

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 from 7.30 pm

#### Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr Roisin Burge  
Cllr D Baldwin  
Cllr A Crum

#### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and 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 apologies received from Footpath Officer Steve Owen.

#### 2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

#### 3.0 Co-option of councillor(s) – two vacancies

There were no candidates presented for co-option this time.

#### 4.0 Minutes of previous meeting

4.1) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held via Zoom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, were approved as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

#### 5.0 Reports

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

Golden Valley Briefing sent when received. It was commented that PCSO Fiona Witcher had retired.

**5.2) Ward Councillor** Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised on details regarding the latest Leader's Newsletter and matters relating to the Hereford Transport Strategy. School travel planning was under review in conjunction with Rev Mark Johnson and the Much Birch School. Herefordshire were looking at improvements to bus services for both city and rural routes. New staff members had been appointed to assist with this. Collaborative projects were being undertaken. A new museum and other projects such as refurbishment of the building at Castle Green were under way. The revenue support grant had been drastically reduced so ways were being sought to find funding opportunities.

The Ward Cllr advised that the Knife Angel was worth a visit at the Hereford Cathedral. Phosphate monitoring and testing was high priority. Training was available to enable testing. Planning developments were noted and the Pilgrim proposal was reduced down to five proposed properties.

The issues being experienced with the Tump Lane footpath construction were ongoing. Efforts would continue to find a way through.

The councillor expressed appreciation for the trees and seating arrangement improvements in the city.

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

**6.0 Update on Correspondence**  
**Correspondence from Herefordshire Council**

**7.0 Financial Report**

**7.1) The following bank balances were noted:**

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 HSBC Community Account	£11,755.25
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 HSBC Community Projects Account	£7,632.84

**7.2) 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 July and August

HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£151.80
Longfield Services (Lengthsman)	£129.50

**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.

In addition, a donation of £100.00 was agreed towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

**8.0 Village issues update**

**8.1)** To receive any update on Village issues – no further update

**8.2)** To receive any update re the A49 and speed limit – no further update

**8.3)** To consider possible signage re Waterloo Lane (no through road for traffic) - to proceed with finding out the cost of signage and fitting subject to agreement from residents also. Sign to say “No through road”.

**8.4)** To consider traffic restrictions in Tump Lane – there had been some interaction on social media regarding speeding on Tump Lane. Monitoring had taken place and two speeding tickets had been issued, during recent checks, one for speed of 41mph and one for 44mph in the 30mph zone. Representations by residents for no entry except for access and “one way” restrictions were not considered viable given the existing restrictions on the lane. Registration numbers of the offending vehicles need to be passed to the police so that they can take action. It was stated that the footpath, when constructed, would slow people down. There were currently issues with land ownership regarding this. The Ward Cllr advised that she would be speaking with the planning department officers and working hard to resolve the issues being experienced regarding the footpath issue. The Ward Councillor had also spoken to the planning officer regarding exits onto Tump Lane and the cumulative impact in regard to the fact that the Neighbourhood Development Plan does not include any further development around Tump Lane. Parameters are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and may not allow grounds to object. There were aims to make areas safer around schools and this may have implications for Tump Lane in the future.

**9.0 Planning Matters**

**9.1) To consider any planning applications**

There were two applications for consideration of comments:

Planning consultation - **211767** - Land adjoining Red House, Holly Bush Lane, Much Birch, HR2 8HX

“The Parish Council discussed the application 211767 and resolved to comment as follows:

*In regard to planning application 211767 - land adjoining Red House - outline permission for three houses.*

*The Much Birch Parish Council wish to **object** to the proposals for the following reasons: The proposed site falls considerably outside of the designated settlement boundary, as defined in the adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Axe and Cleaver area in Much Birch. The site is not compliant with the settlement boundary policies. There is also concern as to the narrow and congested aspect of the lane and access issues regarding the potential for the generation of more traffic there.*

*Thank you for considering these comments and this objection”.*

Planning consultation - **211683** – The Pilgrim Hotel, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HJ

The Parish Council discussed the application 211683 and resolved to comment as follows:

*“In regard to planning consultation 211683 for the Pilgrim Hotel, the Parish Council wish to **object** to the application proposals which see a reversion to six new houses from the five given permission originally plus new configuration for the six. The site recommendation within the Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan was for four houses; however permission was given for five. Three of the proposed new houses are now placed where two would have been and change the aspect, moving away from the NDP policy recommendations and creating a "street scene" which is thought undesirable in the setting.*

*Concern has been expressed about surface water run off from the site causing issues of flooding for an adjacent resident's property.*

*The Parish Council wish to pose some questions pertaining to the application please:*

*1) Is the newly constructed road going to continue being used as an exit route from the site for the residents of the new houses?*

*2) It is believed that a previous planning condition, regarding access and exit from the site using a one way entry and exit arrangement, may have been altered. Please can you confirm if users of the facility may now enter and exit the site from both Tump Lane and the A49?*

*Thank you for your consideration of these comments, questions and the overall objection to the new layout and number of proposed properties.”*

## **10.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

Ongoing as advised.

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

Routine, plus notice board from Conker Corner would be refurbished.

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

Rusty/dirty sign by bus stop, Kingsthorne. The Chair offered to wash this.

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

11.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website plus Twitter. Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter and would include dates of future meetings, as usual.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also co-option of new councillor

## **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> September 2021, from 7.30pm. Mode/venue to be advised

***The meeting closed at 8.42pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date