

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 3rd June 2021 from 7.30 pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan plus three members of the public

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.
Cllr A Crum was not present.

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 Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Council Meetings, held via Zoom on the 6th May 2021, were approved as true and correct records of the Meetings.

5.0 Reports

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

Golden Valley Briefing sent when received.

5.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised on details regarding the latest full council meeting which had been held at the Three Counties Hotel. Sebastian Bowen had been re-elected as Council Chairman. Changes required to the Children's Services Department had been identified following a High Court ruling. A number of changes to positions were taking place and new appointments were being made.

Most people were managing to pay their council tax and there were "no enormous financial problems looming. The biggest "red flags" were around environment and thought was being given on how to engage with community groups.

A legal challenge had been mounted following a decision on planning in Garway where the Neighbourhood Development Plan/ settlement boundary had not been regarded and a planning refusal had been overturned by an Inspector.

Links between Llanwarne and Much in terms of geographical boundary, by the old garage at Axe and Cleaver – New Croft Farm – work required to three stiles. Path identified as MB8.

Broadband improvements to connection for the local area – Giga Clear were reviewing options.

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

6.0 Update on Correspondence

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Talk Community Covid Update – 21/05/21

Talk Community Covid Update – 28/05/21

Section 106 Town/Parish Wish List

The Queen's Green Canopy in Herefordshire launch – tree planting initiative

ONS Census 2021 Thank you to Herefordshire Parish Councils

A personal message from Paul Walker, New Chief Executive Herefordshire Council

HALC

Clarification on the rule of six for PC meetings

HALC Information Corner 10-5-21

Letter regarding road safety issues on the A49

PCC Town and Parish Council Survey

Internal Audit

This has been completed.

Knife Angel (Hereford) Project – tackling knife and aggressive crime through training and awareness – request for support with funding the workshops received.

Village Memorial Clock – request for help with the servicing cost of £198.00 plus the clock will require a new intermediate wheel for the dial as the original one is worn.

7.0 Financial Report

7.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th May 2021 HSBC Community Account	£12,281.33
@ 13 th May 2021 HSBC Community Projects Account	£7,732.84

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

HM Revenue & Customs (tax) £73.00

Payments to be made from Community account

Groundwork UK (reimburse NDP Grant) £738.00

Resolved: that the payments were passed for payment: (proposed by Cllr Baldwin and seconded by Cllr Cook) Unanimous.

In addition, a donation of £100.00 was agreed for the Knife Angel Hereford Project and also £198.00 for the Memorial Clock Annual Service.

(7.3) To sign Exemption Certificate for accounts 2020 – 2021

The Exemption Certificate for 2020 – 2021 was approved and signed

(7.4) To sign and approve Annual Governance Statement 2020 – 2021

The Annual Governance Statement 2020 – 2021 was approved and signed

(7.5) To sign and approve Accounting Statement 2020 - 2021

The Accounting Statement 2020 – 2021 was approved and signed

8.0 Village issues update

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

8.2) Correspondence re the A49 - a letter had been received from a local resident concerned about the speed limit on the A49 plus the overgrowth of hedging etc. on the pathway adjacent to the A49. There was a discussion about previous meetings concerning the speed limit in relation to the installation of the crossing at the top of Tump Lane. The Ward Cllr mentioned a Highways England representative who may be able to assist and she would provide an introduction to him for the Clerk. Ian Connolly, Highways Safety Advisor to the Police would also be consulted. The Ward Cllr would be copied into the correspondence.

9.0 Planning Matters

9.1) To consider any planning applications

The Chair registered a big “thank you” to all those involved in the Neighbourhood Development Plan which had passed successfully through the referendum held on May 6th. A thank you would be sent to the Steering Group Chair and the Parish Council recorded thanks to all councillors, past and present, plus Clerk and Steering Group members.

There were two applications for consideration of comments:

Planning Re-consultation - **204377** - Land at Ashe Farm

The Parish Council discussed the application 204377 and resolved to comment as follows:

“In regard to the amended application for 204377 - Land at Ashe Farm, Tump Lane, the Much Birch Parish Council has considered the changes that have been made to the original application and can see no reason to object to the revised proposals. However, the PC would make the comment that although they welcome the fact that the initial observations appear to have been addressed, there are concerns that works would appear to have begun ahead of the granting of formal approval? Other than this concern the issues raised re percolation testing, traffic and highways appear to have been satisfactorily resolved.”

Planning Re-consultation - **203892** - Ladywell Cottage

The Parish Council discussed the application 203892 and resolved to comment as follows:

“The initial concerns that were raised by the parish council, in terms of the original plans not meeting the design aspirations of the NDP, would appear to have been noted and revised in terms of building design. Revision to the building material and additional amendments are appreciated. The only ongoing concerns that the parish council would like to highlight are the disposal of sewerage waste for the property, which does not appear to be clarified in the plans and also there is the concern over right of passage over what is a shared access. It is hoped that there will be a robust legal agreement set in place to ensure right of passage to the second home on the site as the properties are on a single carriageway road and safe access is very important.”

10.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Aconbury Close – drains cleaned and pumped out?

To check Waterloo Lane, opposite end of Wrigglebrook Lane, as HGV were going up a single track lane regularly. A possible requirement for advisory signage would be looked into?

Issues that had arisen in connection with recent temporary road closures within the parish had been taken up by the Chair.

10.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Water reported as flowing across the road during periods of heavy rainfall at the Wrigglebrook Lane junction with Ticklewithy Pitch. There do not appear to be any drains or ditches and water just crosses the road? Lengthsman to liaise re the householder concerns.
Hollybush Lane – dog fouling signs to be fitted.
Refurbishment of notice board by the bus stop to be carried out

10.3 Footpath Officer – to receive any update or action points

The Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent his apologies. To refer paths as identified for checking re issues and stiles etc.

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.

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 and churchyard upkeep donation request plus 106 monies wish list

13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 8th July 2021, from 7.30pm. Mode/venue to be advised

The meeting closed at 8.35 PM

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date