

# MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 from 7.30 pm

### Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)  
Cllr Roisin Burge  
Cllr A Crum  
Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey (co-opted)  
Cllr Joseph Goldsmith (co-opted)

### In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Lengthsman; Paul Wright

### 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 received from Cllr D Baldwin and Ward Cllr Toni Fagan.

### 2.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

### 3.0 Co-option of councillor(s) – two vacancies

There were two candidates presented for co-option. They were Joseph Goldsmith and Chris Pickering-Grey. Both candidates were co-opted and joined the parish council at the table. Acceptance of office papers and Registrable Interest forms would be completed and returned as appropriate.

### 4.0 Minutes of previous meeting

4.1) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held via Zoom on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021, were approved as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

### 5.0 Reports

#### 5.1) P.C.S.O. from West Mercia Police

The Golden Valley Newsletter had been received.

5.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan had sent her apologies and had circulated reports.

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

### 6.0 Update on Correspondence

#### Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

- Parish Council Summit 14 September 2021
- Information for budget consultation with parish councils South and West area
- Democratic Services Officers – job opportunities
- Talk Community Newsletter 20 August 2021
- Leaders Newsletter - August 21
- Talk Community Newsletter 30 July 2021
- Launch of the new Neighbourhood matters initiative

- Parish Council Summit June 21 - Summary of workshop notes
- Talk Community Heatwave Update 20 July 2021
- 5 year Housing Land Supply\*
- Bus survey
- Talk Community Newsletter 16 July 2021
- Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Recovery Support Scheme 2020

Also:

**From Sue Furnival JP**

Recruitment to the Magistracy – information

**HALC**

Information Corner 14-7-21

\*A question was asked about how the 5 year land supply had been exceeded - seemingly so suddenly? It was agreed that the Clerk would make some enquiries about how it had risen so sharply?

**7.0 Financial Report**

**7.1) The following bank balances were noted:**

@ 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2021 HSBC Community Account	£10,699.95
@ 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 HSBC Community Projects Account	£6,596.84

**7.2) 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 September

HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£67.40
Information Commissioner	£40.00

**Payments to be made from Community account**

Nil

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

**8.0 Village issues update**

**8.1)** To receive any update on Village issues – to chase up a request from resident for 30 mph speed limit on the A49 with Highways England and to chase up speeding and overweight vehicle enquiries for Tump Lane with the Safer Roads Partnership.

**8.2)** To confirm signage re Waterloo Lane (no through road for traffic) – the lane was described as a rough track that turns into a footpath. There had been cases of vehicles driving down and not realising that the road did not continue. It was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase a “No through road” sign and have it fitted by the Lengthsman. The price for the sign and post (fitting extra) was £172.69 plus VAT.

**8.3)** Parish land – replacing boundary fencing – it was agreed that Cllr Crum would liaise with the parish land tenant and that the building contractor would be advised when the parish council would send representatives to mark out the parish land boundary with temporary fencing.

**8.4)** Land adjacent to Castle Pool Cottage – planning matters. The Chair would advise the Clerk of some alleged breaches of planning regulations concerning the boundary between Castle Pool

Cottage and also visibility splay and removal of hedgerow matters. This would be sent to Planning Enforcement as an enquiry into conformity with planning regulations.

## **9.0 Planning Matters**

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

There were three applications for consideration of comments:

**212776** - Cedareaves, Tump Lane, Wormelow, HR2 8HN – this was for a dormer window. There were no objections from the parish council.

**212730** – Belle Vue, Much Birch, HR2 8HS – this was for a replacement shed and linking of buildings to make a garden store with corrugated roof and cedar cladding. The parish council would be objecting to the planning application on the grounds of the close proximity of the building to the highway, concerns over the ridge height of the building and the fact that the overall building would be too impactful on the street scene.

**212871** – 28, Tump Lane, Much Birch, HR2 8HW – this was for a first floor extension. There were no objections from the parish council.

## **10.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths**

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

The hedge running along the road next to the Much Birch School required trimming. This would be reviewed in October.

High View House in Much Dewchurch – overgrown hedge, Clerk would advise the Clerk to Much Dewchurch. Chair would confirm details to Clerk.

Top of Tump Lane – road breaking apart and potholes.

Cllr Crum to look into the hedge height and cutting of the hedges from the A49 and along the road into Much Birch (high hedges on the left hand side as heading towards the school) with the bottoms cut but the tops sticking out as a potential hazard to buses and high sided vehicles.

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

To strim the path by the school and to strim around the grit bins. Fit new sign at Waterloo Lane.

The Chair would put information about Riparian Responsibilities on the Face book page.

Clerk to check with resident of Little Dewchurch, who carried out the self-help gritting as to whether this was going to continue?

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

The Footpath Officer, Steve Owen, had resigned his post. The Clerk would write and thank him for all of his invaluable help in keeping the parish footpaths in good order. Thanks to Steve, for all of his work, were also recorded at the meeting. The parish council would be seeking to appoint a new Footpath Officer for the parish.

## **11.0 Parishes Newsletter and Much Birch Website**

11.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website plus Twitter. Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter and would include contact details of the newly appointed councillors.

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

All the usual items would be included. Plus self help gritting scheme. Also a redundant green BT box was still standing, but not seemingly connected to anything, on the grass verge along the A49. The Clerk would check if it was still there and make enquiries about whether it would be removed?

**13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021, from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

Due to the confidential nature of the business of this agenda item, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it is proposed to put forward a motion to exclude members of the public during discussion of this agenda item (number 14 only)

**14. To discuss implementation of NIC pay scale increment for Clerk from 1/04/21.**

The Parish Council resolved that the Clerk's salary be uplifted by one scale point and backdated accordingly to 1/04/21.

*The meeting closed at 8.39pm*

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date