



THE Birches

**A NEWSLETTER FOR KINGSTHORN,
MUCH BIRCH, LITTLE BIRCH & ACONBURY**

First published 1977 **June 2019**

Join us at the Community Café @ Much Birch Community Hall

Dates for 2019

Saturdays, 10:00 - 12:30

8 June	13 July
7 September	12 October
9 November	14 December

For more information or if you are in need of transport contact Lydia on 01981 540323 or socialfabric@hotmail.com



A local group who want to bring people together, strengthen community links and provide relaxed and fun events for all ages.

Church Services May/June 2019

Sunday 26th May - 6th Sunday of Easter
9.15 a.m. Much Birch - Breakfast with
Hymns and Prayers in the Hall

Sunday 2nd June - 7th Sunday of Easter
11.00 a.m. Little Birch Communion

Sunday 9th June - Pentecost
9.15 a.m. Much Birch Family Communion
11.00 a.m. Little Birch Morning Worship

Sunday 16th June - Trinity Sunday
9.15 a.m. Much Birch Communion
11.00 a.m. Little Birch BCP Communion

Sunday 23rd June - Trinity 1
11.00 a.m. Outdoor service in the Old Church at Llanwarne

Sunday 30th June - Trinity 2
10.30 a.m. Wormelow Hundred Benefice Service at Llandinabo
(Traditional Language)

Every Thursday at 9.30 a.m. Much Birch Church - Holy Communion.



Diary Dates

May 2019

29th	Gardening Club LBVH 7.30pm
30th	NDP Plan Referendum/Voting LBVH

June 2019

5th	LB Parish Council Meeting LBVH 7.30
6th	Coffee Morning LBVH 10.30am
6th	MB Parish Council Meeting MBCH 7.30
7th	Flanders and Swan MBCH 7.30pm
8th	Community Café MBCH 10am
9th	Wildflower Walk LBVH 10am
11th	Whist Drive LBVH 7.30pm
12th	Table Tennis LBVH 7.30pm
14th	Women Can Fitness MBCH 6.30pm
15th	Booking Exchange Methodist Chapel
26th	Gardening Club LBVH 7.30pm

July 19

5th	Evening with Reg Moule MBCH 7.30
13th	Garden Fete Castle Nibole 2pm



**Little Birch &
Aconbury**
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

REFERENDUM

**THURSDAY
30th MAY 2019**

**Please remember
to vote**

Little Birch Village Hall - 7am to 10pm

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for June 2019

Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 6th June 10:30am - 12:30pm** at **Little Birch Village Hall**.

Join us and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, some cake or a biscuit. Make new friends or catch up with old friends, have a chat and find out more about the local community and let us know your thoughts and suggestions as to how we can develop these regular meetings.

If you need help with transport please contact Margaret: 01981 540374

Whist Drive

We guarantee a warm welcome and a fun evening with good company at our monthly whist drive whatever your ability. Excellent prizes and refreshments too.

Our next **Whist Drive** will be on **Tuesday 11th June** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The next Book Exchange will be on the morning of **Saturday 15th June** at the former Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall **10am – 12noon**.

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable monthly event which offers not only a wide range of books and DVDs (to suit all ages and interests) but also an opportunity to meet others and exchange recommendations for a good read.

There is a charge of just £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire and refreshments.

Table Tennis Sessions

The next table tennis session will be on **Wednesday 12th June** at Little Birch Village Hall **between 7.30pm and 9pm**. All abilities are welcome as the idea is to have a bit of fun and exercise. Equipment is supplied. Sessions will be once a month, but this could be more frequent if there is enough demand. Similarly, if there is sufficient interest, we may also be able to manage a day session. Tea and coffee will be available. £2.00 per session to cover cost of refreshments and heating.

If you are interested and would like more information call Angela Middleton on 01981 540377 or Peter Rees on 01981 541356

Art and Craft Space

The Art and Craft Space continues weekly sessions **every Thursday from 3pm – 5pm** at Little Birch Village Hall. Sessions will be self-directed: drawing, painting, creative writing, knitting, quilting or any other crafts which people are interested in. Bring your own materials and join the group to have a chat and do some craft work. All are welcome – contact Margaret for further details (01981-540374) or just turn up.

Wildflower Walk

Sunday 9 June meeting at Little Birch Village Hall at 10 am.

Come and join in our Wildflower Identification Walk with Andrew Nixon, walking down through Athelstan's Wood - 3 miles and about 2 hrs.

Refreshments afterwards in the hall.

All welcome!

Angela Middleton
Little Birch Volunteer Footpath Officer
01981 540377

Dawn Chorus Walk on Easter Sunday

At 5.45 am over 25 people gathered at Merrivale Farm for an early start. We headed towards Athelstan's Wood, with a big crimson sun rising up to our east and the full moon still up to the west.

Passing through different locations we stopped and listened to a chorus of birdsong. These included song thrush, wren, coal tit, great tit, black cap, woodpecker, Canadian geese, blackbird, chiffchaff, robin, wood pigeon, pheasant and crow.

Adrian Hodges and Bob Mason pointed out the different bird-song and talked about nesting habits.

We were blessed with beautiful weather and were surrounded with bluebells and other spring flowers.

After a 2 hour circular walk we were welcomed back to Merrivale Farm by Emily and her children who had prepared breakfast in the barn.

£130 was donated to Isobel's school charity - Macmillan Cancer support.

Ceri Middleton

Thank you to all those who came, and a big thank you to those who helped organise it.

Other events in late May/June

30th May – Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum. Hall in use as Polling Station from 6.30am – 10.30pm.

5th June 7.30pm – LBPC meeting

9th June am Parish wildflower walk

26th June – Gardening Club 7.30pm

Ride and Stride

Congratulations to one of our residents, Cathy Sadler, who has been mentioned in the latest edition of Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust Annual Report.

Many people will be aware that Cathy cycles around our area and that once a year she and her son John take part in Ride and Stride, a sponsored cycle to raise money for the conservation of Herefordshire churches. The report states: "As in previous years, Catharine Sadler was our most impressive fundraiser".

Well done Cathy and John!

A talented team of Hospice supporters is preparing for a spectacular flower festival to mark 35 years of St Michael's Hospice. A decade ago, the same team created the hugely successful 'A Cornucopia of Silver', followed three years later by 'Precious Time'.

Now, Carola Kean, Stephen Rabbitts, Jacqueline Flack and Joan Davies are reuniting once again for a floral gallery of Transformation and Peace. More than 40 arrangers and groups from across Herefordshire and adjoining counties are supporting the event which takes place at Lyde Arundel from 13th - 15th September.

The festival will not only touch the heart of all its visitors, giving them the opportunity to remember loved ones, but it will also be an enjoyable event, which will include a Preview Evening and Floral Entertainment Evening. For more information, visit st-michaels-hospice.org.uk, contact Paddy Nugent on 01432 852 641, or email pnugent@smhospicehereford.org

Performing at the flower festival will be the St Michael's Hospice Community Choir. The group features Hospice volunteers and staff members, plus those from the community who enjoy singing. The Choir, which performs at various events throughout the year, would love to welcome more men, particularly bass or tenor. If you're interested in joining, or for more information, call Denise Bishop at St Michael's on 01432 852 656.

St Michael's Hospice has a Mobile Hospice Support Vehicle which is visiting all four corners of Herefordshire and beyond – and we'd like your community to get involved too.

The idea of the vehicle is to spread the word about all the various services offered by St Michael's.

If your parish has a forthcoming fete or event you think might suit the vehicle's presence, please contact Michelle Havard at St Michael's for more information on 01432 852 621 or email mhavard@smhospicehereford.org

Paul Broome

Communications Officer, St Michael's Hospice
Tel 01432 852 643
Fax 01432 851 022
st-michaels-hospice.org.uk
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Journal entries for June 2019

Ross Library Development Group: The June Meeting will be held in the Library on Tuesday 18th June with the AGM starting at 7.00 p.m. and the Talk following around 7.30 p.m. The Speaker will be Mr. Paddy Nugent on behalf of St Michael's Hospice, Hereford. All are welcome but only RLDG Members can vote at the AGM. Admission Free. Refreshments available for a donation.

Ross Civic Society: All interested are welcome to attend the Illustrated Talk to be held on Wednesday 12th June 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at the Larruperz Centre, Ross. The topic will be 'INNS AND TRAFFIC IN THE COACHING AGE' with the Speaker Dr. Nicholas Herbert. Entry: Members Free, Guests: £5.00 each Subscriptions: £15.00 p.p. £25.00 Joint. Drinks will be available.

Ross Arts Appreciation Society: The June Meeting will be held on Friday 7th 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at the Larruperz Centre, Ross. The topic will be 'Sonia Delaunay, from Painting to Fashion' with the speaker Eleanor Bird. All are welcome. Entry for Members £2.50 and for guests £4.50. Refreshments are provided.

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GENTLE EXERCISE CLASSES: Tuesday mornings (term time) 10.45 – 11.45.

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KILPECK ART CLUB: Mondays (term time) 2pm -4pm until 17th June.

New members very welcome and first session is free! Further information from: jen64davies@gmail.com

Horse/pony/animal help available -

Very helpful, young, teenage, girls are looking to help on a local yard in exchange for a ride (or help with other animals for some pocket money)

07866 006582



Hereford Gilbert and Sullivan Society present a 1940's Tribute Concert.

Friday 7 June 7.30 pm at St John's Methodist Church, Hereford.

With songs popularised by Dame Vera Lynn and the Andrews Sisters, some Gilbert and Sullivan and some music from one of the earliest technicolor films, The Wizard of Oz, on its 80th anniversary.

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—by 18th June please.

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Call Sarah on 07849 151085 (any messages left will be responded to the same day) or email us on sarahbirches@gmail.com



Duchy Walk Wednesday May 8th.

Several wooded areas around Little Birch are part of the Duchy of Cornwall which was set up by Edward 11 in 1337 to provide income for the Duke of Cornwall, Prince of Wales. The woods are managed by the head forester Geraint Richards who is based near to Mevagissey and Ed Clark who works from the office at Dewsall.

Prince Charles, the current Duke of Cornwall takes particular interest to the Herefordshire Duchy estates especially woodlands as shown by photographs on the website. In the normal course of events he will be succeeded by Prince William who has already been shown around local woods

In previous years Geraint and his team led walking tours of Aconbury, Wallbrook, Nether and Athelstans woods. The objectives were to keep local people informed about the history of each area, how it is being managed, problems being encountered and explain future plans. This year the walk was around Rough Hill wood, the latest in the area to be acquired by the Duchy and not normally open to the public. It is situated between Athelstans wood and the C1261 Hereford to Hoarwithy road and is approached by a newly constructed entrance near to Caldicot crossroads.

Geraint explained that ownership of this wood enabled a new road, about a mile long, to be installed to provide access for heavy lorries and equipment to the larger adjacent Athelstans wood that was previously very difficult. The walk proceeded from the entrance in Aconbury parish along the new road and across the stream into Athelstans wood in Little Birch parish and then return to the starting



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point. Total distance was about three miles which, with frequent stops for explanations, took two hours. Trees in the wood are almost entirely deciduous broad leaved types including a large number of maturing oaks and some excellent examples of Redwoods, originally from California, planted by a previous owner. As trees are harvested it is intended to replace them exclusively with broad leaved varieties that allow undergrowth and good soil health -unlike evergreen trees that restrict light penetration even in winter. Replanting needs careful consideration of pests and diseases. As an example, the planting of oak is very problematic because of damage caused by grey squirrels. All the existing healthy oak trees were well grown before the upsurge of the grey squirrel population that does not have natural predators. The Duchy is monitoring experiences in other areas where Pine Martens have been introduced to try to control squirrels. To counteract the spread of diseases different types of trees are interspersed. Recent plantings include Sweet Chestnut that will likely be cut back soon to encourage coppicing for fencing stakes.

After the walk most participants enjoyed refreshments in the village hall where Geriant and Ed continued to explain aspects of forestry, wild life, working for royalty and answer questions.

Thanks are due to Alison Clarke for organising this very interesting and well appreciated event and helpers who provided excellent refreshments.

**Linedance classes in MBCH every
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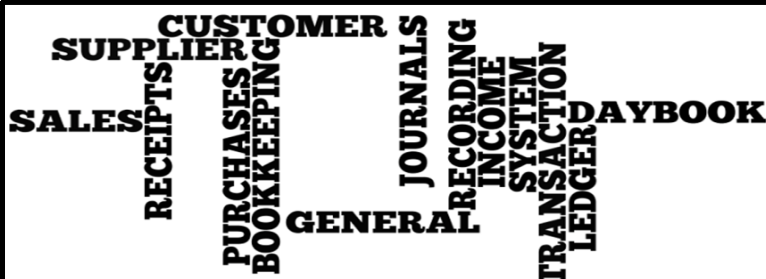
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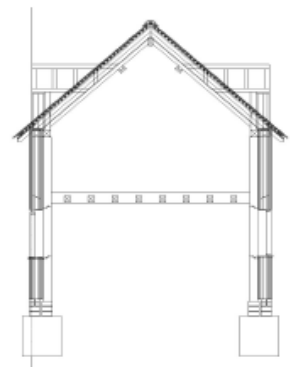
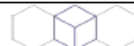
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The Drama Group

This month the Writing Group will tell you about the Drama Group.

Amateur dramatics have been popular in the Village Hall since it opened. It became a tradition to perform a pantomime around Christmas but lapsed when not enough people wanted to continue. After a period of a few years Hilary Gould was persuaded to start again and in 2007 she wrote and produced "Treasure Island", with the help of family, friends and local people. It was a great success and the next year "Snow White" enchanted us! There was no looking back and each year the Group have given us a new panto. Sadly Hilary is no longer with us but won't be forgotten. Other producers have stepped in, notably Jane Bolam, with other productions by the late Paul Bishop, Tim Betts and last year Frank Ryder. All have done an excellent job.

The Group have, in recent years, produced some extremely professional Summer shows – 'Allo 'Allo!, 'Black Adder', 'Cash on Delivery' and last year 'One Man Two Guvnors'. Jennifer Baldwin also produced variety show - bits of which are shown at various functions. Sarah Elliot directed 'One Man, Two Guvnors'.

This Summer the Group is having a break before they start rehearsing for the next panto – another version of 'Treasure Island'.

The Group considered becoming a Dramatic Society but found it would be too expensive to branch out alone. They are in partnership with the Village Hall and rely on ticket sales to cover expenses, and to date all productions have made significant profits to add to the Hall funds. The main backbone of the Group, around a dozen members, consists of a few regular cast, the set designer, scenery constructors, sound and lighting crew.

There is no membership fee and different people join the cast for most performances. The young children have a habit of growing up and either leave for other interests or graduate into bigger parts. They all love it and it gives them enormous confidence in themselves.

Should anyone wish to join either the cast or give a helping hand, look out for more details in the newsletter, website or Facebook around September. The Group will be delighted to welcome new talent.

Previous Productions

Treasure Island	2007	Snow White	2008
Dick Turpin	2009	Robin Hood	2010
Up Little Birch	2011	Aladdin	2012
Jack & the beanstalk	2013	'Allo 'Allo! (Summer)	2013
Goldilocks & the Three Bears	2014	Variety Show (Summer)	2014
Peter Pan	2015	Camelot	2016
Cash on Delivery (Summer)	2016	Ali Baba & the Forty Thieves	2017
Black Adder (Summer)	2017	Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs	2018
One Man, Two Guvnors (Summer)	2018	Harlequin and Columbine	2019

Memorabilia

The opening of the new extension of Much Birch Community Hall will take place on Saturday 20th July 2019, when we will also be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the original opening of the main building. The Management Committee would like to put together a display of photographs and articles relating to special events held in the Hall over the years, especially of the opening day. If you could lend us any such items we promise to take care of them and would of course return them to you soon after 20th July

If you do have items to lend us please contact me on tel: 01981 540980. We would be so grateful if you could help with this display.

John H.C. Jones, Chairman of Management Committee

Further details regarding the celebration will be published later.

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

Results of the 100 club draw which took place on 12th May 2019 in the Community Hall are as follows:

1 st prize – No.59	2 nd prize - No.102	3 rd prize - 69
Mrs. M. Hill	Mr. P. Winchester	Mrs. J. Wilson
Kings Thorn	Much Birch	Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 9th June 2019 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones
Promoter

Well, summer has arrived again and the nights are getting lighter, it's amazing that the longest day is only a month away! Early potatoes are showing, runner beans coming on in the greenhouse, bedding plants are almost bursting out of their containers waiting to be planted into larger pots but 'hold fast' as they say, a late frost will undo all our hard work! Patience seems to be a requisite of all gardeners, professionals or amateurs alike- all the more reason to come along to one of our meetings and share your experiences. Now that's what I call a handy link to advertising our upcoming meetings!

On Wednesday 29th May we will have Clyde from Wild Wicker demonstrating his craftsmanship and bringing along some of the items he makes, and he will very kindly be donating one piece of his work as a raffle prize- hope I'm the lucky one!

Wednesday 25th June- the gardening club will be hosting a flower arranging workshop by Sandra Snell of Ross Flower House. Sandra is an extremely accomplished demonstrator and judge and Winner of numerous awards from Chelsea and Malvern Shows and combines her demonstrations with wit and good humour. She will be tackling arrangements listed in this year's Village Summer Show and then raffling the arrangements for club funds.

Our summer trip this year 24th July 4 PM is to Veddw House Gardens, Devauden, Monmouthshire. This is a garden featured in many publications and on television. Anne Wareham is a garden writer and Charles Hawes is a prize-winning photographer, so the garden has evolved for these two passionate gardeners to enjoy and they open their garden to help fund their projects. It's a fascinating garden, come along to be surprised and maybe inspired for your own future projects. Reservations and entrance deposit for this trip will be taken at the June meeting and we can then sort a car share system so if you don't have transport, we can hopefully sort it for you, we might even want to think about combining our trip with a stop for refreshments! This is an open trip, so if you are interested, please give me a call on 01981 541198.

August gives us a break and a chance to enjoy our own gardens, so our next big event is the VILLAGE SUMMER SHOW- SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER. We hope to see new faces and old so please support this event being organised for our community. Details and Show Schedules will be advertised under separate cover by our Show Secretary, Lesley Chapman.

On closing, can I say it was a pleasure to see some new visitors to our last meeting, it is great to have new faces and I hope we made you feel welcome.

Happy gardening! *Jenny Baldwin*

You are invited to
An evening with Mr.
Reg Moule
From Hereford and Worcester Radio

On Friday 5th July 2019 at 7.30pm
In Much Birch Community Hall

Tickets 7.50 pounds to include
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All your gardening questions answered

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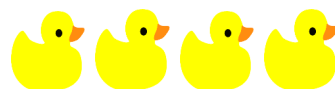
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540415.

The annual Little Birch village fete will be held on Saturday July 13th at Castle Nibole. Please note this date in your diaries and encourage friends and family to come along to this quintessential English Country fete. The fete will be opened at 2pm by a TV celebrity and all the usual stalls, competitions, games and children's fun will be there for your enjoyment. The refreshments are always better than any coffee shop and not to be missed.

At this early stage in proceedings the organising committee are looking for help and contributions. We would like to have some new ideas for games and entertainment. If any of you have anything that could be used at a fete let us know. Outdoor games like giant jenga, bat the rat, bowling, or anything suitable would be welcomed. We will also need contributions of cakes, books, bric-a-brac, plants and produce, raffle prizes, bottles for the bottle stall.

If anyone would like to sell/buy some draw tickets in advance of the fete please let us know. All help appreciated.

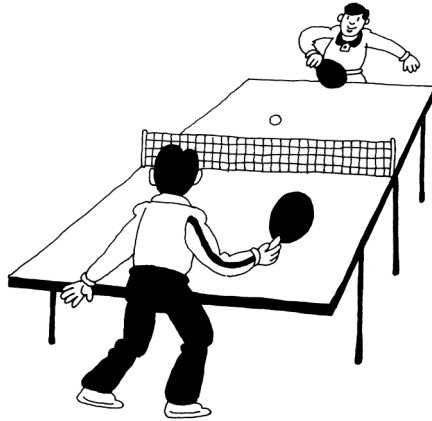
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Cecily Daffern

Table Tennis at Little Birch Village Hall



Following on from the first two very successful table tennis sessions at Little Birch Village Hall, we have decided to buy a brand new table making it three tables in all so that everyone can have plenty of table time. These sessions have proven to be extremely sociable events with everyone having great fun. The next session will take place on Wednesday 12th June at 7.00pm and everyone will be made welcome. Those who have attended previously, please note the change of start time from 7:30pm to 7:00pm.

Admission is just £2.00 which goes towards the cost of refreshments. You don't need any equipment as everything is provided. If you need any further information, please contact Peter Rees on 01981 541356 or Angela Middleton on 01981 540377.

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Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

Cllr Peter Rees	Chair	01981 541356	panddrees@gmail.com
Cllr Janet Gwinnett	Vice Chair	01981 540651	janetgwinnett@hotmail.com
Cllr Kate Dillon		01981 540364	kate@castlenibole.com
Cllr Michael Davies		01981 540129	mikeandmaradavies@gmail.com
Angela Middleton	Volunteer Footpath Officer	01981 430377	ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk
Sophie Glover	Clerk	01432 617306	lbpcclerk@gmail.com

Parish Council meetings usually happen at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month and all parishoners are very welcome to attend. Agendas are posted on the Parish notice board at least three days in advance and are also on our web site.

Little Birch Parish Facebook Group



Find the latest news, events and business listings all in one place.

You are welcome to promote your local business, advertise a local event or post news or information of interest to the village and surrounding area.

Search for *Little Birch Parish Group* on Facebook

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Much Birch Parish Council
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Tel. 01981 250860: Email: muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk

18th May 2019

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th May 2019 at the Much Birch Community Hall.
The Parish Council held the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Statutory Meeting. There was the co-option of a new councillor for Much Birch. She is Miss Veronica Thomas and the Parish Council welcomed her following a ballot between two prospective candidates. The Parish Council reviewed several planning applications and made comments regarding these for the planning authority. They also heard an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. Future Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings are coming up.

Please see below for future Steering Group Meeting dates:

Dates of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings for 2019
All to be held at Much Birch Community Hall from 7.30pm

30 May, 27 June, 29 August, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November.

A reminder that the dates for the 2019 Parish Council Meetings are as follows: June 6, July 4, September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 5.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 6th June 2019 from 7.30pm** - at The Much Birch Community Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Please see notice boards and website for agendas. As always the public and press are more than welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives.

A reminder that:-

Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail thecooks@wyenet.co.uk Tel. 01981 540703

Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, e mail turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com and Tel. 01981 540090

Cllr Andrew Crum Anfield House, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail a.crum@btinternet.com
Tel. 01981 540002

Cllr Roisin Burge The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8AX roisinburge@hotmail.com Tel. 01981 540724

Cllr David Baldwin The Granary, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HS baldwin79@btinternet.com Tel. 01981 541198

Cllr Veronica Thomas 4, Queens Close, Wormelow, Hereford, HR2 8FD Tel. 01981 540646 (no e mail)

Full minutes of the meetings and information etc. can be found on the Parish Council website following the link found in this summary. www.muchbirchparish.org.uk.

You can also find us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>

Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

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