

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 6th July 2023 from 7.30 pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

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

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

David Irwin asked a question about “other payments” from the accounts. The amounts were detailed in the minutes of the respective meeting with a group total being reported on the end of year accounts papers.

The Open session closed at 7.35 pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Andy Crum and Cllr Michael Agyeman had sent their apologies.

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 8th June 2023, 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.

Police Commissioner Questionnaire – to review at the meeting

Locality Steward

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

Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan was in attendance at the meeting. The Ward Cllr reported in regard to the Early Years Assessment base consultation. There were measures in place to obtain funding to enable earlier assessments. The Herefordshire Children’s Services had signed up with Leeds City Council to emulate best practice examples. They were undertaking an “improvement journey”. This description was challenged by a councillor and clarification was given that this was considered “official” terminology and was not intended as flippancy in relation to the seriousness of the situation. There was a lot of focus on Childrens Services and issues were replicated across the country. A second Ofsted monitoring visit had just taken place. The issue of the Library closing and then moving was mentioned and a query was raised that the situation had not seemingly been publicised. The Communications Team should have communicated the changes. The Ward Cllr would feed back regarding the concern about the lack of information about the resource.

The Ward Cllr advised regarding efforts to strengthen hedgerow protection via a Defra consultation. It was agreed that there needed to be more robust enforcement powers in this area.

The Ward Cllr advised about Talk Community start up grants of £250 to help initiatives to assist with the prevention of suicide. There were also Awards for All Grants available from £10,000.00 to £20,000.00

4.2) To receive an update in regard to the Much Birch Poor Acre Charity
Dick Brimacombe, Trustee to the Poor Acre Charity was in attendance at the meeting. Mr Brimacombe advised that the Charity had received £170,000.00 for the Poor Acre land. Following deductions for compensatory payment, agent fees and legal fees the net amount was £112,759.00. The sum of around £100,000.00 to £105,000.00 was going to be handed to a financial investment planner to invest in “due course”. The question of accessibility was asked, should a lump sum be required? This would also be given consideration. The question of the possibility of a parish council member standing as a trustee was also mentioned? There had been previous relationship ties between the parish council and the charity in bygone years. The suggestion of a parish council trustee would be on the September 2023 Agenda for consideration. The trustees were asked to consider how they see the current relationship with the parish council? Details of the parent charity were: Joseph Cooke (et alia) Charity Number 215660. Details on the Charity Commission website at: <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-results/page/1/delta/20/keywords/215660>

The parish council thanked the trustees for their work involved in the sale and reconciliation of the land parcel.

5.0) Update on Correspondence

5.1) To receive any correspondence – noting the Information Sheet

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Talk Community bulletins

Registrable Interest Forms

The Clerk advised that advice had been sought regarding the attempt by Herefordshire Council to shift the online record holding of Registrable Interest Forms to parish council web sites. There had been no consultation on this, whatsoever, and as the statutory responsibility for the retention of the forms fell to the Local Authority, the advice was to maintain the status quo and to send the forms to the Monitoring Officer at Herefordshire Council.

5.2) To consider any parish council response to the Police Commissioner’s Questionnaire
The parish council went through the questions in the document and the Clerk took the details away to enter them into the online version of the form for submission to the Police Commissioner’s Department.

5.3) To consider any response to the “Herefordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan Main Modifications Consultation”

No comments were added.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balance was noted:

@ 13 th June 2023 HSBC Community Account	£17381.39
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6.2) To approve list of payments (circulated separately)

The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from bank account

Clerk paid in accordance with contract for July and for August	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£77.80 and £96.80
Longfield Services (Lengthsman)	£135.00
Much Birch Community Hall (hall hire)	£60.75

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

7.0 Planning Matters

7.1) To consider any planning applications and appeals as may be advised

There were two new applications for consideration of comments:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 231402 – Upper Wrigglebrook Croft, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire HR2 8AW

DESCRIPTION: Single storey extension to west end of the existing property.

GRID REF: OS 350031, 231945

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The parish council discussed and considered the proposals in application 231402 and resolved to comment on support of the application.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 231833 - Amberdale, Tump Lane, Wormelow, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HN

DESCRIPTION: Proposed single storey side extension, new porch canopy and partial exterior cladding.

GRID REF: OS 349380, 230299

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The parish council discussed and considered the proposals in application 231833 and resolved to comment on support of the application.

8.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Barrack Hill U71609, trees reported as overhanging the road (right hand side going up. This may be for Balfour Beatty to consult with the landowner(s). The Chair would discuss with Cllr Crum as regards the situation (possible liaison with householders).

8.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Thanks were recorded for the clearance undertaken.

8.3) 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 had met with the Footpath Inspector and Senior Rights of Way Officer. The Footpath Officer would forward a case issue, re the A49, to the Clerk for possible action with National Highways.

8.4) To receive any update on speeding in Tump Lane/Community Speed Watch

This had been chased up via the PCSO. Feedback was awaited. The Ward Cllr had been made aware of the situation also.

9.0 Parishes Newsletter and Much Birch Website

9.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website plus Twitter. Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter. This would include a summary of the responses to planning items.

10.0 To set up a working party to review parish assets

It was resolved to set up a working party to review the parish assets. All councillors to be members and to report the review findings to the parish council.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also parish assets working party update and consideration of possible parish council trusteeship of the Much Birch Poor Acre Charity

12.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 7th September 2023 from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

The Footpath Officer gave his apologies in advance for the September Meeting.

Future Meetings for 2023: Oct 5th, Nov 9th and Dec 7th

The meeting closed at 8.44 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date