

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

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

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Lengthsman; Paul Wright plus Ward Cllr Toni Fagan

### Open Session:-

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

#### **1.0 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **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 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 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 updated the meeting regarding issues at path MB6 where the path was reported as being “pretty inaccessible for most of the year - particularly for elderly people”. The new Footpath Officer would be keeping a watch on this. The gate had been tied but the gate was now “off.” The proposed footpath for Tump Lane was not currently being progressed as the corner of garden required to achieve this was “not available.” There were possible hedging issues on the opposite side of the road. School parking for the Much Birch School was now in the local farmyard, by permission. The A49 issues were still a topic of discussion with the Highways Authority and the Police Safety Advisor. A consultation call was booked with the relevant parties to talk about speeding issues and speed enforcement. The issue of traffic overshooting red lights at the A49 crossing at the top of Tump Lane was mentioned, as this had been observed.

The Core Strategy consultation was mentioned as an opportunity for the parish council to feedback on this, if wished. There was a commitment by Herefordshire Council to engage people better in the planning process. The displaying of the “yellow planning notification sign” on location was a part of this process. There were issues with underfunding of enforcement action. Hedgerows had been replanted, at an address in Wormelow, following a protracted delay. Investigation into the unspent 106 monies from planning developments was underway. The money should be spent on infrastructure etc. to support the houses being built.

#### **4.3) Locality Steward**

James Howells Locality Steward has sent his bulletins.

#### **5.0) Update on Correspondence**

##### **Correspondence from Herefordshire Council**

Talk Community Newsletter 12 November

Talk Community Newsletter 19 November

Talk Community Newsletter - Herefordshire Citizens Climate Assembly (HCCA)

Parish Council Summit Invitation

#### **HALC**

Bulletin and information received.

#### **6.0 Financial Report**

##### **6.1) The following bank balances were noted:**

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 HSBC Community Account	£12,521.66
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 HSBC Community Projects Account	£6,389.61

##### **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 November

HM Revenue & Customs (tax) £69.20

Cllr A Cook (Remembrance Wreath) £50.00

##### **Payments to be made from Community account**

Nil

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

##### **6.3) To determine any PC response to Core Strategy (Local Area Plan) initial consultation exercise**

Clerk to re-circulate the questionnaire for review. The Parish Council would need to be aware of any implications for the Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan. Agriculture needed to be added to the topics of reference for the consultation.

#### **7.0 Village issues update**

**7.1)** To receive any update on Village issues – overhanging at the top of hedging on main road towards Kingsthorpe. These were Duchy responsibility. To reiterate about top bit of hedging hanging over, possible hazard for high sided vehicles.

**7.2)** Parish land – update – Two councillors had been to see the developers on site. Notes of the meeting had been circulated to the parish council members and these would form the basis of the understanding for the boundary reinstatement. The notes of the meeting would be formally sent to the contractor, by the Clerk, with a request for acknowledgement of the matters noted.

#### **8.0 Planning Matters**

##### **8.1) To consider any planning applications**

There were three new applications for consideration of comments:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE:** Planning Consultation – 214165 and 214166 - Walled Garden Adjacent Stable Cottage, Much Birch, Herefordshire HR2 8HT  
The Parish Council discussed the application 214165 and 214166 and determined that there were no objections, but that there should be a comment made that the modifications to the wall should be carried out sympathetically in due regard to the status of the building and the wall.

**APPLICATION NO & SITE:** Planning Consultation - 214152 - Hill House, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HH  
The Parish Council discussed the application 214152 and determined that there were no comments.

**APPLICATION NO & SITE:** Planning Consultation - 214160 - Sarum, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HX  
The Parish Council discussed the application 214160 and determined that there were no objections.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

Some drain clearance had been carried out. The drain cover near to Waterloo Lane was still wobbly and seemingly unsafe.

Clerk would check if any self help gritting round clearance would be taking place by grit spreading, as had previously been the case, around the Barrack Hill area.

### **9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman**

Lengthsman grant funding was on schedule for reinstatement, on a matched funding basis. The Lengthsman to carry out seasonal grip and path clearance as required.

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

New Footpath Officer E mail would be added to circulation list.

## **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 information would include meeting dates for 2022.

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

All the usual items would be included.

## **12.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022, from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

***The meeting closed at 8.27pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date