

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 4th November 2021 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Andy Crum
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey
Cllr Joseph Goldsmith

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Lengthsman; Paul Wright plus Ward Cllr Toni Fagan

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

Cllr D Baldwin was not present at the meeting.

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 7th October 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 – Newsletter circulated when received.

Special bulletin: **Take extra care on rural roads in Herefordshire**

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan updated the meeting regarding the recent mud slide in Tump Lane and footpaths/stiles that had been blocked by mud at the bottom of Tump Lane. This had been taken up with the Locality Steward. A car had been overturned onto its roof up the road from the mud slide. A review was taking place of the orientation of the tilling. Silt issues in Wrigglebrook Lane had been an ongoing problem. The Wye and Usk Foundation were involved in looking at the whole issue of contamination etc. The Environment Agency can only be reactive to issues when they are actually happening. The Ward Cllr advised that while the Cop26 conference was looking at major shifts in environmental policy at an international level, local schemes were being implemented, by Herefordshire Council, in order to continue to reduce the carbon footprint. Issues such as “leaky” houses, transport problems and funding for “car clubs” were all being explored. A Great Collaboration” Toolkit was available and was being trialled in Fownhope Parish. The Green Network could be joined for a £50 per annum subscription. There was further update regarding the inadequacy of the bus shelter in Hereford, at a main stop, and the initiative to try to promote and encourage bus usage.

The ongoing problem of phosphate pollution, and intensive farming, with reed bed offsetting for developments were also noted. There were issues with the broadband rollout and a number of areas had not received the promised facility. There was an opportunity to respond to an initial rural parish consultation on the newly modelled Core Strategy or Local Area Plan. It was agreed that formal representation should be made about the seeming under inclusion of matters

relating to agriculture, believed to be a very important topic to be addressed within the revised plan for the county.

4.3) Locality Steward

James Howells Locality Steward has sent his bulletins.

5.0) Update on Correspondence

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Talk Community Newsletter 1 November 2021

Talk Community Newsletter 21 October 2021

Talk Community Newsletter 8 October 2021

ROAD CLOSURES - NOVEMBER - 26.10.21

Green BT boxes on A49 opposite Much Birch Church and Waterloo Lane

The box (labelled V11) on the A49 had had its door reattached. It was not being moved at this time. The other box in Waterloo Lane had been reported to Open reach.

The Chair reminded everyone that any approach made to statutory bodies, about matters of concern etc., should have parish council approval, and not just that of individual councillors.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th Oct 2021 HSBC Community Account	£13,207.25
@ 13 th Oct 2021 HSBC Community Projects Account	£6,389.61

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 November

HM Revenue & Customs (tax) £86.60

Little Birch Community Hall (Newsletter Donation) £350.00

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil

Resolved: that the payments were passed for payment: (proposed by Cllr Crum and seconded by Cllr Cook) Unanimous.

6.3) To consider Precept request for 2022 - 2023

Following consideration of the budget and the existing funds, it was agreed that the precept request for 2022 – 2023 would remain the same as that for 2021 – 2022. This being £6750.00. The Clerk would submit the request to the Herefordshire Council Finance Department.

6.4) To update regarding bank signatories and confirm status re bank

A chase up letter had been sent by the bank, in error. The Chair had spoken with the bank to sort this out. The bank had confirmed that the parish council account could be retained and would not be closed by HSBC. It was resolved that the Clerk should be added as a signatory. Cllr Crum would be removed as a signatory by agreement. This would make signatories of the following persons: Cllrs Cook, Burge and Baldwin plus Clerk Alison Wright.

7.0 Village issues update

7.1) To receive any update on Village issues –

7.2) Parish land – replacing boundary fencing – Cllr Cook would liaise with the developer on this.

7.3) Speeding enquiries for the A49 and recent events

The Clerk had spoken with a representative from National Highways. The Police and National Highways would be looking at safety issues relating to the road and overgrown footpath, in response to correspondence and recent events.

7.4) To discuss possibility of a pedestrian footpath at the Thorne

The idea of a footpath was discussed. Following discussion the Parish Council were minded to consider that the idea would not be viable due to the narrowness of the land and need to acquire hedge/garden space to accommodate a path. There had been a question regarding the issue of a footpath for Tump Lane in relation to the Larkrise Development. Ward Cllr Fagan would be looking further into this and would advise what the Balfour Beatty/Herefordshire Council representative came back with.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications

There was a brief update regarding some previous applications. The latest plan for the Pilgrim Hotel had been rejected where an increase from 2 to 3 houses, in one part, had been proposed. The number of homes with planning remained at five for the site.

There was one new application for consideration of comments:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 213709 - Minster Farm West, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HS

DESCRIPTION: Proposed change of use of existing building for use as an ancillary annexe and holiday let.

GRID REF: OS 350422, 230634

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The Parish Council discussed the application 213709 and determined that there were no objections.

The Ward Cllr left the meeting at 8.22 pm.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Broken drain cover near Waterloo Lane, the Thorn and Wrigglebrook Lane. This had been reported but was believed to still be broken.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Drains and general works as required, plus strimming path to the school. Refurbishment of “Conker Corner” Notice Board

9.3) Footpath Officer – to confirm new officer and to receive any update or action points

Handover from the previous FPO was being progressed.

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 Matters to be raised on the Agenda for the next meeting

All the usual items would be included.

12.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 2nd December 2021, from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.28pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date