

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 8th September 2022 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr David Baldwin
Cllr Andy Crum
Cllr Joseph Goldsmith

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Footpath Officer; David Irwin; PCSO; plus Lengthsman; Paul Wright and one member of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There followed a one minute silence in respect for, and memory of, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II whose death had, sadly, been announced just that evening.

The Open session closed, there being no further comments.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence received from Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey

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 July 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 was in attendance at the meeting. She had circulated correspondence during the month and would forward the latest Leader's Report. The Ward Cllr updated the Parish Council on the review of social care provision by Herefordshire Council, and also about a new cycle way for the city of Hereford. There were some questions about the cycle way for St Owen Street in the City of Hereford and more information about the project was requested. The Ward Councillor would find out more information on this for an update, hopefully, at the next parish council meeting. The Ward Cllr also confirmed that the situation around social care and recruitment etc. reflected the current and up to date inspection assessment.

The Ward Cllr left the meeting following her update.

4.3) Locality Steward

James Howells the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins.

5.0) Update on Correspondence

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

Open Space Resident Survey and Open Space Assessment Audit

PKF Littlejohn – External Auditor

The External Auditor had indicated opt out possibilities but these were tempered with costs and arrangements not thought to be advantageous to the parish council. The status quo would be maintained.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th August 2022 HSBC Community Account	£17,009.47
@ 13 th August 2022 HSBC Community Projects Account	Closed

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 September

HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£72.80
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Much Birch Community Hall (hall hire)	£54.00
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Information Commissioner (ICO) Data protection fee	£40.00
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Much Birch PCC (Village memorial clock and mowing – footpath included)	£298.00
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Resolved: that the payments were passed for payment: Unanimous.

6.3) To confirm adoption of amended Standing Orders (April 2022 version)

The amended Standing Orders (April 2022 version) were confirmed as being adopted.

7.0 Update on speeding and Community Speed Watch

The Chair advised 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. Matters would be progressed subject to confirmation of acceptance. Updates would follow.

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 - 222346 - Land at Eden House, Eden Lane, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire

DESCRIPTION: Outline planning for a detached self build dwelling and garage.

GRID REF: OS 350325, 232340

APPLICATION TYPE: Outline

The parish council discussed the planning consultation 222346 and resolved to object to the application on the following points:

- 1) Adequacy of parking and turning out onto Eden Lane, including concerns over visibility to do this.
- 2) The inaccurate statement made in the application in regard to the adopted Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan (ref. MB1), indicating that the identified requirement for new homes had not been met.
- 3) The impact of the proposed building, and aspect concerns, in an area bordered by open countryside and by woodland (ref MB2).
- 4) The outline of the proposed development, as shown on the application, appears to include a public footpath that is not believed to be within the applicant's ownership.
- 5) The comments and objections made in the Ecology Department's statement have the full endorsement and support of the parish council.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 222450 - Much Birch C of E School, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8HL

DESCRIPTION: Installation of outdoor classroom building, and separate play screens and climbing wall.

GRID REF: OS 350096, 230924

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The parish council discussed the planning consultation 222450 and resolved to support the application.

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

Drain outside the village community centre, blocked by leaves etc.

To trim around the grit bins at appropriate time and to clean graffiti, if possible, from bus stop near the school. Also to clear around any obscured signs.

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 that a lot of the paths were now clear of crops and obstruction. Path MB7 from A49 to Hollybush Lane was overgrown. The second stile on the Hereford Trail had a broken paddle. The Footpath Officer would report this to the PROW Team. There were some possible paths to open up re Tump Lane and the Old Saxon Path.

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 also information to the Much Birch Community Hall website co-ordinator for the new website.

Parish Land at Rosebank

The Chair would check regarding the boundary fence between the parish land at Rosebank, Barrack Hill and the newly constructed properties. The fence should be reinstated.

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

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 Local Area Plan Consultation, Community Speed Watch, parish land and cycle way for Hereford City

13.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 6th October from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall. Cllr Baldwin gave his apologies in advance for the October Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date