

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 6th September 2018

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright, Ward Cllr David Harlow and 2 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was a brief presentation from Mr Michael Conley about furthering the aims of art and culture within the community. This was through a Social Enterprise Company and grant funding was available to further the aims to promote a changing program of events to a diverse audience. The Chair of the Parish Council explained that the Parish Council, whilst being in support of the principles of the further development of the idea, could not actually be the named applicant in facilitating grant application funding. It was suggested that Mr Conley might like to contact HVOSS with their grant application project expertise. The Parish Council thanked Mr Conley for his time and wished him success with the venture in the future.

Cllr Rigby advised that the “cats eyes” on the road in Wormelow, that had been missing for some time, had still not been replaced.

An issue of a deep ditch in Tump Lane, and warning signs, had been referred to Balfour Beatty with photographic evidence. This had been referred to contractors.

The issue of the railings on the A49 was mentioned and would be looked at later in the Agenda.

Winter gritting was also noted and was on the Agenda.

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 5th July 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.

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

Much Birch Parish Council

"Ward member report, September 2018

Roads

Over the Summer I took Barry Durkin (Cabinet, Roads) and two BBLP employees up to Little Birch road, Aconbury Close and also some huge potholes up near Caldicott farm on the Little Birch to Aconbury road – this was to highlight the poor state of the roads in the area. I'd be interested to hear about other roads of similar standards.

General update

It's been that quiet time of the year over the Summer holidays where many council employees take time off and Parish Councils enjoy an annual break. As such there is very little to report other than a quick reminder about the annual budget consultation about how we raise and spend tax payer money. To take part go to www.herefordshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation

Apologies

I'm in London on business on Wednesday and therefore unable to attend the September meeting."

The Ward Cllr did in fact attend.

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

Cabinet Update, Dog fouling signage, Children and Young People's Plan Consultation. An Invitation has been received from the HC Leader to a "Parish Council Summit" to be held at the Shire Hall from 6.30pm, (5.30pm for networking), on October 17th.

Other

Concerns have been raised about speeding in the parish. The Police have been contacted and enforcement measures requested.

Concerns about newly fitted railings on the A49 junction with Tump Lane have been raised with the site engineering team. This is due to the potential for the railings to impair visibility when turning out of the junction. A photograph taken of the location appears to confirm this concern.

Update from **Fastershire** about broadband

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

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|--|------------|
| @ 13 th August 2018 HSBC Community Account | £11,022.37 |
| @ 13 th 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 (Sept sal £245.96, mileage £23.85, ink, stamps, parking £19.46) | £289.27 |
| HM Revenue & Customs (tax) | £61.60 |
| Longfield Services (sign fitting) | £295.40 |
| ICO (Information Commissioner) | £40.00 |

Sub Total £686.27

Payments to be made from Community account

Hoople Limited (NDP Maps)

£110.40

Sub Total £110.40

Grand Total £796.67

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

6.3) To arrange Finance Working Party meeting re precept and budget

There would be a Finance Working Party Meeting from 6.30pm ahead of the November Parish Council Meeting on the 8th November.

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

This would be deferred until the October Meeting whilst more information on the Balfour Beatty grit bin policy was sought. Locations of new bins also to be considered.

7.0 School Parking and Village issues update

7.1) To receive related updates and correspondence

Newly fitted railings at the top of Tump Lane onto the A49 had been highlighted as possibly obstructive to the line of sight when turning out of Tump Lane. The issue had been raised with the contractor. The Parish Council wished to record that the issue of visibility at the junction, due to the railings, had been raised with the contractor by the Parish Council.

7.2) Community Speed Watch – correspondence refers re speeding issues

There had been a speed watch enforcement initiative in Tump Lane and the Chair would ask for feedback regarding the results. Bulker lorries were still speeding through in the evenings and would be observed to see if this was at a regular time. There had also been reports of a local window cleaning van speeding in the area. The Chair would respond to an enquiry that had been received regarding Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) that had been deployed in previous years within the parish.

7.3) Cycle racks for parish

Following enquiries being made, it had been established that the land parcel where the cycle racks may have been a possibility was not parish land and therefore the racks could not be installed there.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

One application was considered: Planning Application Number 181848. The PC commented on the proposals as follows: The Much Birch Parish Council has reviewed the new proposals on application 181848 with the amendments to access and configuration of property types. Following consideration, the PC are minded to reiterate the **objection** made to the original proposals as it is felt that such a development remains inappropriate at this agricultural location given the size of the houses and the remaining uncertainties surrounding the access proposals.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Roadway at the top of Tump Lane near to the A49 is still uneven and broken up.

The state of the Little Birch Road to again be highlighted to Ward Cllr Harlow and to Ward Cllr Durkin with copy to the Parish Council.

At the top of Tump Lane the hedge was growing out and there was a vehicle parked there causing visibility issues.

The duchy hedge on the road from the bus stop towards the school was still causing an issue for high sided vehicles due to the top section sticking out.

The hedge by the school was quite large and full but this was usually cut by the landowner around the start of autumn. The Parish Council would monitor the situation.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Thanks were recorded to the Lengthsman for installing the Forge Lane signs and advisory HGV signs.

Holly Bush Lane opposite Underhills drains to be checked as surface water lying there and draining onto footpath due to blockage.

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

There had not been any applications received for the role. The role would be taken by the parish councillors as a joint venture with each looking after their locale.

A footpath sign at Aconbury Close required replacement on path MB20.

9.4) To consider implications of Herefordshire Transport Package proposals including impact of pollution

The resident who had wished for this to be discussed was not able to attend. The Chair asked for the item to be removed from the Agenda and the matter would be raised in the Open Session if raised at a future parish council meeting.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

Cllr Burge updated the meeting regarding the latest position. Work was on track and further input was being undertaken to make sure that settlement boundaries were understood. There was confidence in the Steering Group that the policies as designed linked back to the community surveys etc. Criteria were being studied to inform decisions about where new building should take place.

11.0 Self help gritting scheme

A resident asked about the question of grit supplies and there was some uncertainty expressed regarding the way forward. A meeting was to be arranged with the previous gritters who had been covering the routes. Storage of the bulk grit supplies may be an issue. The gritting would be continued as long as there were not queries as to why certain roads had not been gritted. It was agreed that clarity would be sought regarding the Balfour Beatty Policy on grit bin supply and filling. The Clerk would ask the Ward Cllr to intercede on this and find out the policy so that the PC could make the right decisions on the purchase and filling of new bins.

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. Clerk to also send a separate reminder about bonfires and firework events.

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

All the usual items would be included plus Grit bins and gritting under the Self Help Gritting Scheme.

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 4th October 2018, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date