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 Hollybush Lane issues.

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting would be held on Thursday 7th December 2017, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date