

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr Roisin Burge  
Cllr Andy Crum

### 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 Steve Turner (Vice Chair) 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 3<sup>rd</sup> September 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.

Latest newsletter from The Herefordshire Hub - September

**4.2) Ward Councillor** Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised about matters raised in the Council Leader's update letter. Community resilience plans and mental health crisis situation were highlighted. There needed to be networks in place to keep a watch out for isolated people. The Fownhope road repairs were moving forward but had been referred to scrutiny over the length of time taken to effect repairs. BT ducting was one of the repairs required.

The flooded out swimming pool in Hereford was being attended to. A full council meeting was being held online on the 9<sup>th</sup> October and could be accessed by the public.

Funding was being looked at for public transport issues and the bus route 33 was subject to a reduction on service. The Chair would look at the detail of this. The Ward Cllr to supply the information to the Chair.

Comments for the planning consultation on 202991, for a proposed detached dwelling, had been extended past the November PC meeting dates for both local parish councils, Much Birch and Little Birch.

**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:

- You're invited to Community Crisis Response (Repeating Event - 9 Oct 2020)
- Review of current arrangements for dealing with code of conduct complaints

- Notification of parish precept payment

### **Civic Voice**

- Civic Voice's White Paper Webinars

## **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 HSBC Community Account	£10,268.74
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 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)	£64.40
Skyfire Designs (web hosting)	£90.00
Birches Newsletter (contribution)	£350.00

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

Nil

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

### **6.3) To begin discussion regarding Precept request for 2021 – 2022**

The precept would be discussed for determination of the request at the November Parish Council Meeting.

## **7.0 Village issues update**

### **7.1) To receive any update on Village issues**

No further update.

### **7.2) Self-help gritting scheme**

It had been confirmed that 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 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 349813, 230590

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Approval of Reserved Matters

**WEBSITE LINK:** <http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/searchplanningapplications>

The changes detailed in the re-consultation on the approval of reserved matters were principally concerned with relocation of the SUDS pond, drainage and landscaping. The Parish Council did not have any further comments to make regarding the identified aspects of the re-consultation (as amended) 192979.

**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

An extension to the deadline for comments regarding planning consultation 202991 had been obtained by the Ward Cllr to enable discussion at the November 5<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting. There would be an on-site meeting to look at the splay etc.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

The hedge overhanging the road from the bus stop at “the Thorn” on the road going towards the school was still jutting out too far at the top causing issues for high sided vehicles which needed to move out into the centre of the road to avoid the overhanging branches. This was an ongoing issue where the bottom branches were cut back okay but leaving too much volume at the top of the hedge for high sided vehicle clearance.

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

Ongoing matters as identified.

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

Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies. He had confirmed that he would be back in contact shortly.

## **10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update and acceptance by PC of changes made**

The Parish Council confirmed that there were no further queries, following the consultation period and that the NDP should progress to the next stage of the process for 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. The newsletter précis would include a reminder about seasonal bonfire and firework safety.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020, from 7.30pm.

The Ward Cllr left the meeting at 8.06 pm.

Due to the confidential nature of the business of this agenda item, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it is proposed to put forward a motion to exclude members of the public during discussion of this agenda item

## **14.0 To discuss implementation of NJC Pay award and increment for the Clerk from 1/04/20.**

The Parish Council resolved to approve the NJC pay award and increment for the Clerk from 1/04/20.

*The meeting closed at 8.09 pm*

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date