

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr Roisin Burge  
Cllr Joseph Goldsmith

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan, Footpath Officer; David Irwin and one member of the public

### Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A local resident put forward the suggestion, from another source, concerning a one way system idea for Tump Lane. This proposal would have implications for people leaving and returning to their homes and would potentially mean detours around the parish to approach the lane from only one direction. The idea was “not something that the parish council would put forward.” A question was asked about the footpath for Tump Lane and the Ward Cllr advised that the Highways Department were concerned about safety and that the proposals were going to go through a “safety audit”.

### 1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence received from Cllrs David Baldwin, Chris Pickering-Grey and Andy Crum.

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 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 was in attendance at the meeting and she updated regarding the budget for Herefordshire Council, which had been made better than expected by a higher settlement of government funding than had been anticipated. There was a wish to continue to support those having difficulty paying their council tax. There would be changes to expectations for council tax levy on second homes from 2024 to increase revenue. There was to be training in respect of technology and making technology available through council initiatives. Consultations on various topics were being extended, details on the Herefordshire Council website. There was to be a food standards pilot through school meals and improvement initiatives for oral health. The Childrens' Services Plan had been submitted to Ofsted. There was an update on the silt deposits from the Wrigglebrook Pitch. No maize or potatoes would be planted there going forward and the field margins were to be improved. The landowner and tenant had been made aware of the conditions. The e mail in regard to the situation was requested to be inserted in the minutes, and the précis for the newsletter, and was circulated by the Ward Cllr as follows: **The Much Birch/Wrigglebrook field:**

*The tenant farmer has received a formal caution on this one. I have it in writing from him that he will never again plant potatoes or maize on this field. He will revert to min-till combinable crops. He will greatly increase buffer strips. I am confident that this will vastly improve the situation. I have also informed the landowner that should this occur again that they will be 'knowingly permitting' the pollution of controlled waters and may be liable for allowing their tenant to create this situation."*

Footpath MB6, running through the field coming off Tump Lane, had been reported as being in a "poor state" and the Ward Cllr was "on the case". It was commented that footpaths needed to be walked regularly to keep them usable.

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

James Howells the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins. Also Members Monthly Update received and Street works updates.

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

5.1) To receive any correspondence – noting the Information Sheet (including any update on meetings attended by councillors)

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

Herefordshire Council:  
Talk Community bulletins  
Section 106 Portfolio of works delivery update

#### **Meeting Attendance Update**

No further update.

#### 6.0 Financial Report

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2022 HSBC Community Account	£17821.76
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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 for January	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£77.60
Lengthsman	£97.50

**Resolved:** that the payments were passed for payment: Unanimous.

A request for support had been received by Dore Community Transport. It was advised that 184 journeys had been made, on behalf of residents within the parish, during 2022. The parish council resolved to make a donation of £400.00 for the furtherance of their community transport service.

#### **Newsletter**

The Birches Newsletter team had been asked for a sight of their latest accounts, in keeping with the terms of the Much Birch Parish Council Donations Policy. These had not been supplied, as at the date of the January meeting. The Chair would speak with one of the Newsletter Team about this.

#### **7.0 Update on speeding and Community Speed Watch**

The Chair advised that she had chased up the PCSO in regard to the CSW. Nothing had been heard back to date and this would be chased up again.

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

### **8.1) To consider any planning applications and appeals as may be advised**

There was one new application for consideration of comments:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 223717 - Ashe Farm, Tump Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HR

**DESCRIPTION:** Change of use of part of agricultural building from class B8 storage and distribution plus outside area to Class E (all for the use by an agricultural machinery dealer, selling new and used machinery, sale of parts and agricultural sundries and conducting on and off site repairs on agricultural machinery).

**GRID REF:** OS 350145, 230691

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Planning Permission

The parish council considered the application and resolved to object to the application for the following reasons:

- 1) Generated traffic volumes and access plus exit concerns on an already restricted highway. Including concerns for other road users and peak travel at times of the school run.
- 2) Proximity and impact to a natural burial site
- 3) Proximity to the A49 junction
- 4) Potential breaches of weight limit restriction traffic regulation order (TRO)
- 5) The existing road surface is in a poor and broken condition. Concern that further heavy goods/plant and machinery vehicle use will exacerbate this issue.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

The general condition of Hollybush Lane was highlighted. The Ward Cllr had asked the Locality Steward to review this.

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

As ongoing

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

**Mr David Irwin, the Footpath Officer** can be contacted on 01981 345109 or by e mail at [David.Irwin13@btinternet.com](mailto:David.Irwin13@btinternet.com)

The Footpath Officer updated the meeting regarding further deterioration of the situation at path MB2 which was becoming "more dangerous" and with barbed wire present. This would be chased up with the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Team.

### **9.4) Update on parish land (as applicable)**

Fence reinstatement quotation had been obtained. The parish council were resolved to proceed on the basis of the quote received from the tenant of the land. Cllrs Cook and Goldsmith would attend the site to review the pegged out line and the fence would be reinstated on this line. The Clerk would write to the tenant confirming the acceptance of the fencing quote and advising regarding contact details for the site visit and marking out.

## **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 and include details of the Wrigglebrook silt situation and the reporting details for defects. Details for reporting defects are:

Report defects and issues on the Highway and Public Realm via the Herefordshire Council website <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road> Customer Services. If urgent then please call 01432 261800 Or use the report it app <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/reportingapp/>

**11.0 To discuss any matters relating to the Local Area Plan (Core Strategy) revision, Neighbourhood Development Plan and the consultation process – as applicable**

Consultations pertaining to the Local Area Plan (Core Strategy) were on the Herefordshire Council website.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also Community Speed Watch and parish land.

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

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

Future Meetings for 2023: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup>, No meeting in August, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> and Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

***The meeting closed at 8.08 pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date