

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Roisin Burge  
Cllr Veronica Thomas

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright and 3 members of the public. Also present for part of the meeting was PCSO Carol Marsh.

### Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no matters raised by the public during the Open Session.

### 1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr David Baldwin, Cllr Andy Crum and Footpath Officer; Steve Owen plus Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan.

### 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 on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

### 4.0 Reports

#### 4.1) P.C.S.O. from West Mercia Police

The Bulletins with updates had been received and circulated.

Residents urged to be vigilant after fraud calls reported.

*For further information regarding Courier Fraud, please visit the West Mercia Police*

*website <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/door-to-door-courier-fraud/>*

PCSO Carol Marsh was in attendance and she updated the meeting regarding traffic monitoring for speeding. The A49 near to the Surgery/ Community Hall Junction was an area of concern for the residents and the PCSO would feed this back. PCSO Marsh explained about a “cannabis farm” that had been discovered in the Callow area.

PCSO Carol Marsh left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

4.2) **Ward Councillor** Ward Cllr Fagan had sent her apologies.

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

### 5.0 Clerk's Update on Action Items and Correspondence

The updates were noted and included from Herefordshire Council:

- Core Strategy/Neighbourhood Planning workshop event presentation
- MINUTES: 1st Red, Norton & Twyford brooks NFM Community Group Meeting
- October & November flooding, home and business support
- Short Breaks Capital Funding

- Marches Renewable Energy Grant Scheme

## **HALC**

- Climate Change in Action!
- Presentation from HALC Conference

## **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 HSBC Community Account	£12,007.05
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 HSBC Community Projects Account	£10,801.84

### **6.2) To approve list of payments (circulated separately)**

The following payments were approved:

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

Mrs A Wright (Salary paid in accordance with contract)	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£64.40
Dore Community Transport Donation	£400.00

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

Much Birch Resource Centre (NDP)	£128.06
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**Resolved:** that the payments were passed for payment: (proposed by Cllr Cook and seconded by Cllr Turner) Unanimous. This included a donation towards the work of Dore Community Transport. Possible future visit to be arranged from a representative of DCT.

### **6.3) To consider the options around possible Smart Water provision in the parish**

It was agreed that further research into possible take-up interest for the scheme would be undertaken.

### **6.4) Notice board near the bus stop adjacent to the A49, to consider replacement or repair**

It was agreed that the Lengthsman would refurbish the notice board (in the summer when not required for August Agenda).

## **7.0 Village issues update**

### **7.1) To receive any update regarding lighting at the crossing on the A49**

A further update would be given at the February 2020 Meeting.

### **7.2) Self Help Gritting Scheme – all in place. Much Birch grit quota to be delivered to the gritting scheme co-ordinator.**

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

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

There were no new applications for consideration.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

Path from shop to Carrot and Wine shop to the pub (Tump Inn) (Much Dewchurch) still remained in a poor condition and drain by the Yew Tree blocked  
Floodwater lying on the road near the Skippet (off the A49 towards Kingsthorpe) – Much Dewchurch Parish (Clerk to e mail MDPC Clerk).

Soil run off issue on Wrigglebrook Lane – this was in the hands of the Environment Agency who had carried out an inspection. Clerk to report mud/silt on road to the Locality Steward as it could be potentially hazardous.

To check with Locality Steward regarding placing a grit bin in the “hammer head” of Tump Lane. There was also a report of heating oil leaking in Upper Wrigglebrook Lane. This was also in the hands of the Environment Agency who were investigating the source of the spill. Water did appear to be dispersing the oil.

In regard to Verge maintenance letter from Balfour Beatty – the PC determined that verges would be cut to preserve visibility splays.

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

To look at grips, gullies and drains around the parish.

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

Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies.

### **10.0 Neighbourhood Plan- update**

The Neighbourhood Plan was out for public consultation until 00.00 on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Opportunities to comment had been advertised and copies of the plan placed in public buildings.

### **11.0 Parishes’ Newsletter and Much Birch Website**

11.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website. Clerk to send a précis to the Newsletter. The précis would again include information regarding possible provision of Smart Water and a new separate article would also be submitted about Smart Water to further gauge public support for the proposals.

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

All the usual items would be included. Items would include Smart Water and signage on the A49 for the crossing and lights.

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

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020, from 7.30pm, in The Much Birch Community Hall. Further Meetings for 2020 would be as follows: 5 March, 9 April, 8 May (Friday), 11 June, 9 July, 3 Sept, 8 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec 2020. No meeting in August.

***The meeting closed at 8.13 pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date