

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### Present:

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

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright and 10 members of the public

### Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The first matter raised was regarding the lengthsman and clarification about the role was given. Issues could be communicated via social media. Items for attention, such as drainage, may be acted on by the lengthsman or referred for blockage treatment to Balfour Beatty where applicable. Once area of concern mentioned was around Cress Cottage and opposite Parish Lane. The left hand side of the lane fell in Little Birch Parish. "No access" signs were still at the location when the job requiring them had long been completed.

The top of Tump Lane was again mentioned as to the condition of the road surface.

There was then a discussion about the issues being experienced at the School during drop off and pick up times with particular reference to the newly installed yellow line arrangements. The "kiss and drop" system was working well for the drop off in the morning but this was not an option to be used at picking up time. The issues of the road being "unsafe, dangerous" and with concern over speed limits were discussed at length. It was commented that the School were continually asking parents to park considerately. The Parish Council Chair explained about the process that had instigated the yellow lines, in regard to access to the A49 and parking. She also explained about options that had been explored and that the Parish Council had written to the school governors summarising their thoughts but had not received a response to this communication. It was agreed that the parents, and school governor present, would go back to the school and governing body to work through options, as available such as speed limits, available land parcels for parking, arranged systems etc. and when this had been done they would come back to the Parish Council with any suggestions as to how the Parish Council may be able to assist with the implementation of ideas. The co-ordinating group may be able to obtain funding to help and HVOSS was recommended for an approach. The Parish Council would be prepared to help facilitate but the venture to sort out the issues would necessarily need to be led by the School.

The Open Session closed at 8.14pm.

### **1.0 Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies received from Cllr Andy Crum and Ward Cllr David Harlow.

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> September 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. There had been a number of public house burglaries along the Golden Valley and cash had been taken from fruit machines, charity collection boxes etc.

##### **4.2) Ward Councillor** Ward Cllr Harlow had sent his report as detailed here (sic):

###### **Much Birch Parish Council**

###### **"Ward member report, October 2018**

###### **Pothole app**

*A new 'Reporting' app has been launched by Herefordshire Council to make it quicker and easier to report pothole problems to the council from your smart device.*

*The first roll out of the app allows users to report potholes, with plans to extend this to other 'reporting' services such as fly tipping, public right of way issues and dog poo over the coming months.*

*To report a pothole – simply take a picture on your smart device (when it is safe to do so) and upload it directly to the app, the app can automatically pinpoint your location if you are reporting from the problem area. Your picture and report will be sent directly to our highways management team and the local parish council of the area where the pothole is located. You will then be kept informed of the progress of the reported issue. The parish council will also automatically be kept informed, by regular RSS feed, on the progress of all reported potholes. The app is available directly from our website, there is no need to visit a third party app store, and it always links to the most up to date version so no need to update it or have it taking up valuable space on your device, just open the link and add it to your device's home screen.*

###### **Lords and Ladies**

*Please see a report on the visit by House of Lords rural affairs sub-committee at the link below*

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/622/herefordshire-hosts-house-of-lords-rural-economy-select-committee> “

The Ward Cllr also advised that he was taking forward the issue of the condition of the Little Birch Road and was also looking into matters concerning grit supplies. The Little Birch Road had been pushed back for repairs and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to Herefordshire Council to ask them to reconsider the priority of the resurfacing. The Highways Cabinet Member, Ward Cllr and the Little Birch Clerk would be copied into the correspondence.

##### **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**

Parish recharge costs for elections

Fuel Poverty Strategy

Volunteering Opportunities

Notification of precept payment for 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche

**Plus others:** Yellow lines outside the school, postal scam information, VAT reclaim changes to processing and “Clerks and Councils Direct” publication.

## **Hereford Times**

Reporter contacted Clerk regarding speeding and the A49.  
No follow up received following initial response.

## **6.0 Financial Report**

### **6.1) The following bank balances were noted:**

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2018 HSBC Community Account	£11,022.37
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2018 HSBC Community Projects Account	£18,469.83

### **6.2) The following payments were approved:**

#### **Payments to be made from main account**

Mrs A Wright (Oct sal £307.45, mileage £15.30, home office £50.00)	£372.75
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£77.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£449.75</b>

#### **Payments to be made from Community account**

	£0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£449.75</b>

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

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

Information had been obtained from Balfour Beatty. The actual cost of the items, bins, grit etc. from Balfour Beatty was not known. The cut off blue grit tubs would ideally be replaced by covered bins but prices and the number required would need to be established. The Lengthsman would look at the situation on the next visit. The free allocation of loose grit would be taken up subject to storage.

## **7.0 School Parking and Village issues update**

### **7.1) To receive related updates and correspondence**

This subject was covered under the Open Session. The Parish Council would await feedback from the School Governing Body.

### **7.2) Speeding issues in the parish and enforcement**

There had been some questions about speed monitoring and speed enforcement in Tump Lane. The data collected recently in a short timeframe had shown no one breaking the speed limit in the collection period. A longer survey may be requested, this would be looked into with the police. Wormelow was also experiencing speed issues. It was noted that Forge Lane had again been used as a short term diversion route.

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

### **8.1) To consider any planning applications**

One application was considered:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 183591 - Court Farm, Much Birch, Herefordshire,

**DESCRIPTION:** Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval (P141830/O) for site for 18 no. dwellings, associated car parking, access and landscaping.

**GRID REF:** OS 350322, 230432

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Approval of Reserved Matters

The Parish Council resolved that there were no further comments to this reserved matters application.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

The situation regarding the condition of the Little Birch Road would be taken forward.

### **9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman**

Routine works plus a drainage problem as highlighted in the Open Session and also a blocked drain in Hollybush Lane.

The Wormelow Path (Much Dewchurch Parish) was again in need of clearance. The school path also needed a strim to clear the overgrowth. The hedges along the school boundary - cut would be followed up.

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

A new sign post had been ordered by the Locality Steward to replace the one that was missing in Aconbury Close. The Councillors were assuming the role of Footpath Officer until a permanent appointment could be made.

## **10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update**

### **Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan Report to Parish Council 4 October 2018**

#### ***Notes from Much Birch NDP meeting 30 August 2018***

***“ Key agenda item: Review and confirmation of Housing Site Assessment criteria (previous 1<sup>st</sup> draft) Weighting given 1(low) to 5 (High)***

*These will be used by the Independent Assessor in his review of the land areas sent in following the ‘Call for sites’.*

*35 criteria in all....possibly some overlap but different perspectives.*

*The selection of criteria are based upon:*

- 1. Herefordshire Core Strategy and guidance statement in relation to settlements (Much Birch Parish a standalone).*
- 2. The outcomes/analysis of Much Birch Community survey, Business Survey and Housing needs survey. (Cross reference)*
- 3. 1st draft of objectives for the Much Birch NDP (based on the above) and agreed at NDP meeting of 30 May 2018 (Cross reference)*
- 4. Herefordshire Council NDP publication “Guide to the assessment and choosing of sites”*
- 5. Best practice examples from other areas (provided by consultancy Data Orchard).*

*The Chairman has now passed the list to Data Orchard Consultancy who will undertake the assessment of those sites offered through the Much Birch ‘NDP call for sites’ and make recommendations.*

*The next meeting of the group will be on Thursday 1 November 2018. In the interim the Chairman will be discussing with Data Orchard a roadmap/updated action plan for the Much Birch NDP over the next 6 months.”*

*Roisin Burge*

## **11.0 Self help gritting scheme**

The Clerk would speak to the previous holder of bulk grit to check if he were willing to store the allocated allowance from Balfour Beatty again this year.

**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.

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

All the usual items would be included plus Grit bins and any feed back from the School regarding parking and strategy.

**14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall. The Finance Budget and Precept Meeting would be held from 6.30 pm in the Hall also. This would also be open to the public.

The Chair thanked all those present for their contributions to the meeting.

***The meeting closed at 8.54pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date