

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Roisin Burge  
Cllr David Baldwin  
Cllr Veronica Thomas

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan, Lengthsman; Paul Wright, Footpath Officer; Steve Owen and 14 members of the public

### Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

It was advised that the hedges at the top of Parish Lane had been cut. Potholes in the same area would not be routinely fixed as the road was not an adopted one.

There were some concerns raised regarding Wrigglebrook Lane and the grips and gullies. Ditches are the responsibility of the landowner regarding maintenance and clearance. The Lengthsman would look at the grips etc. once the hedge cutting had been completed.

The Open Session closed at 7.40 pm.

### 1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Andy Crum.

### 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 on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019 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. We Don't Buy Crime / Smart Water Protected Towns & Villages – representative would attend the PC Meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

4.2) **Ward Councillor** Ward Cllr Fagan advised that there was a consultation open regarding the pre-budget for Herefordshire Council. The council would be prioritising the environment, community and the economy. The Cabinet had declared a Climate Emergency with policies designed to move towards being carbon neutral by 2030. There was to be a Great Collaboration on the topic and parishes would be invited to participate. Areas such as transport and farming would be looked at.

The crossing issues had been referred to highways and Highways England had been contacted. Smart Water initiative – there would be a presentation at the November 7<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting.

The Ward Cllr was in discussion with Engineers etc. regarding the proposed footpath for Tump Lane.

**4.3) Locality Steward** James Howells, the Locality Steward, had sent his bulletins. Also received: Invitation to Public Footpath Officer Briefing Meeting at Thorn on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 at 10am

## **5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items and Correspondence**

The updates were noted and included from Herefordshire Council:

- Election expenses forms reminder – nil breakdown return required as well as the summary sheet.
- Public Vote for Herefordshire's Official Flag - Message to Parish Council's
- Notification regarding sewerage spill on A49 neat bus stop (opposite Axe and Cleaver) – Ward Cllr e mail refers
- Children & Young People's Showcase
- Remittance Advice : 18/09/2019 Parish Precept
- Public Green Spaces Grant

## **HALC**

Climate Change and HALC's new County Area Meeting - 25-9-19

## **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 HSBC Community Account	£11,104.96
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 HSBC Community Projects Account	£12,889.84

### **6.2) To approve list of payments (circulated separately) and to consider any request for church clock and churchyard maintenance**

**The following payments were approved:**

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

Mrs A Wright (Salary paid in accordance with contract)	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£80.40
Little Birch Village Hall (Newsletter)	£350.00

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

W N Bloxsome (NDP Consultancy)	£2056.00
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**Resolved:** that the payments were passed for payment: (proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Cook) Unanimous.

It was also agreed to support the maintenance of the village clock and a donation of £168.00 was approved.

### **6.3) To consider new policy for interim planning comments**

This item was noted as there having been a policy in existence since April 2012. The existing policy would be reviewed for any possible amendments.

## **7.0 Village issues update**

### **7.1) To receive any update regarding lighting at the crossing on the A49**

Parish Clerk wrote to the Safety Team and received the following response:

*"Dear Alison,*

*I went out to Much Birch yesterday to have a look at this. I appreciate the problems being experienced here which, sadly, are all too common at many red lights, both on pedestrian crossings and traffic lights at junctions.*

*With regards to advanced signing of the crossing, I will refer this to Highways England as they have control over the signs here. However, my understanding is that advance warning signs of crossings and/or traffic lights are only used when the forward visibility of the signal heads is less than the stopping distance for the prevailing speed limit so this may be a limiting factor.*

*I also checked the timings between the red light for traffic and the green man/audible sound to indicate that it's OK to cross and these seemed to be in order, though again I will ask HE to check these and see if there is any scope to increase the interval between the two.*

*I will copy you in on my correspondence and will make sure you see any reply I get from HE.*

*Kind regards  
Ian*

*Ian Connolly  
Traffic Management Advisor  
Warwickshire Police & West Mercia Police"*

Cllr Turner was also following up the lack of signage warning drivers that they were approaching the crossing from the Hereford City (northern) side.

**7.2)** Grit bins – The Chair would carry out an inspection of the situation regarding the bins. Some had been filled. One bin, that had been clipped and damaged by a flail mower, would be relocated.

**7.3)** Self Help Gritting Scheme - this was being looked into and would be on the next agenda.

**7.4)** To consider verge cutting ideas - as discussed in September Meeting  
It was agreed that an interest should be lodged with Balfour Beatty subject to survey, suitability and safety.

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

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

There were new applications for consideration:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 193113 - Brynarian, Little Birch Road, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AU

**DESCRIPTION:** The removal of an unsafe garage attached to the property. To rebuild an extension largely on the same footprint and to convert an unused attic into first floor bedrooms to accommodate the growing family

**GRID REF:** OS 350381, 231754

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Planning Permission

The Much Birch Parish Council considered the details in application 193113 and resolved to comment in support of the application.

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Re-consultation - 192979 - Land at Tump Lane, Much Birch, Hereford

**DESCRIPTION:** Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 130945 (APP/W1850/W/17/3180227) for Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for the erection of 20 dwellings and associated community building and associated works.

**GRID REF:** OS 349698, 230574

### **Approval of Reserved Matters - Amended**

The Much Birch Parish Council considered the reserved matter details in re-consultation 192979 and resolved to comment that there were no objections to the proposals from the PC.

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 193067 - Lindenbrook, Wrigglebrook Lane from Cress Cottage to The New House, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorne, Herefordshire HR2 8AW

**DESCRIPTION:** Erection of new dwelling house

**GRID REF:** OS 350071, 231940

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Planning Permission

The Much Birch Parish Council considered the proposals in application 193067 and resolved to object to the proposal for the following reasons:

- 1) Overbearing nature of the proposed dwelling in relation to plot size
- 2) Overshadowing and loss of privacy for neighbouring dwellings
- 3) Highway safety and compromised access at the location
- 4) Potential ecological impact of contamination by discharge to the Wriggle Brook and subsequently the River Wye
- 5) Potential flood risk
- 6) Little amenity value in terms of garden size for prospective occupant(s)

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

Skid risk signs on Wrigglebrook required removal as related works now completed.

Lane near Castle Pool Cottage – potholes.

Brambles on the A49 Footpath – Highways England

Pothole by the Thorn opposite the bus stop

There was a comment about the 30 mph signs not being clearly visible near the bus stop at Kingsthorne and buses obstruct them – Much Dewchurch Parish area.

The Chair would advise of a road height problem, where cars could leave the road, in the Kingsthorne area.

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

Strimming the footpath by the school was required plus grips and gullies generally.

### **9.3) Footpath Officer – to receive any update or action points**

Footpath Officer Steve Owen was in attendance. He had supplied his reports. Path MB23 had suffered the collapse of a retaining wall which was blocking up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the footpath.

There was an issue on Path MB30 where a new fence appeared to be encroaching onto the path and also a marker was missing at the south end. There were also issues advised on paths MB20 and MB1 which the Footpath Officer would look into.

## **10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update/approval of circulated papers for progression**

Papers had been circulated for approval by the Parish Council. Herefordshire Council would review the papers next, before submission to the statutory consultees. A huge “thank you” was recorded to the Chair of the Steering Group, plus all of the team, for their hard work in getting the plan to this stage. Formal approval of the Parish Council for the progression of the plan was resolved and noted.

Ward Cllr Fagan left the meeting at 8.17 pm.

**11.0 Parishes' Newsletter and Much Birch Website**

11.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website. Clerk to send a précis to the Newsletter. The précis would include information regarding bonfires and fireworks as topical.

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

All the usual items would be included plus grit bins, self help gritting scheme. Consideration of budget and precept request for 2020 – 2021

**13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

***The meeting closed at 8.55 pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date