

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held on the Zoom Platform, during Covid 19 Virus Pandemic, Thursday 3rd December 2020 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)
Cllr Andy Crum

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no comments during the Open Session. The Open Session closed at 7.31 pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Veronica Thomas and Footpath Officer Steve Owen. Cllr Baldwin was not present at the Zoom PC Meeting

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

3.1) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held via Zoom on the 5th November 2020, 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 sent when received.

Herefordshire - What matters to you? PCC hosts online crime prevention event

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised regarding the Leader's Report and matters relating to Herefordshire Council which she would circulate.

The new university for Hereford had received validation from the Open University for a first intake of students in 2021.

Local procurement for goods and services were being promoted.

A commitment had been made by the Council to provide 2500 new council homes to give more control over housing for local people.

The Talk Community Group was working hard towards the vaccination program for Covid 19.

There was a consultation taking place on the future of the Waste Strategy for the County. Details on how to comment or contribute to the discussion would be circulated in due course.

The Transport Review decision would be taken to full council in January 2021 for ratification.

The proposals involved changes to planned road networks and emphasis on other methods of sustainable transport.

The Council were in a position where tough decisions had to be taken. At the time of the meeting the possible budget deficit information and proposed council tax increase details were not available. The Ward Cllr left the meeting at 7.48 pm.

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

5.0 Update on Correspondence

The updates were noted and included from Herefordshire Council:

- Hereford Transport Strategy Review
- Weekly Covid update 27/11/20
- 3 items including Licensing Policy draft - summary of change
- ROAD CLOSURES - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020 - 20.11.2020

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Nov 2020 HSBC Community Account	£12,055.59
@ 13 th Nov 2020 HSBC Community Projects Account	£8,412.84

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
HM Revenue & Customs (tax) £84.40

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil

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

7.0 Village issues update

7.1) To receive any update on Village issues – no further updates

7.2) Self-help gritting scheme

The self-help gritting scheme would be continuing.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

An extension to the deadline for comments would be requested for the planning application received on 3/12/20 (Planning Consultation - 203892 - Ladywell Cottage).

A concern had been raised by a resident about the parish land boundary near to Castle Pool Cottage. A fence line and some top soil had been removed. The boundary details would be checked and any follow up action carried out to safeguard the parish asset. The Clerk would equip the Chair with the copy of the land registry and boundary information.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

The footpath near to the Wormelow shop was flooded again and the adjacent drain appeared to be blocked. There had been increased publicity concerning this defect (Much Dewchurch Parish). The Locality Steward had been notified back in the autumn and was supposed to be under investigation for remedial action to be taken.

The Duchy hedge on the Kingsthorpe road coming from the A49 towards the school had been cut back but the canopy was still sticking out to far for ease of clearance by high sided vehicles. It was thought that the top had not been cut back far enough.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

The previously discussed pipe replacement in Hollybush Lane, near to Crossways, could not be carried out as had been previously indicated. Options would need to be looked at by Balfour

Beatty. The proximity of the pipes to a workshop at the location would need to be considered in respect of any changes.

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

The Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies. He would be getting back to walking the parish paths very shortly.

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.

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

All the usual items would be included.

The Neighbourhood Plan questions for clarification from the examiner would be reviewed by the Steering Group members, and circulated for agreement, before return to the Herefordshire Council Neighbourhood Planning Team by 11/12/20. The Clerk would send the agreed responses in time to meet the Examiner's requested deadline of 11/12/20.

12.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the Zoom Platform on Thursday 7th January 2021, from 7.30pm.

The Chair wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

The meeting closed at 8.09 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date