

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 6th April 2023 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr David Baldwin
Cllr Joseph Goldsmith
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Andy Crum

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Ward Cllr Toni Fagan and the Footpath Officer David Irwin

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
No comments made.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey had sent his apologies.

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 2nd March 2023, 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 was in attendance at the meeting. The Ward Cllr reported about some ideas that had been suggested by Balfour Beatty for Tump Lane in regard to the speeding reports. There could be markings placed down either side of the Lane to give the impression of narrowing in the aim of bringing speed down. Another suggestion had been speed “bumps”. There were discussion points on this and the Ward Cllr said that she would seek clarification as to the type of bumps, funding for installation and also an update on the situation regarding a possible footpath for Tump Lane. In this last point, the footpath, the Ward Cllr was still waiting for an update on the position. There had been a safety audit undertaken by WSP – road engineers.

In regard to Much Birch School traffic, a Little Birch Council Member had asked the Ward Cllr to contact the school about concerns. There had not been a reply back from the school as at the date of the parish council meeting. In regard to School Travel Planning, the team responsible for this was now back under Herefordshire Council control. The Ward Cllr had asked for the school to be reviewed for the School Travel Planning. Items were being looked at, walking bus, car sharing, school transport (bus). Also reviewing how employees get to school. It was noted that “dangerous” parking in the vicinity of the school should be flagged up with the PCSO. There was a new team, CHAT, the Childrens Help and Advice Team. This team would be signposting to advice, providing help, support, child safety and wellbeing.

Thanks were recorded, by the parish council, to the Ward Cllr for all of her efforts, action and for keeping the parish council informed throughout her term in office. The Ward Cllr was standing for re-election for the new term.

4.3) Locality Steward

James Howells the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins. Also Members Monthly Update received and Street works updates.

5.0) Update on Correspondence

5.1) To receive any correspondence – noting the Information Sheet (including any update on meetings attended by councillors)

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Herefordshire Council:
Talk Community bulletins

Meeting Attendance Update

No further update.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13th March 2023 HSBC Community Account £15693.84

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 for April
HM Revenue & Customs (tax) £96.80

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

6.3) To appoint internal auditor

It was agreed that Rose Wathen would be asked to carry out the internal audit, as in previous years.

6.4) To discuss any support for Coronation Event(s)

No ideas were put forward this time.

7.0 Update on speeding and Community Speed Watch

This would be on the next agenda.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications and appeals as may be advised

There was one new application for consideration of comments:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 230559 - Upper Wrigglebrook Lodge, Wrigglebrook Kingsthorpe, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AW
DESCRIPTION: Proposed Green Oak framed fully glazed single storey garden room to the East elevation of the detached dwelling.

GRID REF: OS 350012, 231930

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The parish council resolved to support the application 230559. It was also requested for any planning details of numbers and comments, i.e. support, object etc. to be in the précis, going forward.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Some potholes noted at the junction of the Thorn with the C1263. A previous pothole repair was coming apart. There were also potholes in Wrigglebrook Lane. The U71606 had deep potholes reported near "Diggers Den." Court Farm, by the entrance to the car park, a drain was eroded by the entrance.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

As ongoing. No new items.

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

Mr David Irwin, the Footpath Officer can be contacted on 01981 345109 or by e mail at David.Irwin13@btinternet.com

The Footpath Officer was in attendance at the meeting and he updated the meeting regarding his attendance at a further Footpath Officers Meeting. The organisers had listened to concerns and also about difficulties with the reporting system. They might "have money available to do something with later in the year." It had been useful talking with other FPO's and David had also met up with the FPO Inspector. It was noted that the reporting system was "unwieldy" and that items were not feeding through.

The Footpath Officer updated about:

Path MB2 - where defects had been reported, posts, trip hazards etc. This had been looked at and the landowner advised. Promised to fix this when weather improves.

Path MB23 - bottom of Barrack Hill, towards Wrigglebrook Lane, branch down from fir tree. Reported to Herefordshire Council and inspector had been out and she was going to sort.

Path MB30 - up to Little Birch Lane to Wrigglebrook Lane, reported as was very narrow. Path should be 1.00 metre wide minimum, and it was only 50 cm. Fence pushed out and likely to collapse on path. This had been reported.

Path MB8 - A49 to Llanwarne past Little Newcroft Farm - stile was broken. New stile kits were now in.

Path MB19 - A 49 to Laskett Lane - crops across path, had been reported.

The Footpath Officer would be supplying a list of inaccessible paths to the FPO Inspector.

9.4) Update on parish land (as applicable)

No update on fencing. The Chair would be in contact with the tenant and would mention the measuring visit.

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.

The requirement for ID at voting would be mentioned in the précis, plus planning items and comment outcomes. The Chair advised that social media comments were "being watched."

11.0 To discuss any matters relating to the Local Area Plan (Core Strategy) revision, Neighbourhood Development Plan and the consultation process - as applicable

No further update.

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 Meetings of the Parish Council, Annual Parish and Annual Statutory, would be held on Thursday 11th May 2023 from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

Thanks were recorded to Cllr David Baldwin who would not be standing for re-election to the parish council in May.

Future Meetings for 2023: June 8th, July 6th, No meeting in August, Sept 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 9th and Dec 7th

The meeting closed at 8.06 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date