

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Ward Cllr David Harlow, Lengthsman; Paul Wright and 6 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A resident raised the issue of the new crossing lighting being on all night and with 20 plus lights, and lights over the signs, the amount of light generated was considerable and quite intrusive for local residents. It was agreed that the Chair would contact the installation company, Kier, and explain the situation of the “dark skies policy” that was highlighted in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and the suggestion that maybe the lighting intensity could be reduced during later hours and into the early morning when the crossing was likely to receive limited use. There was also a question regarding the seeming lack of warning signage on approach to the crossing.

Another resident commented that the footpath on the A49 from Tump Lane to Hollybush Lane was overgrown and around half the normal width (Highways England).

The path opposite the garage in Wormelow (Much Dewchurch Parish) was also overgrown.

The Open Session closed at 7.40pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

4.1) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th October 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.

A New PCSO was now on board and PCSO Lowri Anderson had transferred. New PCSO details below:

PCSO Carol Marsh

SNT Hereford City Southside and Rural

herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

07890 524667

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Harlow had sent his report as detailed here (sic):
Much Birch Parish Council
"Ward member report, November 2018

Dumping issues on A49 in Much Birch

Birmingham business MJB Truck Services Limited has received fines and costs totalling £29,000, and Director Jason Bowser (45, of Old College Drive, Wednesbury) received a three year conditional discharge, following the unlawful disposal of hazardous waste on the A49 at Much Birch.

In an earlier hearing at Hereford Magistrates' Court (24 October 2018), MJB Truck Services Limited and Mr Bowser pleaded guilty to failing in their duty of care to transfer their business waste, which included hazardous waste oil from an industrial process, to an authorised person and to secure the transfer with a written description of the waste.

In December 2017, Herefordshire Council put out an appeal for information about an articulated trailer that was dumped on the A49 layby at Much Birch. Officers from the council's Community Protection Team discovered that the trailer had been abandoned containing approximately 24,000 litres of waste oil.

Although the trailer had all of its identification markings removed, following an extensive eleven month investigation with assistance from the local Environment Agency enforcement team, officers were able to trace the trailer's ownership from a hire sticker on the trailer. It was eventually established that Jason Bowser had purchased the trailer from an online auction site, giving a false company name to the seller.

Mr Bowser admitted that he instructed an unknown third party to dispose of the trailer and its contents for a £3000 cash payment. Bowser also admitted that he knew that it was possible that the third party may illegally dispose of the trailer and its contents, but he transferred the waste regardless.

Budget planning

We are going through the budget process as we always do at this time of the year; as ever money is tight – to give some perspective our central government grant (the revenue support grant) has been cut from £60,125,000 in 2011-12 to £620,000 in 2019-20.

Several of our neighbouring counties and more further afield have run into considerable difficulties due to not making savings as early as Herefordshire council. Our hope is that having made tough choices early (and therefore remaining solvent) we can stay independent as a small county and not be swallowed up by a larger more urban authority. We appreciate that times are tough at parish level too and hard conversations are taking place at all levels.

The total savings made between 2010-17/8 has been £77M with a further £13M made in 18/9. Is the age of austerity really over? Not for local government it appears.

DH – 05.11.18

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:

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Anthony Bush, Parish Liaison and Rural Services Officer is leaving on the 15th November and has been replaced by newly appointed and titled **Local Resources and Assets Officer** Philippa Lydford

Email plydford@herefordshire.gov.uk

Telephone 01432 261640

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th October 2018 HSBC Community Account	£13,201.56
@ 13 th October 2018 HSBC Community Projects Account	£18,359.43

6.2) The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (Nov sal £246.16, mileage £15.75)	£261.91
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£61.40
Longfield Services (Lengthsman)	£105.00
Sub Total	£428.31

Payments to be made from Community account

	£0.00
Sub Total	£0.00
Grand Total	£428.31

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

6.3) To consider possible purchase of new grit bins for the parish

The issue of the grit bins and large number of blue tub grit bins was discussed. It was resolved that 14 new yellow slimline bins would be purchased to replace the blue tubs which were often not in a usable condition due to water logging etc. An interim payment for the new bins was authorised should it prove necessary to do so. Grit for the bins would also be ordered and the Lengthsman would install the new bins and fill with grit. Cllr Turner kindly agreed to take delivery of the items at his property. Cllr Baldwin also kindly offered space for items if required. The grit in all of the bins would only be for use when gritting the public road and not for personal driveway or property use.

6.4) To approve budget and precept for 2019 - 2020

The Parish Council discussed the precept requirement and budget for the year 2019 – 2020. Following consideration of the current carry forward figure in the account it was resolved that the precept for 2019 – 2020 should remain at £6750.00. The Clerk would advise the Finance Team of the requested precept amount.

7.0 School Parking and Village issues update

7.1) To receive related updates and correspondence

A letter had been received from the Rev. Johnson on behalf of the governors of the Much Birch School. The letter contained a request for the consideration of a path way “*along the western side of the A49 from the top of Tump Lane to the turn off for the small housing estate next to Cedar House.*” The Parish Council discussed the request and, not being in a position to fund or install a pathway themselves, agreed that the idea should be presented as a possible project for future

106 money consideration from local developments. The Ward Councillor would be asked to place the suggestion of the pathway on a wish list.

There had been further enquiries made about local speeding and in particular issues of speeding on Tump Lane. The Traffic Management Team had agreed that a box to collect speed data could be placed on location and it was agreed that the parish council would help provide input to the placement decision.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

One application was considered:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 183634 – Diggers Den, Much Birch, Herefordshire,

DESCRIPTION: Proposed fodder and implement shed

GRID REF: OS 350475, 230843

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning permission

The Parish Council discussed the proposals in planning consultation 183634 and resolved to support the application.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

The Duchy would be asked to cut back the overgrown hedge that had been reported last time. The Little Birch Road was continuing to require repair, being full of potholes etc. and there had not been any further feedback, to date, regarding a visit to the location from Clive Hall. The sign with chevrons on it had fallen over at the location of the Little Birch Road turning from Barrack Hill.

The hedge in Tump Lane, where the pavement ran behind, was in need of cutting back. There was still a drain collapsing in Wrigglebrook Lane.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

A list of identified issues with drainage, grips etc. had been sent in by a resident and some of the items had been attended to. There were still some left to be looked at. There was a thank you for the clearing work undertaken on the drain in Hollybush Lane.

9.3) To note any matters/works relating to footpaths and to appoint new Footpath Officer

A prospective Footpath Officer volunteer had said that he would try to attend the January 2019 meeting to meet the Parish Council and discuss the role.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan 27 September 2018 at Much Birch Community Hall

Present. Steering Group; Dave Goldsmith (Chairman), Martin Booy, Tricia Egerton, Chris Grover, Geoff Nichol, Roisin Burge (PC),

1. Apologies .Lesley Gare, Chris Pickering- Grey, Bill Bloxsome (Data Orchard), Steve Turner (PC)

2. Declarations of Interest. There were no declarations of interest.

3. Approval of Record/notes from meeting 30 August 2018

The record was agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting of 30 August 2018

4. Matters arising.

(1) The Chairman undertook to re-circulate recommended guidelines on 'Code of conduct' for NDP meetings and processes and participants.

5. Complete the review of the 'Housing site assessment criteria.'

Prior to the meeting the Chairman re- circulated the initial draft of the Much Birch NDP Site Assessment criteria which had been discussed and agreed at the meeting of 26 April 2016. The task of the meeting was to consider the weighting of each taking into account

- a. Feedback from the **Much Birch NDP Community Survey 2017**,
- b. The requirements of the **Herefordshire Council Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031**
- c. **Much Birch NDP (draft) objectives** (in progress)

A weighting of 1-5 was agreed and the Chairman undertook to circulate and send to Bill Bloxsome (Data Orchard) the updated 'Much Birch NDP Site Assessment Criteria.'

6. Agree the next step.

It was agreed that whilst there are still a number of tasks (interlinked) outstanding, positive progress was being made towards a first draft of the Much Birch NDP and there was a need to plan for the Next Much Birch Public Consultation (during which feedback on the draft would be sought.)

The Chairman undertook to Contact Data Orchard for guidance on preparation for the next public consultation as well as a road map/outstanding tasks/timescale for estimated successful completion of the Much Birch NDP.

7. Finance. No additional finance matters to report.

8. AOB A key agenda item for the next meeting Work on 2nd Draft of Much Birch NDP.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 1 November 7.30pm. Much Birch Community Hall

Roisin Burge

11.0 Self help gritting scheme

The continuation of the local gritting had been agreed with the farmer who had kindly undertaken the task in past years. The allocation of grit, from Balfour Beatty for Much Birch Parish, would be delivered to his farm for future use.

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. Precis would include a message about grit bins and the dates of parish council meetings for 2019.

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

All the usual items would be included.

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 6th December 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