

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr Roisin Burge  
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)  
Cllr David Baldwin

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan plus four 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 Crum 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 3<sup>rd</sup> December 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.

**4.2) Ward Councillor** Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised regarding the opportunity for all to be involved in the Herefordshire Council budget consultation. Feedback was invited. The consultation would end on 8/01/21. There was also the opportunity to contribute responses to the Waste Services Consultation. The Ward Cllr emphasised that questions to the Herefordshire Council can be answered and people should be encouraged to ask more questions and understand more about how the council works and to make it more accountable. An answer to the finance questions regarding the road costs (Southern Link and Western Bypass) had been circulated.

Covid 19 was dominating everything. It was hoped that the vaccination program would improve things.

**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:

- Census 2021 heroes and Recruitment Updated Information
- Weekly Covid Update 16/12/20
- Future of Mobility and waste consultation
- Weekly Covid update 10/12/20

## **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 HSBC Community Account	£11,706.44
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 HSBC Community Projects Account	£8,012.84

### **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) £84.20

#### **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 – an issue with the parish land boundary on Barrack Hill was raised. It was agreed that the reinstatement of the boundary would be requested and the re-turfing of the area at the appropriate time. The boundary would need to be agreed and marked out. The Clerk and Chair would draft a letter and send with inclusion of measurement annotated drawings of the plot.

### **7.2) Self-help gritting scheme**

The grit bins were being used. The Chair would place a reminder on Face book concerning the proper use of the grit supplies, i.e. conservative use on the highway and not on private property.

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

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

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 204377 - Land at Ashe Farm, Tump Lane, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HP

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed change of use of 2.63ha of agricultural land to a natural burial site, associated groundworks and carparking.

**GRID REF:** OS 350083, 230648

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Waste

The application was for the conversion of land to provide a natural burial site. The Parish Council heard representation from residents, who were present at the Zoom Meeting. There was a discussion on the application in terms of land drainage and percolation plus access arrangements for the site. It was agreed that a draft comment would be circulated and, following approval and comment by the members, this would be sent to the planning department.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

Issues near to the Gamber Cottages were noted - damage to stile (possibly by hedge flail) and overflowing attenuation ponds at the poultry farm.

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

Ditch on Barrack Hill filling with water, culvert blocked? Pipe overflowing onto road, right hand side opposite the Old Hall by the reflector posts. Pitch opposite orchard, Little Birch Road, Much

Birch boundary – water lying. Hedge clippings were causing blockages generally. A reminder about riparian responsibilities for ditches etc. would be in the précis for the newsletter.

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

The Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies.

Session one of the Zoom Meeting ended at 8.10 PM and the Ward Cllr left the meeting at 8.09 PM.

Session 2 on Zoom commenced at 8.15 PM with all councillors present as in session one and with the Clerk plus two 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. The précis would include a reminder to property owners to be attentive to their ditches in terms of adherence to riparian responsibilities for keeping the ditches clear in order to keep water off the road. Water on the road was leading to erosion of the road surface and the possible formation of ice in cold weather.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also to be included, by request, an update on the Poor Acre. Clerk would contact the trustees.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021, from 7.30pm.

***The meeting closed at 8.25 pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date