

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5th September 2019 from 7.30 pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan, Lengthsman; Paul Wright and 7 members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was commented that the hedge boundary to the parish land at "Rosebank" was overgrown on Barrack Hill.

The Reverend Mark Johnson reported to the meeting, as a Trustee of the Poor Acre, regarding the sale of part of the Poor Acre field for the purpose of building a house. He explained that, following the sale, the number of trustees would be increased and the Constitution was to be revised. The Charity would then have a wider catchment of possible recipients going forward.

Ward Cllr Toni Fagan and the Parish Council had a conversation regarding the wild flower verges and cultivation techniques that can help to maximise pollinators and pollination corridors. There was a program of encouragement underway to help maintain existing wildflower verges and to create new ones. This subject would be on the Agenda for October when the Parish Council would consider options to help possibly request verge management to encourage ecosystems in the parish verges. "Verging on Wild" and "Plant Life" are organisations helping to encourage verge management. Reverend Mark advised that there were also schemes in existence to care for churchyards with mown paths and un-mown areas ("God's Acre"). This would require a link person with the partnership group.

A resident advised that twice he had been waiting at the crossing on the A49 at the top of Tump Lane and a vehicle had gone straight through the red light. It was advised that this should be reported on 101 if the registration number could be obtained. The Clerk would contact the Safer Roads Partnership to alert them to the problem. It was noted that there was no lead in warning on the approaches to the crossing.

The Open Session closed at 7.45 pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Footpath Officer; Steve Owen.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There was a declaration of interest made by Cllr Baldwin in planning application 192621.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

3.1) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on the 4th July 2019 and those of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on the 22nd August, were signed as true and correct records of the Meetings.

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 to attend the PC Meeting on November 7th.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Fagan advised that the bypass issues were “raging on”. An MP had been attempting to obtain a call-in of the pause decision. The Ward Cllr had attended a tour of the Severn Waste Services. There would be a new waste strategy decision from 2023. The visit to the recycling centre had been interesting and would be a good option for school trips. The Ward Cllr had been on a tour of Skylon Park and plans were moving ahead swiftly with the Cyber Centre also doing well.

A new bike hire option had come to the City called “Beryl’s Bikes”. A smart phone was required in order to hire these and a free week was coming up.

The Ward Cllr highlighted the damage that had been done in Hollybush Lane by a large vehicle when it collided with a wall and bank at one of the properties. There was concern for the welfare of a tree at the location that was growing in the bank. The issues were not necessarily caused by the “chicken lorries”, there were other occasional large vehicle movements. It was agreed that any occurrences of damage should be reported to the police.

The sewerage problem opposite the Axe and Cleaver in the bus stop area was being investigated.

The Ward Cllr had met with residents concerning the Tump Lane footpath plans.

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

5.0 Clerk’s Update on Action Items and Correspondence

The updates were noted and included from Herefordshire Council:

- Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations – 2019
- Invitation to the Parish Council Summit on 20 September 2019
- Hereford Transport Package and South Wye Transport Package decision
- 2020/21 Parish Precepts
- ROAD CLOSURES - AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019
- Armed Forces Veteran Survey

Water Abstraction authorisations. Communications to Parish Councils

HALC

Training opportunities and Info Corner

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Aug 2019 HSBC Community Account	£11,104.96
@ 13 th Aug 2019 HSBC Community Projects Account	£12,889.84

The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Mrs A Wright (Sept sal £257.44, mileage £31.95)	£289.39
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£64.40
Longfield Services (Lengthsman)	£145.00

Information Commissioner (ICO)		£40.00
	Sub Total	£538.79

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil		
	Sub Total	£0.00
	Grand Total	£538.79

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

It was noted that a letter had been received from the Church PCC concerning the clock and churchyard but it was not actually a request for a donation towards the upkeep. The Reverend Mark Johnson would speak to the PCC about a formal request.

6.2) To complete new Declarations of Registrable Interest Forms

The new Declaration of Registrable Interest Form was completed by the councillors. The Clerk would deliver the completed forms to the Town Hall.

6.3) To consider new Financial Regulations and guidance

The revised Financial Regulations were adopted.

6.4) To consider new policy for interim planning comments

This item was deferred to the October Meeting to allow for further consideration of possible revision.

7.0 Village issues update

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

There was no further update in the baffle adjustments or on the other points that had been raised regarding the lighting. It was agreed that Cllr Turner would provide contact details for someone in Highways England to the Chair who may be able to help. There were details of a contact regarding Peterstow, and the aim was to get answers and prevent a re-occurrence.

7.2) Grit bins – update. The Lengthsman advised that he had checked the grit bins, strimmed around them and noted any stickers that had been attached. It would be a requirement to contact the Locality Steward and discuss the adoption of bins that were believed to be in Herefordshire Council ownership and consequent labelling. The bin at the top of Barrack Hill had been damaged by a flail mower. The self help gritting scheme would be on the October Agenda.

7.3) To note incident in Hollybush Lane

This was discussed during the Ward Cllr's Report item 4.2.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

There were new applications for consideration:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 192903 - Millend View, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AN

DESCRIPTION: Erection of new garage

GRID REF: OS 349999, 232149

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The Parish Council discussed the proposals in application 192903 and resolved that there were no objections.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 192621 - The Granary, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HS

DESCRIPTION: Variation of condition 2 ref 190880 (dwelling and garage) Amend position of dwelling and garage.

GRID REF: OS 350416, 230744

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Parish Council discussed the proposals in application 192621 and resolved to comment as follows:

The Much Birch Parish Council has considered the application 192621 and are minded to object to the proposal to relocate the dwelling and garage for the following reasons:

1) The revised position is believed to be too close to existing property May Hill View in terms of overcrowding and overshadowing.

2) There is concern that the new position will lead to an application for a further property to be built on the previously allocated and approved plot. The PC ask that should this application amendment, now being considered, be approved then a condition be applied to prevent such an application in the future.

3) The Parish Council expressed surprise at the following comments made in the Planning Statement which says: "*An unfortunate situation now exists where a Barn is being erected in the grounds of a nearby property at Diggers Den. This barn does not comply with the original planning consent made and as a result is NOT safeguarding the amenity of existing and proposed residents in terms of overlooking, overshadowing and overbearing.*"

The Parish Council comment on this statement is that the proposed house being planned for is believed to be on a higher elevation than the barn being referred to, thus not subject to overlooking etc. as stated.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 192629 - Woodland View, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AN

DESCRIPTION: Proposed outbuilding.

GRID REF: OS 349999, 232166

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The Parish Council discussed the proposals in application 192629 and resolved that there were no objections.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

- Aconbury Close – road surface breaking down
- Duchy hedges on road above the school from the Thorn causing issues for high sided vehicles due to being overgrown at the top

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

- To trim path by school
- Paiges Pitch – drain second on right – blocked
- Drain in Upper Wrigglebrook – trees overhanging and drain blocked
- Grips – especially from Cress Cottage to Belle Vue – full of mud

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

Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies. He had sent a comprehensive report. Path MB16A had a locked gate and the route was impassable. Path MB17 at junction with path MB23 the gate was chained shut. This would be advised to the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update

Cllr Burge gave an update on the situation regarding the Neighbourhood Plan progress. The draft plan, version nine, would be presented for approval by the Parish Council at the October 3rd Parish Council Meeting. It would then proceed to Regulation 14 consultation and the aim was to go to Referendum in 2020. Parish Councillors were asked to read the draft plan and advise of any comments.

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 the Footpath Officer, again, plus information regarding the papers to be published, in the near future, for the Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

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 and the Tump Lane planning application 192979, for the approval of the reserved matters.

13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 3rd October 2019, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date