

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held on the Zoom Platform, during Covid 19 Virus Pandemic, Thursday 5th November 2020 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no comments during the Open Session. The Open Session closed at 7.31 pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Veronica Thomas, Cllr Andy Crum and Footpath Officer Steve Owen. Cllr Baldwin was not present at the Zoom PC Meeting

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

3.1) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held via Zoom on the 8th October 2020, were approved as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4.0 Reports

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

Golden Valley Briefing sent when received.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised that the lockdown and Covid 19 virus were occupying most of the Council communications at the moment. The message was to stay at home unless essential to go out. The "Talk Community" briefings were the main point of contact and those present were advised to look out for these. It was also important to look out for vulnerable people in need of support. The Transport Review was going to the General Scrutiny Committee on 9/11/20 and details of the topics were on the Herefordshire Council website. The Larkrise planning application, for reserved matters, had gone through planning on 4/11/20. The Planning Committee had been "impressed with the design". The application was described as "energy efficient and transport aware." The review of the Core Strategy was ongoing and the White Paper changes to planning legislation for the country were "looming." Climate Emergency findings were also going to Scrutiny Committee.

4.3) Locality Steward James Howells, the Locality Steward, had sent his bulletins.

5.0 Update on Correspondence

The updates were noted and included from Herefordshire Council:

Hereford Transport Strategy: The papers for General Scrutiny meeting on 9 November which will consider the Hereford Transport Strategy are now published at:

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=809&MIId=7972&Ver=4>

- Road closures and highways works

- Covid19 Community Leaders update
- Licensing Policy 2020-2025 Consultation and covid signs in city and market towns
- Covid-19 recovery - visitor economy

Civic Voice

- Civic Voice's White Paper Webinars and further updates

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Oct 2020 HSBC Community Account	£13,361.85
@ 13 th Oct 2020 HSBC Community Projects Account	£8,430.84

6.2) To approve list of payments (circulated separately)

The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Clerk paid in accordance with contract	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£88.40
Longfield Services (Lengthsman)	£275.00
Dore Community Transport Donation	£400.00

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil

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

6.3) To determine request for Precept for 2021 – 2022

The budget and precept were discussed and the Parish Council resolved that, due to the reserves held, the precept request for 2021 – 2022 would remain at £6750.00. The Clerk would submit the request to the Finance Officer at Herefordshire Council.

7.0 Village issues update

7.1) To receive any update on Village issues – no further updates.

7.2) Self-help gritting scheme

The self-help gritting scheme would be continuing.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

There were new applications for consideration at the meeting:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 202991 - Plot 3, Land East of Castle Pool Cottage, Little Birch, Hereford, HR2 8BB

DESCRIPTION: Proposed detached dwelling with attached garage.

GRID REF: OS 350571, 232247

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Much Birch Parish Council discussed the application 202991. It was noted that the planning had been through several iterations since the granting of outline permission for the site in terms of number(s) of homes and numbers of bedrooms. It was agreed that there were no objections to the application, as it stood currently, but that comment would be made regarding the transition between the original and current presentations of the application. This comment

applied to the application in hand, and any other applications where changes were material following outline permission.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Concern was expressed about the junction of Paiges Pitch and Barrack Hill. It was commented that a safety barrier or signage would be prudent to warn road users of the potential drop. The junction was described as a pivot point. The Lengthsman also advised that the drainage system at Paiges Pitch and Wrigglebrook Lane was blocked and required jetting. The drain near the Pumphouse was also blocked and water was puddling there.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Ongoing matters as identified. Works had been carried out including clearance of path by the school and checking of all grit bins. It was confirmed that the grit bins were all filled and ready for use. The installation of a pipe, under the public footpath in Hollybush Lane, would be undertaken by the Lengthsman and covered by the parish council.

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

Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- to receive any update

The NDP would now be progressing to examination by an independent examiner.

11.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website

11.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website plus Twitter. Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter.

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

All the usual items would be included.

13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the Zoom Platform on Thursday 3rd December 2020, from 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date