

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 4th February 2021 from 7.30 pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan plus three members of the public

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 7th January 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 sent when received.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised regarding concerns about phosphate levels in the waterways like Wrigglebrook. The waterways were “chemically failing” and energy was huge to resolve the situation. The Environment Agency were trying to monitor the situation but were understaffed with only six people working within Herefordshire. Water, brown and muddy, was running off fields and into watercourses. Situations like this must be reported. The Ward Councillor would advise of the contact details for reporting any witnessing of run off. Land management issues had to be addressed. A local silt situation was noted and the Environment Agency had been to investigate the situation. The Chair could provide e mail trail of communications to the Ward Cllr if required.

The Ward Cllr updated regarding a new Highways England Manager who was looking into verge planting on the A49 and the issues of plastic and rubbish strewn there. Organisations like “Verging on Wild” and “Plantlife” were trying to encourage plants on verges.

The Ward Cllr advised the meeting that any questions or concerns that people may have could be put forward. A question was asked about a Herefordshire Councillor pre-empting the announcement of the by-pass decision ahead of a formal press announcement. At the time of the comment the decision was that of the Cabinet and not the full council. The councillor “could have chosen their words more carefully”. The bypass decision was described as an “emotive issue.” Concern was voiced about the number of abstentions from the decision. It was felt that people should express a view one way or the other.

Ward Cllr Fagan left the meeting at 7.45 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:

Talk Community Covid update 15/01/21

Talk Community Covid update 22/01/21

Keep Herefordshire Warm

Neighbourhood Plan – Examiners changes incorporated for approval at the meeting

Feedback on budget consultation

Census and tools for long-term loan

Flooding and recovery support

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Free events from HWT

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Jan 2021 HSBC Community Account	£11,269.24
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@ 13 th Jan 2021 HSBC Community Projects Account	£8,012.84
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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) £67.60

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 issues were noted.

7.2) Self-help gritting scheme

The grit bins were to be refilled. Some grit supplies were in stock and would be topped up as required. The Chair would reiterate that grit was to be used sparingly on the highway only.

7.3) Parish Land - update

Contact had been made with the builder of the houses and he had confirmed an agreement to meet with representatives of the parish council, on site, to define the boundary between the development and the parish land.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

An application had been received on the day of the meeting and an extension until after the March 4th Meeting would be requested:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 210090 - Green Willow, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AR

DESCRIPTION: Proposed increase of main roof pitch, the provision of a dormer and rooflights to new bedroom together with fenestration changes.

GRID REF: OS 350380, 231621

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Potholes were noted on Wrigglebrook and Ticklewithy Pitch. Wrigglebrook Lane from A49 to Cress Cottage – further pothole noted. Water was not going into the ditch but rather onto the road on the Little Birch, Much Birch Road.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Check grit bins and refill as required. Look at broken hinge on grit bin at Wrigglebrook Lane junction. To check drain by Cress Cottage, footpath at Gamber Cottage where stile was broken and steps covered in debris.

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

The Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies and update report. Any “lost” footpaths can be identified and advised so that the Footpath Officer can lodge them.

Session one of the Zoom Meeting ended at 8.10 PM and Session 2 on Zoom commenced at 8.15 PM with all councillors present as in session one and with the Clerk plus three members of the public also present.

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 to include reminder about grit usage and importance of keeping drainage systems clear, by properties, to keep water off the road as much as possible.

11.0 Neighbourhood Plan

To confirm progression of version of the Much Birch NDP post examination.

The Parish Council formally agreed that the post examination revised version of the Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to referendum at the appropriate time.

12.0 Poor Acre – update re land and planning

To receive update regarding the Poor Acre and planning

The Clerk had made contact with one of the Poor Acre trustees. The previous planning consent obtained had lapsed and permission had been reapplied for. The Trustees were now proceeding with the building of one new house, in conjunction to an agreement, with the tenant, concerning the remainder of the field. There was a discussion about the situation and a request was made for further information to be requested from the Trustees. There was a question raised concerning whether there were any clauses relating to possible future development of the remainder of the field.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also to be included - a further update on the Poor Acre.

14.0 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 4th March 2021, from 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.42 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date