

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 2nd March 2023 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr David Baldwin
Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Andy Crum

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Ward Cllr Toni Fagan and the Footpath Officer David Irwin

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
No comments made.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Joseph Goldsmith was not present.

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 2nd February 2023, 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 – Newsletter circulated when received.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan was in attendance at the meeting. The Ward Cllr reported that she too had heard that the Community Speed Watch co-ordinator person had left. The Ward Cllr updated about some meetings with the Locality Steward on location concerning the Tump Lane resurfacing works. There were some issues with the verges being crushed and eroded and the service access points were now out in the road. Some “Pedestrians in Road” signs had been suggested by Balfour Beatty as a short term option. A locked gate on a footpath off Tump Lane was being investigated as the walk was part of the Hereford Trail, in proximity to the Violette Szabo museum etc. There was some evidence that work had been carried out on public footpath MB2 but it was not thought “good”. The Footpath Officer would be sending some images of the situation to the Ward Cllr.

4.3) Locality Steward

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

5.0) Update on Correspondence

5.1) To receive any correspondence – noting the Information Sheet (including any update on meetings attended by councillors)

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Herefordshire Council:
Talk Community bulletins
Election Information – ID requirement

HALC

Various and including election information – to check May 2023 meeting date

Meeting Attendance Update

No further update.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13th Feb 2023 HSBC Community Account £16026.38

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) £77.60

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

It was agreed that the HALC invoice should not be paid and that alternative membership of the professional body (SLCC) would be sought.

7.0 Update on speeding and Community Speed Watch

E mails had been sent to the new person co-ordinating the speed watch. These would be checked as to receipt. Some enquiries for a 20mph speed limit for Tump Lane had been made to the Chair. The Chair would confirm that this was not something that the parish council would be seeking to pursue.

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 - 230231 – Land south of Wormelow Shop, Wormelow, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8EJ

DESCRIPTION: Outline for the erection of 7 dwellings and associated works

GRID REF: OS 349218, 230013

APPLICATION TYPE: Outline

The parish council resolved to comment as follows:

“Comment: Much Birch Parish Council has no objections to the planning consultation 230231 but would just like to make the following observations/comments.

The site is believed to have drainage issues and water is often seen to be lying at the location, with soggy areas and there have been observations of sewerage like smells in the vicinity, on occasions. Any consent for planning would need to have robust draining systems in place to prevent the area becoming water logged and with resultant drainage issues. It is noted that the plans contain an indicative layout and the parish council would like to make the comment that highway safety for access and exit to and from the site is an important factor. The road is a busy one and good visibility for road users, and any prospective home owners, must be a priority in the consideration of the layout and visibility splays etc.”

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Some potholes had been filled in down Wrigglebrook Lane.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

As ongoing. New contract arrangements with Herefordshire Council with grant funding for 2023 to 2024.

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 was in attendance at the meeting and he updated the meeting regarding public footpath MB22 at Little Brook where a collapsed stile had been reported to the Public Rights of Way Team. Footpath MB8 had been looked at and some replacement stiles and cutting back of hedges were to be organised.

9.4) Update on parish land (as applicable)

The tenant had not made contact, to date, with the councillors in regard to the marking out of the fence line. The Chair asked if the fencing could be chased up after April.

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.

The Chair would also put forward a letter with Little Birch regarding the responsibility for the ditch and drainage systems on Barrack Hill. The Chair would pass details to the Locality Steward.

11.0 To discuss any matters relating to the Local Area Plan (Core Strategy) revision, Neighbourhood Development Plan and the consultation process – as applicable

Consultations pertaining to the Local Area Plan (Core Strategy) were on the Herefordshire Council website as applicable. The government white paper on planning was “holding up the process.” There had also been departmental staffing changes at Herefordshire Council.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also the Coronation (possible events and contribution)

13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

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

Future Meetings for 2023: May 11th, June 8th, July 6th, No meeting in August, Sept 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 9th and Dec 7th

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date