

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 7th September 2023 from 7.30 pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright, Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan plus two members of the public

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Concerns were raised about the sale of land near Hollybush Lane, Much Birch. Enquiries made had indicated that the land was being sold in parcels with a specification of agricultural or equine use. The land was not being sold for development. There was an uplift condition (35%) pertaining in regard to any future proposal for usage alterations.

There was no knowledge of any possibility of changes at the time of the meeting. The Neighbourhood Development Plan for the area was still deemed to be current and was not in line for review, at the time of the meeting.

The Open session closed at 7.40 pm.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

Footpath Officer; David Irwin had sent his apologies.

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 6th July 2023, 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.

The Police Commissioner Questionnaire – had been loaded onto the online form.

Locality Steward

James Howells the Locality Steward had sent his bulletins. Also Members Monthly Update received and Street works updates received from Balfour Beatty.

Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan was in attendance at the meeting. The Ward Cllr advised regarding bi-monthly meetings with the Footpath Officer for Herefordshire Council. Lots of work had been carried out and a “good relationship” had been formed with the Footpath Inspector. There had been issues with reporting and this had been attributed to the IT system used by Hoople Ltd. The Ward Cllr would raise this point. There were reportedly difficulties with recruiting staff for the team who worked under the Highways Team at the council. There was some specific pothole repair funding available and this had to be spent by March 2024.

The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from bank account

Clerk paid in accordance with contract for September	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax)	£77.60
Information Commissioner (ICO)	£40.00
Much Birch PCC Donation (Memorial Clock maintenance)	£198.00
Much Birch PCC Donation (Mowing)	£100.00

6.3) To consider support for the memorial clock and churchyard mowing - this was discussed and the payment of donations were agreed, as in the above list.

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

7.0 Planning Matters

7.1) 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 - 232379 – Wenallt, Kingsthorne, Herefordshire HR2 8AL

DESCRIPTION: Proposed change of levels at rear garden formed by gabions (part retrospective)

GRID REF: OS 349797, 232094

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The parish council discussed and considered the proposals in application 232379 and resolved to comment that there were no objections to the application.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 232316 – Land at Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Herefordshire

DESCRIPTION: Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval of 200884 (Proposed site for erection of a single dwelling).

GRID REF: OS 351317, 230186

APPLICATION TYPE: Approval of reserved matters

The parish council discussed and considered the proposals in application 232316 and resolved to comment that there were no objections to the application.

8.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

Grit bin replacements required – The Thorn and Little Birch Road

8.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Upgrade the community hall notice board (algae and preservative) and to strim round the grit bins, plus clear weeds on the pavement by the school

8.3) 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 had sent his apologies for the meeting. The Footpath Officer had updated the parish council regarding action points. The Chair would confirm who owned “Helen’s Wood” adjacent to the A49.

8.4) To receive any update on speeding in Tump Lane/Community Speed Watch (CSW)

The Chair reported that the scheme was now moving forward. The sites had been approved in principle and were awaiting formal confirmation, plus permission to stand on property. Terry Cook was in the role of Speed Watch Co-ordinator. "Vetting" forms were being sent to all of the volunteers. The police would be aware of the venue for the CSW each time it was operational.

9.0 Parishes Newsletter and Much Birch Website

9.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website plus Twitter. Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter. This would include a summary of the responses to planning items and details about seasonal bonfire safety.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also parish assets update and further update on parish council trusteeship of the Much Birch Poor Acre Charity

11.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 5th October 2023 from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

Future Meetings for 2023: Nov 9th and Dec 7th

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date