

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 8th June 2023 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Michael Agyeman (co-opted at the meeting)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Chris Pickering Grey

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Ward Cllr Toni Fagan plus one member of the public (co-opted)

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
No comments were made. The Open session closed at 7.31 pm.

1.0 Co-option of Councillor

There were two recommendations for the position of councillor. One candidate was present at the meeting and he introduced himself. The other candidate had put himself forward, but was not in attendance due to a prior arrangement. There was a ballot of the members present. Cllr Michael Agyeman was elected as councillor and he signed his declaration of acceptance. The parish council welcomed Cllr Agyeman.

2.0 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Andy Crum had sent his apologies. Cllr Joseph Goldsmith was not present.

3.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

4.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Council Meetings, held at the Much Birch Community Hall on the 11th May 2023, 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 – Newsletter circulated when received.

5.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan was in attendance at the meeting. The Ward Cllr reported that the Herefordshire Council now comprised of a Conservative Minority Administration. The Ward Cllr advised that she had been appointed as Chairperson of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. She gave an overview of the situation in Childrens Services. Improvements were said to be “drastically required.” There was a lot of work to do and a request for fostering support. Scrutiny training was being put into place for councillors.

There was also an update concerning the planning application for Ashe Farm, for the change of use. Factors noted included weight limit on the road, possible timing restrictions and possible damage to the highway (potholes etc.)? Resurfacing of the road would be put on the “list”. The Ward Cllr was looking into a situation of hedge removal which was in the hands of the Enforcement Officer.

The B4348 at Llanwarne was being resurfaced from 19 June 2023.

The comment was made that Pontrilas and Avara lorries “should not be going up Tump Lane” (weight restriction).

5.3) Locality Steward

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

6.0) Update on Correspondence

6.1) To receive any correspondence – noting the Information Sheet

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Talk Community bulletins

Chase up for election expenses forms

7.0 Financial Report

7.1) The following bank balance was noted:

@ 13th May 2023 HSBC Community Account £15194.69

7.2) 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 June

HM Revenue & Customs (tax) £77.80

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

7.3) To sign Exemption Certificate for accounts 2022 – 2023

The Exemption Certificate for accounts 2022 – 2023 was approved by the council and signed by the chair

7.4) To sign and approve Annual Governance Statement 2022 – 2023

The Annual Governance Statement 2022 – 2023 was approved by the council and signed by the chair

7.5) To sign and approve Accounting Statement 2022 - 2023

The Accounting Statement 2022 – 2023 was approved by the council and signed by the chair

7.6) To confirm bank signatory arrangements

Bank signatory change forms had been received but may be the incorrect type? The Chair would call into the bank to clarify this and then continue with the setting up of Cllr Goldsmith as a signatory.

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 - 231114 - Land at The Old Post Office, Wormelow, Herefordshire

DESCRIPTION: Outline Planning Permission for the erection of 2 semi-detached dwellings with revised vehicular access and parking.

GRID REF: OS 349299, 230034

APPLICATION TYPE: Outline

The parish council resolved to object to the proposals for two dwellings in application 231114. The primary reasons for this were concerning access and highway safety for the householders, increased traffic onto the B4348 and the proximity of the site with the A466 junction. The speed of vehicles coming through the vicinity and concerns over parking were also noted. The draft comments would be circulated before submission. There was also a comment regarding cross referencing for another planning application, for the area, in terms of traffic impact.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Potholes and eroded road surface at the Community Centre Junction with the Kingsthorpe road on the A49

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

As ongoing, clear pathway by school, also to check the grit bin on the left hand side of the road going towards the school. Paths MB2 and MB7 clearing

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 had sent his apologies and an update. The situation regarding a query of the possible relocation of the path MB24 was clarified and location was “in order”. The paths MB2 and MB7 required clearing (strimming).

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

There had been no further communication. There were noted to be “lots” of Speed Indicator Devices in operation in Wales.

Update on parish land (not agenda item)

No current update on the fencing situation. The location was advised as being “overgrown with brambles”. Contact had been made by the owner of the adjacent site. He had spoken with the Chair. Some enquiries would be made and the topic would be on the Agenda for the July 2023 Parish Council Meeting.

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. This would include a summary of the responses to planning items. The new councillor details would also be included.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also parish land

12.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 6th July 2023 from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

Future Meetings for 2023: No meeting in August, Sept 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 9th and Dec 7th

The meeting closed at 8.51 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date