

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 7th July 2022 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr David Baldwin
Cllr Joseph Goldsmith

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Footpath Officer; David Irwin; PCSO; Carol Marsh and Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The PCSO explained that there had not been any “crime” issues in Much Birch. There had been some reported parking concerns outside the school. This was a Parking Enforcement responsibility, and was not under police jurisdiction. Those present at the meeting discussed the idea of Community Speed Watch. The PCSO outlined the process for starting a research exercise into the viability of a Community Speed Watch venture for Much Birch. Full details of how to progress the process would be sent to the Clerk, by the PCSO, after the meeting.

It was noted by the meeting that “Nottingham Knockers” had been calling on households in the village. Scam calls were still an ongoing concern.

The PCSO left the meeting at 7.53 pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence received from Cllr 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 9th June 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. The PCSO was in attendance at the meeting for a live update.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan was in attendance at the meeting. She had circulated correspondence during the month and would forward the latest Leader’s Report. The Ward Cllr advised that the local “Car Club” was being progressed but that there was an issue re holding the car at the time of the meeting.

An event to celebrate the 100th birthday anniversary of Violette Szabo GC was being held at the museum, in her name on Tump Lane, on the 10th July 2022 from 1.30 pm. Various attractions had been planned for the afternoon.

The Ward Cllr explained about a “levelling up” bid that was designed to try to provide employment space and to improve public transport. The Museum and Library were also capital projects that were subjects of funding bids.

The grass cutting and clippings issue at the play area in Tump Lane was being looked into with the possibility of a “mulching mower” being explored. The Ward Cllr would follow up on this again and also look into the question about a “No Ball Games” sign on the play area.

4.3) Locality Steward

James Howells the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins.

5.0) Update on Correspondence

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
Election Canvassing

Ward Cllr Toni Fagan

Road Safety on Tump Lane – letter from resident and Ward Cllr response.

Speeding – Community Speed Watch – representative from Much Dewchurch PC asked for any information he could provide on the experience of MDPC with the community speed watch campaign

Update on meetings attended by councillors

Cllr Chris Pickering Grey updated the meeting in regard to the recent Zoom meeting he had attended on the consultation regarding the new Local Area Plan. The new plan will supersede the old plan and clarity will be needed in regard to possible impact on the existing Neighbourhood Development Plans. The proposal for the distribution of new housing was under review with various suggested options. The meeting noted that there were issues with water, sewerage services and phosphate pollution of water courses. It was commented that conditions attached to planning permissions appear often to be “disregarded and that enforcement does not take place”. It was agreed that the Chair would draft a letter, to the Cabinet Member for Planning, highlighting the concerns about non-compliance with building conditions and the lack of enforcement in such events.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th June 2022 HSBC Community Account	£10,594.92
@ 13 th June 2022 HSBC Community Projects Account	£6,359.61

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 July and August
HM Revenue & Customs (tax) £72.80 and £91.00

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil

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

6.3) To approve completion of the bank projects account closure form

The closure of the projects account and transfer of funds to the main account was formerly agreed. The paperwork would be progressed and the Clerk would visit the bank to complete the transactions.

7.0 Update on speeding and Community Speed Watch

The parish council discussed the topic during the Open Session with the PCSO. Enquiries had also been made in regard to the experience of other groups. The list of process points would now be taken forward, once supplied by the PCSO. The hot spots for speeding would be identified and put forward for assessment. The Chair would also place information, on the Face Book Page for Much Birch, with an invitation for volunteers to come forward if interested in becoming involved in a possible speed watch team.

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 - 221844 - Ashe Farm, Tump Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HP

DESCRIPTION: Proposed change of use of two existing agricultural buildings to Class B8 Storage and Distribution

GRID REF: OS 350161, 230726

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Parish Council discussed the proposed change of use of the agricultural buildings in application 221844 and resolved that, whilst there were no actual objections to the proposals, the concerns regarding access and road usage (times of day and school traffic etc.) would be mentioned.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

As ongoing.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Ladywell Lane – to check re saplings that were growing up by the deep ditch, deep verge
To trim around grit bins at appropriate time

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

The Footpath Officer would report on any footpaths to be cleared. The Footpath Officer reported that he had either walked or run all of the parish footpaths but that they did not look as though they were being walked on.

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.

11.0 To discuss the parish liaison with Herefordshire Council (replacement officer)

The issue of the Parish Liaison Post was discussed. There had not been a direct replacement for the role of Parish Liaison Officer. The Community Hub was sending out information in bulletins but there was no longer a direct post holder to contact.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also Local Area Plan Consultation and Speed Watch.

13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 8^h September from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date