

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 from 7.30 pm**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr Roisin Burge  
Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair)  
Cllr A Crum  
Cllr D Baldwin

#### **In attendance:**

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan plus three members of the public and Mr Russell Pryce; Land Agent

#### **Open Session:-**

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

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

There were apologies received from Cllr Veronica Thomas and Footpath Officer Steve Owen.

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

There were no declarations of interest made.

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

3.1) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held via Zoom on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 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 sent when received.

**4.2) Ward Councillor** Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised about matters relating to Herefordshire Council. Herefordshire was being promoted as a “staycation” destination. The Cyber Centre on the Enterprise Zone had been completed. The number of looked after children was coming down. Planning in the north of the county was on hold due to phosphate levels and the River Lugg. There was a lot of negotiation regarding the situation at present.

A considerable amount of local litter picking was taking place around the parish. Biodiversity and bulb planting on the A49 was being encouraged. Proposals were being put forward to Highways England for funding and Verging on Wild were involved. More information could be presented to the PC if desired.

There was to be a full council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Details would be available on You Tube.

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

#### **5.0 Update on Correspondence**

The updates were noted and included from Herefordshire Council:

ROAD CLOSURES - FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021 - 26.02.2021

Talk Community Covid update 26 February 2021

#### **Proposal to lay electric cables across parish land at Barrack Hill**

Russell Pryce, Land Agent for the developer building at Barrack Hill next to the parish land at Rosebank was in attendance. He had asked the Parish Council to consider the possibility of laying electrical cables to serve the new homes etc. under the parish land. The proposal would see the cable(s) move from overhead to underground. The Parish Council listened to the proposal and determined that they would talk to the tenant of the parish land and look at the proposals with a view to making a decision. Further information may be sought and the possibility of compensation considered.

Russell Pryce left the meeting at 8.02 PM.

## **6.0 Financial Report**

### **6.1) The following bank balances were noted:**

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 HSBC Community Account	£10,727.24
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 HSBC Community Projects Account	£8,012.84

### **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	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£67.40
HALC Subscription 2021 – 2022	£685.57

#### **Payments to be made from Community account**

Mr W Bloxsome (NDP Consultant)	£280.00
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**Resolved:** that the payments were passed for payment: (proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Cook) Unanimous.

## **7.0 Village issues update**

**7.1)** To receive any update on Village issues – no further issues were noted.

**7.2)** Self-help gritting scheme  
All was currently okay.

**7.3)** Parish Land – update (discussed at number 5)

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

### **8.1) To consider any planning applications**

There were two applications for consideration of comments:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 210090 - Green Willow, Wrigglebrook Kingsthorpe, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8AR  
**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed increase of main roof pitch, the provision of a dormer and rooflights to new bedroom together with fenestration changes.  
**APPLICANT(S):** Mr L Turner  
**GRID REF:** OS 350380, 231621  
**APPLICATION TYPE:** Full Householder

The Parish Council discussed the details of application 210090 and resolved to comment that they had no objections.

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 210025 - Land at South Herefordshire Hunt Kennels, Wormelow, Herefordshire, HR2 8HN

**DESCRIPTION:** Application for permission in principle for residential development of 2 - 9 dwellings with package treatment plant.

**APPLICANT(S):** Mr Charles O'Conner

**GRID REF:** 349447 - 230297

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Permission in principle

Session one of the PC Meeting ended at 8.10 PM and session two commenced at 8.15 PM. The parish councillors, Ward Cllr Fagan and four members of the public were present.

The Parish Council discussed the details of application 210025 and heard representation from local residents. A number of concerns were highlighted and these included access and highway safety plus matters relating to the settlement boundary, as defined in the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan for Much Birch. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be objecting to the proposal of permission in principle and the draft response would be circulated to the members by the Clerk, for their approval, before submission to the Planning Authority. Ward Cllr Fagan advised that she had requested referral regarding the decision to the Planning Committee.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

Potholes were noted on Wrigglebrook/Minster Farm. There were also potholes at the top of Paige's Pitch outside Cyprus Cottage.

### **9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman**

Ongoing works to be completed.

### **9.3) Footpath Officer – to receive any update or action points**

The Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent a comprehensive report. Lists of paths with works required would be reviewed.

## **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 Neighbourhood Plan**

To Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan would be going forward to referendum on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the final plan would be available in public venues.

## **12.0 Poor Acre – update re land and planning**

To receive update regarding the Poor Acre and planning

The Clerk had made enquiries with the Trustees and had obtained the answers to the questions as raised, including regarding future proofing of land value for the Charity which had been taken care of. The Parish Council had asked for the relevant updates and the item would now be removed from the Agenda.

## **13.0 Matters to be raised on the Agenda for the next meeting**

All the usual items would be included.

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

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the Zoom Platform on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021, from 7.30pm.

***The meeting closed at 8.43 pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date