

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Council Meetings of Much Birch Parish Council held consecutively at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5th May 2022 from 7.30 pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan plus Lengthsman; Paul Wright and one member of the public

Annual Parish Meeting and Public Question Time:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no comments made by the public at the meeting. The Chair gave a public “thank you” to the councillors for their work and also to members of the public for all the contributions made by them to parish life.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

1.0 To elect a Chairman and receive acceptance

Cllr Cook was proposed by Cllr Baldwin and seconded by Cllr Pickering Grey. There were no further nominations for the role. Cllr Cook accepted the role of Chair.

2.0 To elect a Vice Chairman and receive acceptance

Cllr Baldwin was proposed by Cllr Cook and seconded by Cllr Burge. There were no further nominations for the role. Cllr Baldwin accepted the role of Vice Chair.

3.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr Joseph Goldsmith. Cllr Andy Crum was not present.

4.0 Declarations of Interest

There was one declaration of interest made. This was for Cllr Baldwin in relation to the planning application 221229 for Little Birch Village Hall (Hall Committee Member).

5.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held at the Hall on the 6th April 2022, were approved as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

6.0 Reports

6.1) P.C.S.O. from West Mercia Police

Golden Valley Briefing sent when received.

6.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised that the Herefordshire Council councillors had been undergoing legal training in regard to an amended “Code of Conduct”. The Ward Cllr recommended that the parish councils review and revisit their codes for compliance and possibly adopt the new model once agreed.

The Ward Cllr recommended that the parish councils get involved with the Core Strategy revision consultation process to help “get the things you want to see in it and to shape it”.

The market towns investment plans were making sure that the towns get the investment they need.

Children's Services would be getting an additional £11 million of funding to help sort out the issues that had been identified.

Help was being sought for gardening at the Violette Szabo Museum ahead of the VS Day, the 100th Anniversary, on 10th July 2022. Activities were being planned and the new extension was open.

The Ward Cllr advised that it was "Hedgehog Awareness Week".

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

7.0 To appoint councillors to the following working groups

Finance Working Group – all

Employment Working Group – convene if required

Self Help Winter Gritting Working Group – Cllr Crum and the Clerk

8.0 Information and Correspondence

8.1) Written report received and contents noted including:

Herefordshire Council:

Talk Community Newsletters

Local Area Plan Consultation slide show

May road closures

New information on new reporting details for PROW:

Herefordshire Council contact information

PROW - PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk

PROW No - 01432 383 550

TRO - TM@herefordshire.gov.uk

8.2) To include parish councillor update on a recent presentation by Herefordshire Council concerning the Local Plan consultation.

The presentation had been attended by Cllrs Burge and Pickering Grey.

The councillors updated the meeting as to the content of the Zoom Meeting. The key issue was that of how housing will be directed in rural areas. Where should the focus of housing be? A percentage across the market towns or other distribution? There were recurring themes and climate change was a consideration with authorities looking to drive up eco-building in line with "climate prescriptives". It was felt that in order to accommodate increases in housing numbers the infrastructure, health and education services would all need to be increased in proportion. The changes to the Core Strategy may also require a revisiting of the Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan. The question was asked as to whether Herefordshire Council were moving back to personal meetings rather than "Zoom" for meetings such as this? The Ward Cllr would check about the situation. The Government White Paper being proposed on Planning did not include Neighbourhood Development Plans, so where do these stand going forward?

The Ward Cllr gave an explanation in regard to landscape changes and crop dynamics.

It was agreed that parish liaison with Herefordshire Council should be a topic for further discussion on the June 2022 Agenda. This would be in particular reference to the Core Strategy consultation communications.

The Ward Cllr advised of some discussion workshops being held at "De Koffie Pot" in Hereford on the subject of responses to the Core Strategy consultation, and the road map of consultation, and she would supply further details about this.

8.3) To update regarding any events and initiatives for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The public events for the Queen's Jubilee were as published and as highlighted in the Birches News and parish council précis.

8.4) To update on Talk Community Hub

There was a discussion on Talk Community Hub, including that prices had been obtained for possible hall hire in Much Birch Community Hall. Volunteers would need to understand how to use the resource directory and how to point people to the area of need. The Hub would be very much a pointing service and not there to give specific advice. It was agreed that the objectives, and actual need for the possible setting up of a Hub for the parish, needed to have more investigative work done before further progress towards actually setting one up could be achieved. It was noted that the idea might not be as straightforward as had first been thought. Ward Cllr Toni Fagan said that she would be willing to come and give an explanation of the resource Directory, and how it could work to assist people, and she would also obtain more information from Talk Community.

9.0 Financial Report

9.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th April 2022 HSBC Community Account	£8,738.39
@ 13 th April 2022 HSBC Community Projects Account	£6,369.61

9.2) 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)	£88.60
Longfield Services (notice board rebuild)	£145.00
Much Birch Community Hall (hall hire)	£45.00
Arthur J Gallagher (PC Insurance)	£406.47

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil

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

10.0 Planning Matters

10.1) To consider any planning applications as received

Three new applications had been received for comments:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 221148 - Cedar Villa, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HY

DESCRIPTION: Proposed rear and side extension including internal alterations and alterations to parking arrangements.

GRID REF: OS 351399, 229590

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The Parish Council discussed the application 221148 and resolved to support it.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 221261 - Glendene, Wrigglebrook Pitch, Kingsthorpe, HR2 8AR

DESCRIPTION: Proposed two storey extension and single storey extension

GRID REF: OS 350437, 231531

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The Parish Council discussed the application 221261 and resolved to support it.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 221229 - Little Birch Village Hall, Little Birch, Hereford, HR2 8AZ

DESCRIPTION: Proposed external cladding to existing village hall

GRID REF: OS 350586, 232426

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The Parish Council discussed the application 221229 and resolved to support it.

11.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Wrigglebrook Lane from the A49 to Cress Cottage, potholes and general disintegration of the road surface

11.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Drain on Pages Pitch – full of leaves and to be cleared

11.3) To appoint Footpath Officer and to receive any previous report

The Footpath Officer had resigned. The Chair knew of a contact who may be interested in the position.

12.0 Tump Lane – pedestrian footway and village speeding initiatives

Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised that the Tump Lane footpath scheme was a “complicated” one. The bank had been re-profiled and the scheme was back with the applicant for adjustment to the details.

The parish council were awaiting further details in regard to possible speeding initiatives.

13.0 Parishes Newsletter and Much Birch Website

13.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website plus Twitter. Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also hubs, liaison with Herefordshire Council, in particular reference to the Core Strategy consultation process, plus passing of the annual accounts for 2021 – 2022

15.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 9th June 2022, from 7.30pm, at the Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.02 PM

Signed:

.....
Chairman

.....
Date