

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 9th June 2022 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey
Cllr Joseph Goldsmith

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Lengthsman; Paul Wright plus one member of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no comments during the open session. The Open Session closed at 7.31pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence received from Cllrs David Baldwin, Roisin Burge and Andy Crum plus Ward Cllr Toni Fagan

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Council Meetings, held at the Much Birch Community Hall on the 5th May 2022, were approved as true and correct records of the Meetings.

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. She had circulated the Council Leader's Report.

4.3) Locality Steward

James Howells the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins.

5.0) Update on Correspondence

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Herefordshire Council:
Talk Community Newsletters
June road closures

HALC

HALC Training Schedule May-July 2022

Ward Councillor Tony Fagan

Information re De Koffie Pot - Discussions on Core Strategy Review

Correspondence regarding local hedgerow removal and replacement

An e mail had been received concerning the removal of local hedgerow at a village property and conformity with planning requirements. A reply would be drafted and circulated to the parish council before being sent.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th May 2022 HSBC Community Account	£11,448.05
@ 13 th May 2022 HSBC Community Projects Account	£6,364.61

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 June
HM Revenue & Customs (tax) £91.00

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil

Resolved: that the payments were passed for payment: Unanimous. Cheques would be signed by the Chair and Clerk.

6.3) To sign and approve the Exemption Certificate 2021 - 2022

The Exemption Certificate 2021 - 2022 was approved and signed

6.4) To sign and approve Annual Governance Statement 2021 - 2022

The Annual Governance Statement 2021 - 2022 was approved and signed

6.5) To sign and approve Accounting Statement 2021 - 2022

The Accounting Statement 2021 - 2022 was approved and signed

7.0 Update on Community Hub

The parish council acknowledged that the idea of the community hub had moved up to something more complicated than had first been thought, with a "heavy volunteer role". It was noted that the "Directory" services were web based and it was agreed that a social media push would be made in the summer with signposting to the hub, tying in mindfulness etc. The parish council would explore the ideas of computer training for residents and look at options for this on offer from organisations like Fastershire and HVOSS.

8.0 Planning Matters

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

There were no new applications for consideration of comments.

It was commented that the appeal for the Kennels refusal of the application had been dismissed on the first point of the appeal.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

It was noted that the potholes that had been marked up had been filled in.

The fingerpost on path MB10 near the Axe and Cleaver (opposite side of road near Hollybush Cottage) was on the floor and now overgrown.

Path MB7 - top of Parish Lane - Little Birch Road - fingerpost had not been put back either. These had been reported previously and would be re-reported on the new PROW e mail.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

9.3) Footpath Officer – to appoint and to receive any update or action points

A new Footpath Officer was appointed. He is **Mr David Irwin** and he can be contacted on 01981 345109 or by e mail David.Irwin13@btinternet.com

Thanks were recorded to David for taking on the role.

The A49 footpath was overgrown. This was the responsibility of National Highways.

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

To maintain liaison with the Safer Neighbourhood Team and also to contact the representative in Much Dewchurch regarding how they were progressing with a community speed watch initiative. Much Dewchurch also had a permanent speed indicator device.

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 (communications) and in particular reference to the Core Strategy (Local Area Plan) consultation process

It was agreed that the topic of parish liaison would be discussed with the Ward Councillor at the next meeting and whether or not there was a replacement officer for the one who had left recently.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also Community Liaison Officer – new appointment?

13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 7th July 2022, from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date