

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr David Irwin  
Cllr Michael Agyeman  
Cllr Steve Turner  
Cllr Chris Pickering Grey  
Cllr Roisin Burge

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright

### Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no members of the public present.

#### **1.0 Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence received from Ward Cllr Toni Fagan

#### **2.0 Declarations of Interest**

There was one declaration of interest made. This was for Cllr Agyeman as School Governor in relation to school parking.

#### **3.0 Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held at the Much Birch Community Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 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 had sent her apologies and an update report. It was noted that the recent peer review, in Herefordshire Council held under the Corporate Peer Challenge, contained elements that did not appear to reflect the reality of some of the things that had actually been said. The parish council asked the Clerk to make this known to the Chief Executive.

Congratulations were recorded to the Ward Cllr for obtaining “Tree Preservation Orders” on trees at Queens Close near to the Post Office in Wormelow.

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

The Monthly Update had been received and also street works updates from Balfour Beatty. A councillor raised some anomalies in the reports from the Steward. The Clerk would query these with him, once advised of the details.

#### **5.0) Update on Correspondence and Neighbourhood Development Plan**

##### **5.1) To receive any correspondence – noting the Information Sheet**

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

Talk Community bulletins

A resident had raised a query about tidiness at the parish land at Rosebank.



This was noted and it was decided that an informal approach should be made in the first instance.

**5.2) To receive any update on matters relating to the Neighbourhood Development Plan (as applicable)**

The three working party group members planned to look at the numbers of applications and homes going out and coming in to see what the numbers were looking like. Only properties that had actually been built were counted towards the total. It was noted that there would not be any further funding from central government for facilitating neighbourhood planning. The next planned group meetings would be held on 10<sup>th</sup> July and 28<sup>th</sup> August. Everyone would be welcome.

**5.3) To discuss recent correspondence about school and village parking and review any actions/recommendations**

The parish council had been copied into a letter concerning school and village parking. The Chair had spoken with the author of the letter. A response had been received back from the Reverend Mark Johnson, to the original writer, but there had not been dispensation for this to be shared to a wider audience. The parish council discussed the parking issues and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Rev. Mark to suggest the use of advance warning of events, via all means of available media, to help keep people informed of when bulk parking events may be likely to occur. It was also agreed that there should be acknowledgement of the success stories of the school and thanking for any publicity initiatives utilised.

**5.4) To discuss correspondence received about the Much Birch Memorial Clock**

The parish council had been given sight of a paper containing the issues facing the memorial clock and a breakdown of quotes for the remedial works. Further quotes had been commissioned by the church. The Clerk was asked to thank the Rev. Mark for sending in the information, via parish council colleagues, and that the content had been noted. The parish council would convey the sentiment, to Rev. Mark, that they would await news of the church memorial clock fund-raising initiatives.

## **6.0 Financial Report**

**6.1) The following bank balance was noted:**

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 HSBC Community Account	£13440.28
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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 August 2025

HM Revenue & Customs (tax July and August) £89.80 and £112.20

**Resolved:** that the payments were passed for payment - unanimous

## **7.0 Planning Matters**

**7.1) To consider any planning applications or appeals, as may be advised**

There were two new applications or appeals for consideration of comments.

The first was: Planning Consultation - **250953** – Wenallt, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire, HR2 8AL.

This was for a proposed change of levels at rear garden formed by gabions. Revision to

Application 232379 (part retrospective)

The Parish Council discussed the application 250953 and decided that there were no further comments that they wished to make, save for deferring to those with the knowledge and technical expertise concerning the type of gabion baskets in use at the property.



The second application was: Planning Consultation - **251516** - Land at Ladywell Cottage, Ladywell Lane, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire, HR2 8AW. This was for approval of reserved matters following outline approval for planning permission for the development of single dwelling house.

The Parish Council discussed the application 251516 and decided that there were strong objections, to the proposals, from the parish council. The objections centred round the proximity of a sewerage treatment plant to a water course. These concerns would be communicated to the planning department.

## **8.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

The drain, and road surface had collapsed in the road opposite Jasmine Cottage in Wrigglebrook Lane.

### **8.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman and direct/determine actions**

The Clerk was still awaiting the specification of works and more accurate quotes. A member advised that the lengthsman had said that would be dealing with quotes in the first week of July.

### **8.3) Footpath Officer – to receive any update or action points and funding /activities**

**Mr David Irwin, the Footpath Officer** can be contacted on **07766 135068** or by e mail at [MBfootpaths@btinternet.com](mailto:MBfootpaths@btinternet.com)

The Footpath Officer, Cllr Irwin, had sent his report and he updated the meeting about the contents. Some footpath clearance was booked with Enviroability for some dates in July. New stiles and steps were being fitted and the Ross's Walkers are Welcome were changing stiles, where possible, for gates. Cllr Irwin would submit the Public Rights of Way Grant application for 2025 – 2026. There was an idea being floated about QR codes on walks to direct people to the Much Birch website and information. Cllr Irwin would liaise with the web master on this. The local footpath officers meeting had seen increased numbers attending. There were more parish walks coming up on 14<sup>th</sup> September and 12<sup>th</sup> October.

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

9.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website plus X (formerly known as Twitter).

The Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter. This would include a summary of the responses to planning items. A separate article reminding of the need to clear up hedge cuttings would also be sent to the Editor.

## **10.0 Matters to be raised on the Agenda etc. for the next meeting**

All the usual items would be included. Also parish land update and Wrigglebrook issues.

## **11.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025, from 7.30pm, in the Much Birch Community Hall. No meeting in August.

***The meeting closed at 8.55 pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date