

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 7th April 2022 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey
Cllr Joseph Goldsmith
Cllr David Baldwin
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Andy Crum

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Lengthsman; Paul Wright plus one member of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was commented that public footpath LL4 off the A49 was inaccessible due to a locked gate onto Laskett Lane. The Open Session closed at 7.33pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence received from Ward Cllr Toni Fagan

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held at the Much Birch Community Hall on the 3rd March 2022, 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 – Newsletter circulated when received.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan had sent her apologies. She had circulated the Council Leader's Report.

4.3) Locality Steward

James Howells the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins.

5.0) Update on Correspondence

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Talk Community Newsletters
Local Area Plan Consultation

It was noted that Cllrs Burge and Pickering Grey would attend the conference call as delegates for the Local Area Plan Consultation Meeting on 12/04/22. The Clerk would confirm their attendance to the relevant department.

Internal Audit Papers 2021 - 2022

The internal audit papers have been received. Mrs R Wathen would be appointed as Internal Auditor

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Mar 2022 HSBC Community Account	£9,339.69
@ 13 th Mar 2022 HSBC Community Projects Account	£6,374.61

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 for April	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£86.40
Longfield Services (Lengthsman)	£130.00

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil

Resolved: that the payments were passed for payment: Unanimous.

The Chair advised the meeting that the bank account signatory changes were now confirmed. Signatories were now the Clerk, Cllr Cook, Cllr Burge and Cllr Baldwin.

6.3) To appoint internal auditor for 2021 – 2022 End of Year Accounts

The Internal Audit appointment was confirmed as Mrs R Wathen, who had kindly agreed to fulfil the role again.

There was a brief discussion about donations to the church at this point. The Clerk would send details of the legal position, and applicable statute, to Cllr Goldsmith for his information.

7.0 Update on Community Hubs and Jubilee

7.1) Talk Community Hubs

Cllrs Pickering Grey and Goldsmith were looking into objectives for the Community Hub. Cllr Pickering Grey had spoken to delegates from the Community Café. The Community Café delegates were receptive to the idea of a Community Hub. There was some discussion on the role of the Hub which would be to point people in the direction of information, rather than to try to provide advice itself. The remit, roles and frequency of the Hub, also working in conjunction with the Ward Cllr, would be determined and Cllr Cook would discuss possible hall hire arrangements with the Booking Secretary. On May Agenda.

7.2) Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The parish council discussed some details of forthcoming events and beacon lighting to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Full details would be published by the organisers and the "Birches News" also contained further details.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

There were new applications for consideration of comments:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 220522 - Chetwynd, Warren Lane, Kingsthorpe, HR2 8AJ

DESCRIPTION: Change of use of land to garden and siting of a bell tent for use as a holiday let

GRID REF: OS 350080, 232415

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Parish Council had no objections to the proposal in planning consultation 220522 subject to the tent blending into the landscape and holiday lettings being the only use.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Re-consultation (Amended) - 211764 – Worcester Cottage, Court Farm Road, Much Birch, Herefordshire HR2 8HT

DESCRIPTION: Proposed erection of two pairs of semi detached dwellings in place of one pair of semi-detached dwellings and large outbuilding, presently on the site.

GRID REF: OS 350330, 230476

APPLICATION TYPE: Outline

The Parish Council resolved that there were no objections to the proposals detailed in planning re-consultation 211764.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 220607 – Ash Farm, Tump Lane, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HP

DESCRIPTION: Variation of condition 6 173052/F (Construction of a farm workers cottage) alter the condition to restrict occupation to an individual who is involved in operating the Green Burial Site rather than an agricultural worker.

GRID REF: OS 350131, 230667

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Parish Council had no objections to the proposal detailed in planning consultation 220607.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 220981 - Westwinds, Wrigglebrook Kingsthorpe, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AU

DESCRIPTION: Proposed changes to roof to continue pitched roof over current flat roof, including re-covering the entire roof. Timber cladding to walls following external wall insulation. Erection of a bike shed in front driveway.

GRID REF: OS 350396, 231718

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The Parish Council resolved that there were no objections to the proposals detailed in planning consultation 220981.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

As previous. To include locked gate onto footpath on PROW LL4 Laskett Lane.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

The newly refurbished notice board, repaired, repainted and cleaned was back at “Conker Corner” near the bus stop on the school side of the A49.

The Lengthsman had strimmed path MB20 following the previous months request. It was noted that the path was tarmac underneath.

The sign from the bottom of Tump Lane (public house end) had disappeared and there was just a square post standing there. Query as to replacement sign (small directional sign to Much Birch)?

The finger post near property Belle Vue had been re-set.

Sign lying on its side at top of Parish Lane. Cllr Crum to check this.

Cllr Crum would also talk with neighbouring property owners on Barrack Hill regarding keeping ditch clear for drainage.

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

“Herefordshire Trail” path details would be shared with the Footpath Officer. FPO named as contact point.

9.4) To receive any update on speeding in Tump Lane

The idea of instigating a Community Speed-watch initiative (subject to suitable view point etc.) would be re-opened with the Police Road Traffic Safety Advisor.

10.0 Parishes Newsletter and Much Birch Website

10.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website plus Twitter. Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter. Précis would include details about some of the local Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebration events.

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

All the usual items would be included. Queens Jubilee, Talk Community and Tump Lane and village speeding, plus pedestrian footway in Tump Lane

12.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting (Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Meetings) of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 5th May 2022, from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

Due to the confidential nature of the business of these agenda items, 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 the following agenda item (13)

13.0 To discuss implementation of 1/04/21 pay award (back dated) and increment from 1/04/22 in line with HALC and NJC correspondence

The Clerk and public left the room for the duration of item 13.

Minute note as advised by the Chair: *“It was agreed that the clerk’s salary be increased to reflect the pay award for 2021/22, backdated to 1.4.21, and that an increment be applied with effect from 1.4.22. Councillors were very appreciative of the excellent work she does and the support provided due to her breadth of knowledge.”*

The meeting closed at 8.39pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date