

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 6th October 2022 from 7.30 pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Footpath Officer; David Irwin and two members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting heard an update regarding the Tump Lane play area. The Chair had been in contact with Connexus about the installation of a new sign about ball games on the play area, which had been seen at the location. The Chair had spoken to a total of four different people at Connexus and none of them were aware of the sign and why it had been placed. The situation had been referred to the local Housing Manager and the Housing Officer but no information had been received, as at the date of the meeting. The Chair had also tried checking with an associate, who had knowledge of a similar play area, and that area had no sign installed. The two residents present took up the issue of the fact that the play area had been all but dismantled, with minimal equipment remaining. There were around 60 local children who may wish to use the facility, in the immediate catchment. The parish council could write to ask about the Housing Association looking favourably on a new play area installation, but really it was felt that the thrust to get an area upgraded with new equipment should come from the people whose children/charges would be likely to use the facility.

There was also a discussion about the grass clippings being left behind after mowing. This could be messy if the grass was overly long when cut. The Ward Cllr had been asking about the possibility of a mulching mower being used to press the cutting back down. The picking up of clippings should form part of the next contract renewal proposal.

There was a discussion about speed indicator devices and the Chair explained about the pros and cons of SIDS. They were largely advisory and there was no actual data collected from them. The parish council needed to be minded about the cost of the SIDS also. The parish council were exploring the idea of the Community Speed Watch in the first instance. This idea was not highly regarded, by one of the residents, and there was a brief and animated exchange on the topic. The Chair suggested that perhaps a Residents Committee, or similar, for Tump Lane would be a good idea as another vehicle of communication with the authorities.

The Open session closed, there being no further comments.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence received from Cllr David Baldwin and Ward Cllr Toni Fagan.

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 8th September 2022, 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 had sent her apologies.

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

Launch of new #iwill Fund

5.2) To receive update on funding for cycle way in Hereford City – Ward Cllr

The Ward Cllr was not at the meeting, but had sent information concerning the cycle way for the parish council to review. There was not an opportunity to challenge the installation as the funds had been allocated to the project.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13th Sept 2022 HSBC Community Account £16,653.23

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 October

HM Revenue & Customs (tax) £72.80

Much Birch Community Hall (hall hire) £38.25

Hugh James (web services) £105.00

Longfield Services (Lengthsman) £145.00

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

6.3) To begin consideration of parish precept for 2023 – 2024

The parish precept request would be considered and resolved at the November parish council meeting.

7.0 Update on speeding and Community Speed Watch

The Chair confirmed that locations for possible speed watch activity had been identified and submitted to the relevant party for consideration. A list of potential volunteers had also been assembled. There had not been any update regarding the locations, as at the date of the meeting, so this would be followed up by the Chair.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1) To consider any planning applications and appeals as may be advised

There were two new applications for consideration of comments:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 222967 - Lindenbrook, Wrigglebrook Lane from Cress Cottage to The New House, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire HR2 8AW

DESCRIPTION: Proposed variation of condition 2 of planning permission 193067 (Erection of new dwelling house) – amendments to meet the Passivhaus standard

GRID REF: OS 350071, 231940

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The parish council discussed the planning consultation 222967 and resolved to make no further comments on the application.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 222687 – Park Hall, Wormelow, Herefordshire

DESCRIPTION: Proposed demolition of former Park Hall Ballroom and erection of 5 dwelling houses and 15 timber holiday lodges and associated works

GRID REF: OS 349093, 230271

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The parish council discussed the planning consultation 222687 and resolved to object to the application for the following reasons:

The application was felt to be out of keeping with the surrounding area and existing businesses. It was believed that there was a lack of sustainability regarding transport links and pedestrian amenity. It was not appearing to be a suitable application for the location, in terms of added value for holiday making. Accessibility for vehicles and pedestrians was a concern.

9.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

As had been identified and were ongoing.

9.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

The Lengthsman had cleared the drain outside the village community centre which had been, blocked by leaves etc.

He had strimmed around the grit bins and cleared overgrowth of plants from around any obscured signs. He had also cleared paths MB7 and MB20.

The path by the school required strimming and the Aconbury Close footpath would be looked at in terms of clearance.

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 updated the meeting about a meeting that he had attended for footpath officers. Over 120 people had attended and the meeting ran for 1 hour and 45 minutes. The notes of the meeting were awaited. There had been a “feeling of frustration” from the footpath officers concerning the new set up of the Public Rights of Way initiative, which was a work in progress. There was an impression gained that a greater amount of activity was going to be expected of the footpath officers. The Clerk made it known that the parish council was only in a supporting role for footpath upkeep, the statutory responsibility lying with the Local Authority, Herefordshire Council.

The sheer volume of number of paths was described as “quite daunting”. The Footpath Officer would pick his top six paths for possible community action.

9.4) Update on parish land (as applicable)

A letter had been sent to the developer regarding the reinstatement of the boundary fence-line. The area had been levelled. The Footpath Officer sought clarification as to the whereabouts of the parish land parcels and this was explained.

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 and include seasonal information about bonfire events.

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

No further update this time.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also Community Speed Watch, parish land and precept request for 2023 – 2024.

13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 10th November from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.26 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date