

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 November 2025 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr David Irwin
Cllr Michael Agyeman
Cllr Roisin Burge

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no residents present at the parish council meeting. There were no items raised during the Open Session.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence received from Cllr Steve Turner, Cllr Chris Pickering Grey 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, held on the 2nd October 2025, 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. A question was asked about who the local PCSO was currently. The Clerk would ask the question.

4.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan had sent her apologies.

4.3) Locality Steward

The Monthly Update had been received and also street works updates from Balfour Beatty.

5.0) Update on Correspondence and Neighbourhood Development Plan

5.1) To receive any correspondence – noting the Information Sheet

Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Talk Community bulletins

Parish Summit

Video received of the Summit held on the 7th October at Plough Lane

5.2) To receive any update on matters relating to the Neighbourhood Development Plan (as applicable)

Cllr Burge explained that there would not be any funds to help with a potential review of the NDP but there would possibly be templates available to assist with the process. It was agreed that the proposed changes to the NDP policies MB2, MB4 and MB5 would be looked at in the December Meeting with a view to agreeing interim changes ahead of March and the working

group would circulate expectations and desired outcomes for review. The figures for development activity would be updated on a quarterly basis.

5.3) Parish land – Rosebank – to consider correspondence and any actions required

The parish council were in the process of looking at the proposal from the tenant of the parish land at Rosebank. The matter would be deferred to the December Meeting Agenda of the Parish Council. The deferment was in response to a request, from a member, and the request for deferment was carried by those members present.

5.4) Letter from Much Birch PCC concerning the memorial clock and churchyard

A letter had been received from the Much Birch PCC concerning the memorial clock and the churchyard. The footpath that went through the churchyard was not designated as an official public right of way, according to the definitive map of footpaths. The initial request for support with the clock servicing back in 2011/2012 had been checked against the terms of the parish council donations policy. The first reimbursement of the servicing cost for the clock having been made in May 2012, on a discretionary basis. There was no evidence in documentation to show overall responsibility by the parish council for the memorial clock and the current parish council resolved that they could not commit future councils to future expenditure on the clock. The Donation Policy required a request for assistance with the costs but did, and does, not imply any obligation on the parish council to make any payment. The parish council resolved that they would be happy to consider annual donations to the servicing of the clock and possible mowing costs for the churchyard on a discretionary basis. The comments made in the PCC letter and those in the enclosed Birches Newsletter excerpt were not accepted as substantiated by the parish council. A letter would be sent to the PCC to explain the parish councils understanding of the matter.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balance was noted:

@ 13th October 2025 HSBC Community Account £14538.88

6.2) To approve list of payments (circulated separately)

The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from bank account

Clerk paid in accordance with contract for November 2025

HM Revenue & Customs (tax November) £118.80

Much Birch PCC (Memorial Clock Service 2025) £234.00

Much Birch Community Hall (hall hire) £36.00

Cllr A Cook (Remembrance Wreath 2025) £50.00 (Declaration of interest for A Cook recorded)

Resolved: that the payments were passed for payment - unanimous

6.3) To consider the “Charter for Herefordshire’s Councils”

The parish council had reviewed the Charter 2025 and agreed that they were in support of the aspirations contained within it. The relevant team at Herefordshire Council would be advised of this decision.

7.0 Planning Matters

7.1) To consider any planning applications or appeals, as may be advised

There was one application for consideration of comments:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 252823 - 4 Pilgrim Park, Much Birch, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR2 8FR

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

DESCRIPTION: Proposed garage

GRID REFERENCE: OS 349930, 230805

The application for a garage at Number 4 Pilgrim Park was discussed and the parish council resolved that there were no objections to the proposal in application number 252823.

8.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

The signpost on the Little Birch Road was now visible.

Forge Lane signage had been referred to Much Dewchurch Parish.

Road C1263 – defects in the road surface reported between the speed limit signs on the road from Kingsthorpe going towards the village.

Road C1264 Tump Lane at the junction with the A49 – potholes and defects to road surface

8.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman and direct/determine actions

The Parish Council were still awaiting confirmation on the drainage application.

8.3) Footpath Officer – to receive any update or action points and funding /activities

Mr David Irwin, the Footpath Officer can be contacted on **07766 135068** or by e mail at MBfootpaths@btinternet.com

The Footpath Officer, Cllr Irwin, had sent his report and he updated the meeting about the contents. An improved sign had been placed on the Footpaths Notice Board. The cost was £21.00 which the parish council would reimburse, subject to invoice, in the December Meeting. The Public Rights of Way Team were said to be concentrating on “big things” and there were enforcement assessments awaited regarding some footpath bridge issues.

Enviroability were lined up to undertake further works in the parish including stile installation and step repairs. There was another parish walk scheduled for the 30/11/25. The Footpath Officer had now been appointed to the Local Area Forum. The Footpath Group were still meeting regularly and the IT Group were working hard on improvements to information, points of interest and setting up QR Code links advertising parish walks.. The parish council agreed that they would support the cost of a larger footpath map (A0) for the footpath notice board. The map would be shown at the Community Café and plans for activities etc. would be circulated to councillors.

8.4) Parish Drainage – to receive any correspondence and determine any actions

The parish council were still awaiting confirmation of the revised drainage grant submission to the Floodrisk Team. The scheme was advised to be oversubscribed for the current year.

8.5) Water Quality Monitoring – information from the CPRE refers

This item was deferred to the December Agenda. The deferment was agreed.

9.0 Parishes Newsletter and Much Birch Website

9.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website plus X (formerly known as Twitter).

The Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter. There was a new editor for the publication but they were using the same e mail address as before.

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

All the usual items would be included, also parish land update and water quality issues.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

11.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 4th December 2025, from 7.30pm, in the Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date