

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 5th September 2024 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr Chris Pickering Grey
Cllr David Irwin (also Footpath Officer)

In attendance:

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

Open Session:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence received from Cllr Michael Agyeman. The Chair advised that a resignation letter had been received from Cllr Andy Crum. The resignation was accepted. The parish council gave thanks for the many years of service that Andy had given to the parish council and to the community. The Clerk would write to Andy to formally convey a thank you from the parish council.

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 11th July 2024, 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. The Ward Cllr reported on efforts to bring resurfacing for lanes in the group of parishes to the fore. She stressed that it was important to log any defects. This could be done via “Fix my Street” or by calling in the issue to: 01432 261800. The Ward Cllr update regarding the broadband scheme, which was now in “full build” and with the bulk of connections hoping to be completed by Christmas.

The Ward Cllr explained about a hotline to the Traffic Management Team in regard to speeding which was a regular issue.

The Ward Cllr asked parishes to compile a “wish list” for any potential 106 grant funding that may arise from any future developments.

The Ward Cllr advised regarding a consultation on wrap around childcare needs. She would circulate webinar details for a Climate Change initiative. There was to be a Pension Credit week of action with people being asked to check if they qualify.

The Ward Cllr advised that she was chasing up Connexus about the play area in Tump Lane and she also said that the planning for Larkrise had not moved forward as at the date of the meeting.

4.3) Locality Steward

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

5.0) Update on Correspondence

5.1) To receive any correspondence – noting the Information Sheet Correspondence from Herefordshire Council

Talk Community bulletins

Cllr Andy Crum

Andy Crum's Resignation Letter had been received.

5.2) To consider the way forward regarding the parish land and any recent correspondence

Three quotes had been received to carry out the specified works. Two of the proposals were for clearance only and one proposal for clearance and subsequent use of the land. The parish council considered all of the quotations and resolved to select the quotation proposing clearance and ongoing use of the land. The Chair would inform all prospective candidates of the decision, thank them and explain any backstop provisos. The successful proposal would need to be subject of a project plan, with target dates and a clarification of the understanding of expectations. The next step would be to set out a tailored tenancy agreement and meet with the preferred candidate.

6.0 Financial Report

6.1) The following bank balance was noted:

@ 13th August 2024 HSBC Community Account £14247.09

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 September

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| HM Revenue & Customs (tax September) | £84.60 |
| Enviroability (Lengthsman services) | £460.00 |
| Information Commissioner (ICO) | £40.00 |
| Much Birch Community Hall (hall hire) | £54.00 |
| Much Birch PCC | £354.00* |

*There was a request for support from the Much Birch Parochial Church Council for assistance with the annual maintenance expenses for the memorial clock and for the churchyard mowing expenses. The parish council resolved to make a donation of £234.00 for the clock upkeep and £120.00 towards the mowing costs. It was noted that future requests would be individually considered at each time a request was submitted.

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

6.3) To adopt new Financial Regulations 2024

The Financial Regulations 2024 were adopted by the parish council.

7.0 Planning Matters

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

There were new applications for consideration of comments:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 241967 – Four Winds, Tump Lane, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HN

DESCRIPTION: Proposed single storey extension

GRID REF: OS 349325, 230293

APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder

The parish council resolved to support the proposals in application 241967.

8.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

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

The exit splay by the Carrot and Wine Store on the A466 was overgrown and making visibility difficult.

The angle bend sign on Barrack Hill just past the Little Birch Road turning was overgrown by vegetation.

Hollybush Lane – damage to the edge of the tarmac where the A49 goes down and straight from the property “Underhills” onwards.

The 40 mph sign on the A49 coming from Hereford and near the Pilgrim Hotel was faded and overgrown. This would be a query for National Highways.

Aconbury Close – gully by Meadow View full of debris and also the footpath trees were overgrown and the brambles and trees required cutting back as getting taller. The Chair would send a photograph of the issue for forwarding to the Locality Steward.

8.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman (and recruitment)

The parish council had received a quotation from Terry Griffiths. Further clarification on terms had been sought and answered. It was resolved to appoint Mr Griffiths as the parish lengthsman. The parish council would liaise on activities and specific tasks would be identified and itemised.

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 MBfootpaths@btinternet.com

The Footpath Officer, Cllr Irwin, had sent a further update. The Footpath Officer advised about the work that had been carried out by Enviroability. They had cut back overgrowth of vegetation on nine parish footpaths.

The Footpath Officer was looking into purchasing some large maps showing the paths as an information aid. One could go in the bus stop notice board? Perhaps a further one could be placed on display in the Community Hall?

A successful submission had gone into Herefordshire Council for Public Rights of Way works. The Footpath Officer was applying for 2 gates for path MB7 and the landowner would then fit these. He would also obtain a quotation from Enviroability for the fitting of three stiles. The Company would need to be registered as a contractor and show relevant insurance documents for reclaim of any grant monies.

The Footpath Officer was looking at the LC WIP initiative for the cycling and walking infrastructure plan. He requested that the Clerk book him a slot to attend the upcoming Parish Council Summit.

A further meeting of local Footpath Officers had been held. The group were trying to encourage others to join in also. There had still not been sight of any of the promised deliverables (training, books, IT and aids) for the PROW service. The Clerk was asked to request that the Ward Cllr follow this up with Herefordshire Council.

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). Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter. This would include a

summary of the responses to planning items and seasonal bonfire/firework advice. Also to note the importance of clearing up hedge clipping debris to avoid blocking ditches, drains etc. The Footpath Officer would insert a separate interest article for Footpath matters.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also:

- Lengthsman
- Parish land and rentals

11.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 3rd October 2024 from 7.30pm in the Much Birch Community Hall.

Future Meetings for 2024: November 7th and December 5th

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date