

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

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

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and three members of the public

### Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

There were apologies for absence received from Cllr Roisin Burge and 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 Statutory Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting, held at the Much Birch Community Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 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 and an update report.

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

The Monthly Update had been received and also street works updates from Balfour Beatty. There had been a water leak in Wrigglebrook Pitch and the road had been closed for repairs. The road was open again.

#### **5.0) Update on Correspondence and Parish Land**

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

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

Talk Community bulletins

Letter from Avril Shaw one of the directors of the Larkrise Cohousing project on Tump Lane. Avril was present at the meeting with Rebecca, who was employed as a Hereford Rural Community Housing Enabler. Avril had asked about a housing needs survey for the parish. The Chair explained that the parish council would not be supporting a housing needs survey, at the current time, and would only possibly be looking at undertaking such a survey as part of a future review of the Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan.

#### **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 HSBC Community Account £13911.91

**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 June 2025

HM Revenue & Customs (tax April) £90.00

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

**6.3) To sign Exemption Certificate for accounts 2024 – 2025**

The Exemption Certificate for accounts 2024 – 2025 was approved by the council and signed by the chair

**6.4) To sign and approve Annual Governance Statement 2024 – 2025**

The Annual Governance Statement 2024 – 2025 was approved by the council and signed by the chair

**6.5) To sign and approve Accounting Statement 2024 - 2025**

The Accounting Statement 2024 – 2025 was approved by the council and signed by the chair

**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 - **251148** - Land at Ladywell Cottage, Ladywell Lane, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire, HR2 8AW. This was for planning permission for a proposed new detached dwelling.

The Parish Council discussed the application 251148 and decided that there were no objections, to the proposals, from the parish council.

The second application was: Planning Consultation - **251221** - The Maples, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AX. This was for a Full Householder application for a proposed single storey extension which also extends beyond the side elevation of the existing house.

The Parish Council discussed the application 251221 and decided that there were no objections, to the proposals, from the parish council.

A further application, **251516**, had only just been received and an extension to the deadline for comments would be requested to enable discussion at the July parish Council Meeting. If an extension to the comments deadline was not possible, the between meetings planning policy would be used.

**8.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

The defects in the surface etc. at Hollybush Lane had been reported and were on the list for remedial action. Further reports of defects were being submitted as required.

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

The Clerk had written to the Lengthsman and the parish council was awaiting the specification of works and more accurate costs.

**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. There had been no reply from the Public Rights of Way Team about path MB22. There had been difficulties contacting anyone in the PROW Team for the past four weeks. Many footpaths were overgrown and may be some work for Enviroability to undertake?

In July Enviroability could be asked to clean the bus stops and signs and repair stiles. The dates for these actions would be confirmed. A local walking group were seeking to replace stiles with gates around parish walks. Getting hold of gates was proving to be a challenge. The available grants were to be the same amounts as in the previous year. Clarification would be given after the next PROW Meeting. Cllr Irwin would be looking at the form content for the application. The form was described as not being easy to use, or suitable for the purpose.

#### **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.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also issues with school parking were raised following a recent and well attended school event. Also on the agenda would be the parish memorial clock refurbishment project and the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

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

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025, from 7.30pm, in the Much Birch Community Hall.

***The meeting closed at 8.05 pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date