

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council held at the Much Birch Community Hall on Thursday 4th June 2026 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Steve Turner
Cllr Chris Pickering Grey

In attendance:

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

Open Session (Public Question Time):-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were two members of the public present. They had also written to the parish council about some local concerns, primarily related to Tump Lane.

- 1) Grass clippings had been picked up until recently. At the recent cutting of the grass in Tump Lane the clippings had not been collected and removed.
- 2) There was also the comment made that the children's play equipment had been removed from the site in Tump Lane and this had never been reinstated or replaced.
- 3) Concerns were raised over speeding in Tump Lane and the question was raised about the provision of a Speed Indicator Device.
- 4) The drainage system on Tump Lane appeared to be blocked with ensuing drainage issues.

The Ward Cllr answered as much as possible regarding the enquiries. The grass cutting would be investigated as to why the clippings had been left on location at the recent cut. The Ward Cllr would check with a neighbouring parish regarding the policy for removing clippings from their play area when the grass was cut. It was commented that play area guidelines indicated that clippings should be removed from play areas, formerly due to the possible presence of items that may prove hazardous, such as dog waste and broken glass.

The Ward Cllr advised that she had been making enquiries with Connexus Housing about their policy on play areas. Connexus had not been keeping play areas up. The Ward Cllr had contacted the Chief Executive Officer of Connexus to try to get some answers. The Ward Cllr advised that there was a proposal for a play area in Tump Lane. She would keep everyone informed as to response from Connexus.

There was a discussion about the Speed Indicator Devices. There was a not inconsiderable cost attached to placing these, and they were advisory only and can thus be disregarded, especially after a certain period of time. Statistics obtained following data collection on vehicles using Tump Lane had indicated that most drivers were keeping to the speed limit and with only a few not obeying the rule. It was commented that the installation of the proposed footpath on Tump Lane would potentially not be safe with tractors and trailers etc. using the road? The Ward Cllr would be liaising with the local PCSO from West Mercia Police and with Traffic Management Team over the concerns about speeding on the lane.

The blocked drains issue in Tump Lane, especially around number 28, would be reported to the Public Realm Contractor.

The splay at the end of Tump Lane onto the A49 was in need of repairs and resurfacing, in conjunction with National Highways. The Ward Cllr would ask the technical team to look at this. It was noted that Tump Lane was supposedly due for "surface dressing."

The parish council thanked the Ward Cllr for all of her efforts to try to resolve the ongoing issues that were being notified.

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 June 2026	
HM Revenue & Customs (tax June)	£95.20
D Irwin (maps for footpath notice board)	£49.70
T Cook (web service upgrade)	£163.99

Resolved: that the payments were passed for payment - unanimous

6.3) To sign Exemption Certificate for accounts 2025 – 2026

The Exemption Certificate for accounts 2025 – 2026 was approved by the council and signed by the chair

6.4) To sign and approve Annual Governance Statement 2025 – 2026

The Annual Governance Statement 2025 – 2026 was approved by the council and signed by the chair

6.5) To sign and approve Accounting Statement 2025 - 2026

The Accounting Statement 2025 – 2026 was approved by the council and signed by the chair

7.0 Planning Matters

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

There were no new applications or appeals for consideration of comments.

8.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths plus parish land

8.1) To note any defects to be reported to the Public Realm Contractor

Drainage blocked in Tump Lane.

Eden Lane and Barrack Hill – gullies and grips blocked. Cllr Turner would advise where the problem was on Barrack Hill.

8.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman and actions

Clerk was asked to query the road closure fee inclusion on the recent drainage grant application. The parish council would need to secure confirmation of the up front road closure fee as being included in the grant reimbursement ahead of actually applying and paying for same.

8.3) Footpath Officer – to receive any update or action points

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 his apologies for absence. A bid for the Public Rights of Way Grant was being submitted.

8.4) Parish Land – update and actions plus rental for Barrack Hill

This item was deferred to the July 2026 parish council meeting.

Water Quality Monitoring

Cllr Turner advised that the water quality monitoring was moving forward and that contact had been made with the co-ordinator. Further steps were on hold until after the hay making (not mown until July). There would be a further update in the September meeting.

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.

The Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter. This would include a summary of the responses to planning items, if applicable.

The Chair reported that the website upgrade had been successful. It had been replenished and was up and running. Thank you to the Web Master for all of his work.

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

All the usual items would be included. Also parish land and update regarding Tump Lane

11.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 2nd July 2026, from 7.30pm, in the Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date