

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey  
Cllr Joseph Goldsmith  
Cllr David Baldwin  
Cllr Roisin Burge

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Lengthsman; Paul Wright and Ward Cllr Toni Fagan plus one member 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 for absence received from Cllr Andy Crum

### 2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

### 3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held at the Much Birch Community Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, were approved as a true and correct record of the Meeting. The Clerk made a special thank you to Cllr Goldsmith for deputising for her at the February Meeting and taking the minutes.

### 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 circulated a number of e mails. The Leader's latest report would be coming out also. There was the possibility of a new grant for digital broadband services for home owners, for those unable to obtain a satisfactory service. This would be an interim solution to get a broadband service from a mobile signal. A community broadband grant was going to come in from a community perspective. The government were trying to get everyone connected. Householders could undertake a broadband performance test using Google search engine in order to establish their level of existing service and the potential to obtain grant funding towards an upgrade. Information about the grants would be published on social media and would also be in the précis for the newsletter.

The Ward Cllr advised that the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee were looking at the impact of intensive poultry units on health and wellbeing.

The Ward Cllr had received a letter from a Tump Lane resident and was taking up the issues raised. These included investigating the possibility of a tree preservation order for the Acacia tree at the Millennium Green. The issue of a footpath for Tump Lane was also being taken further. The Ward Cllr stated that she would seek to address the issues that were in her power. It was mentioned that perhaps a Residents Association would be a good idea? There was the possibility of a "Car Club" being set up. In regards to the Platinum Jubilee the Ward Cllr advised

that another parish had co-ordinated with their school and were planting 70 trees for the “Green Canopy” initiative.

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

James Howells the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins.

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

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

ROAD CLOSURES – MARCH

Talk Community Newsletters

Spatial awareness consultation

Herefordshire Greener Footprints Survey and Pledge

In regard to the Spatial Options Consultation, comments were made about identifying vision, integrating services such as transport, health facilities and infrastructure etc. It was agreed that the Much Birch Parish Council would contribute comments to the consultation. The Clerk would draft these and circulate for input and comments from the parish councillors.

The Herefordshire Trail was noted re footpath route. Footpath Officer would be asked to keep an eye on any posts along the route (specifically marked).

#### **6.0 Financial Report**

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

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022 HSBC Community Account	£10,376.50
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022 HSBC Community Projects Account	£6,379.61

##### **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 March HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£69.20
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##### **Payments to be made from Community account**

Nil

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

There were some issues with the recently submitted bank signatory mandate. A letter had been received saying that the form used was not the correct one. The correct mandate form had been difficult for the bank to locate as it was not on the website nor was it on the branch systems. This was being resolved. If there were no improvements to the service from the bank an alternative provider may be investigated. HALC could be asked for any bank recommendations. The consideration of the two accounts being merged could be explored to cut bank charges.

#### **7.0 Village issues update**

##### **7.1) To receive any update on Village issues –**

The Clerk would write to the builder with the new houses adjacent to the parish land and say that the e mail record of the site meeting, as sent, confirms the understanding between the parties.

**7.2) To look at any updates on local issues, as had been raised in a separate correspondence, (incl. grass cutting, path clearance and speeding in Tump Lane)**

A letter had been sent, by the Clerk, to Much Dewchurch about the condition of the footpath from the shop in Wormelow, as raised in correspondence from a resident. The remaining elements of the letter would be addressed by the Chair in a written response to the sender. Speeding in Tump Lane would be retained on the Agenda.

### **7.3) Talk Community Hubs**

The Ward Cllr updated about hubs held at Llanwarne. The first had been quite well attended, the second, less so, and the third, no-one came. Face book could be used to publicise. The idea of attaching the Community Hub to a Community Café was suggested. The parish council would liaise with the Community Café representatives. £2500 seed funding may be available to help set up and access a hub facility. It was agreed that Cllrs Goldsmith and Pickering-Grey would talk to the Café personnel. The next session was due to take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> March.

### **7.4) Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The parish council would not lead on any celebration but would tie in with any other activities as may be arranged.  
Keep on Agenda.

## **8.0 Planning Matters**

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

There was a new application for consideration of comments:

**APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:** Planning Consultation - 220458 - Rhosfryn, Tump Lane, Wormelow, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HN

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed removal of existing single storey garage/utility and construction of new single storey side extension. Creation of two dormer windows to rear elevation and alterations to dormer window to front elevation. Alterations to existing drive area.

**GRID REF:** OS 349444, 230341

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Full Householder

The Parish Council resolved to support the proposals detailed in planning consultation 220458.

There were also details of an appeal against a planning decision for:

Appeal: **210025** - Land at South Herefordshire Hunt Kennels, Wormelow, Herefordshire, HR2 8HN

The parish council considered the appeal information and agreed that there had been additional aspects requiring clarification in terms of available land supply and the weight afforded to the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The relevant representation would be submitted to the appeal process.

## **9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

Wrigglebrook Lane – near Jasmine Cottage driveway, drains blocked with soil

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

Finger post at Tump A466 – check re clip?

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

The Footpath Officer had advised of overgrowth on MB20. Strimming required.

## **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. Précis would include details about broad band speeds and grant funding.

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

All the usual items would be included. Queens Jubilee, Talk Community and Tump Lane speeding

**12.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

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

***The meeting closed at 8.42pm***

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date