

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

www.minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk

Email: clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk

Tel: 01452 849178/07792989212

21 March 2017

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held at Minsterworth Village Hall on Monday, 10 April 2017 at 7.30pm.

Roger Blowey

Chairman

AGENDA

(subject to change)

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 11 April 2016
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes
- 4 Presentation from a representative from Fastershire
- 5 Phil Awford, County Councillor
- 6 Derek Davies, District Councillor
- 7 Parochial Charities
- 8 Any matters raised by electors.
- 9 Close of meeting followed by refreshments

All residents are invited to attend this meeting. It's an ideal opportunity for you to express your opinions and suggestions. Please see the minutes from last year's meeting together with relevant reports for this year.

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MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 11 April 2016, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors - Roger Blowey - Chairman
Rod Crisp
Nigel Garbutt
Steve King
Gerry MGrath
Tony Pearson
Cathy Thomas
County Councillor Awford
Borough Councillor Davies
PCSO Dave Birch (partial attendance)

Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 30

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone
Apologies: Dr & Mrs Lynch, Mr & Mrs Savage, Mr Cockcroft

2. **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 13 April 2015 – Signed by the Chairman

3. **Matters arising from the minutes:** None

4. Police:

The Chairman introduced PCSO Dave Birch and gave a brief outline of the duties of a PCSO.
As reported last year by Sergeant Hooper Minsterworth is considered to be a low crime area. PCSO Birch gave the crime figures for January-March 2016 – 5 incidents: 1 assault, 1 burglary, 1 attempted burglary, 1 criminal damage to dwelling and 1 possession of cannabis.

He said that there had been a spate of burglaries in rural areas and asked parishioners to be vigilant and if they see any suspicious to dial 101.

Q Accidents on the A48 – could there be more co-ordination with the Police so that locals who can easily get to their homes could be let through.

A Some police crews are dispatched from the Forest and some from Gloucester. Really depends on where the accident is but will speak to his Superior to see if there could be more co-ordination.

Q Are the markings outside properties marking them for burglaries?

A Operation liberal - Doorstep crime is a real problem with criminals targeting the most vulnerable in communities

Q Increase of drug taking activity at Cornham

A He would look into this further. The Chairman asked him to report back to the Parish Council on this matter.

5. **Affordable Housing Scheme proposed for the Village:** The chairman reported that the scheme was still rumbling on very slowly as there was quite a number of issues that needed addressing the main one being the point of access. Negotiations have been slow but are progressing now. District Valuer said there was no need for Open Market Housing but without this element it alters the financial aspect of the project and Rooftops were reluctant to go ahead without any Open Market Housing which

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in turn the Landowner who was selling the land at below the market value would get even less. It has been agreed to change the tenure of some of the houses to shared equity to enable the developers to get some return.

6. Phil Awford, County Councillor: His report had been circulated and welcomed any questions: He highlighted the following points:

- Disappointed about the increase in the precept but necessary.
- As a County Councillor he gets a sum of money to spend on Highways Matters across his 21 Parishes and this year he is getting an extra £10,000 making a total of £30,000.
- Is very involved in attending flooding meetings
- No date as yet for building of the incinerator
- Meeting with Richard Waters the next day to discuss the condition of the A48. If a white circle has been put around a pothole some action should be taken within 28 days – the potholes have to be at a depth of 4” before any action is taken.

The Chairman said the Parish Council had received several complaints about the condition of the A48 and looks forward to repair works being carried out in the near future. He commented that Glos Highways had kindly sided the footway and although he was originally sceptical about the creation of the third lane at Over Roundabout this had certainly increased the traffic flow.

Q The Bus Stop needs to be relocated before the hatchings

A A40 is the responsibility of the Highways England not GCC.

7. Derek Davies, Borough Councillor: As his report had been circulated with the agenda he would take it as read. He apologised for the small increase in the Council Tax however Tewkesbury is still the fourth lowest in the Country. There has been an increase in drug taking activities in Highnam and an increase in spite of burglaries. The police had arrested a number of people regarding the burglaries.

8. Village Resilience Councillor Pearson said that that a questionnaire had been sent out with the November edition of The Villager and to date had only received 20 completed questionnaires and urged people to complete and return the questionnaires as it is important for information to be collected on what survival equipment parishioners may have and what help might be required in an emergency. More volunteers are needed to offer help in the case of an emergency. Perhaps 2-3 people at various points along the village.

9. Broadband Survey Councillor McGrath said that he had only received 19 responses following the questionnaire that was sent out with The Villager. Unfortunately, Minsterworth has not been included in the plan to be upgraded as part of the current phase of the Fastershire project and it is essential it the Parish Council wants to get included in this project to show that it has the backing of the parish behind it.

The Chairman added that when he and Councillor Pearson visited Mark Harper MP they raised this matter with him and Mr Harper stressed the importance that the Parish Council had the backing of the village.

One parishioner asked if the Parish Council had contacted Churcham as some properties are on the same exchange as are some properties in Minsterworth. Councillor McGrath said that the questionnaire had only been sent to Minsterworth Villagers but would widen the area.

10. Minsterworth Clean-up for The Queen: Councillor Thomas said it would be a good idea to carry out a communal litter pick to clean up the village. The current litter pickers do a fabulous job but it is impossible for them to tackle the whole of the Village. It was agreed that on Sunday 8 May 2pm

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Villagers are invited to meet at the Village Hall to carry out a litter pick for 1-2 hours. This would be advertised in The Villager. Clerk to contact TBC to organised the use of picking sticks, high viz tabards and rubbish bags.

11. Matters Raised by Electors:

Severn Bore Parking: One parishioner felt there should be more control on where people park on the occasion of a Bore as visitors are damaging the verges in front of properties by the Church. Councillor Thomas said traffic mainly parks at the Village Hall for the people who arrive with enough time to spare to walk down to the Church however for those people who arrive at the last minute and refuse to park where they are directed they are impossible to control.

Noise Village Hall: One parishioner said that on a number of occasions the music from the Village Hall was very loud and continues on until 1.15am. The Chairman said the Parish Council would take this up with the Village Hall Committee.

Bury Lane Road Sign: This sign is in a poor condition and needs to be replaced.

British Legion: Mr Bourne asked the Village to support the British Legion with its next trip in September to Bletchley Park to the home of the War-Time Code-Breakers. Date to be confirmed.

12. Close of Meeting – The meeting closed at 9pm.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Roger Blowey

Having 'taken office' in August 2015 following the tragic loss of Richard Few, this has been my first full year as Chairman, and I'm now starting to realise how much time and input Richard provided.

It's been a busy year. The Affordable Housing Project is progressing, even though it seems (to me anyway) painfully slow. Planning permission was granted in February 2016, and we had hoped that work on the 14 shared equity and rented homes would have started in late summer 2016. Legal wheels turn slowly however, and although the access through the Village Hall entrance has been agreed verbally, the final legal details have yet to be settled. We remain grateful to Felicity and Stanley Karger for their continuing support.

You will all be aware of the Government push for more housing nationally, so in addition to the Affordable Housing, there have been various other planning applications, and Minsterworth will see its biggest expansion for many years. Having been allocated 'service village' status by Tewkesbury Borough Council, we are required to take a considerable number of extra dwellings, although the final total has yet to be determined. So far we have not received any applications for the large scale developments planned for neighbouring parishes such as Highnam and Twigworth, and we hope that by moving slowly forward with smaller developments this can be avoided. I note that in the Chairman's report for 2013 the continuing 'no build' policy for Minsterworth was being discussed. What a difference a few years makes!

We are continuing our campaign for more central islands to calm traffic flow and to make road crossing safer, and have had several meetings with Highways to discuss. At the same time, and especially if the various proposed housing developments progress, we hope to reduce the speed limit for sections of the Village to 40mph. This has been proposed to Highways and is currently being considered. Also in relation to speeding, we have been successful in obtaining a grant towards vehicle activated speed signs (VASS), although at the moment there is an issue with its total cost, the requirement to change their position every two weeks and to recharge the batteries. The third lane at the Over roundabout remains very successful, and when the planned further amendments to the roundabout take place next year, we hope traffic flow will be even easier.

Thanks to the efforts of the land owners trimming back their hedges, and with support from Phil Awford and the Lengthman's scheme, the path alongside the westbound carriageway of the A48 remains clear, is far more negotiable and is well used. Pot holes along the Oakle Street stretch need attention however as does the missing 'Oakle Street' sign. Many thanks to the PC members and parishioners who helped with the erection of the posts along Calcotts Green, and to those who have helped with grass cutting and general maintenance of both Greens over the years. We have applied for a grant to complete the final stages of the project, and hope to hear if we have been successful in April. Thanks also to the Village 'litter pickers', those who did 'clean for the Queen', and to those who have been doing it for many years. It's not until I tried it myself that I realised how long it takes. The amount of rubbish thrown out is extraordinary.

Our broad band speeds remain abysmal, and I would ask everyone to complete the speed check that has been requested in The Villager, which will provide an on line 'map' of poor areas. With more houses maybe we can exert greater pressure for a better service. Thanks to Paula (and those who distribute)

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for continuing efforts with The Villager. The new colour format is superb, and its content a really useful way of keeping in contact within the village. The Village Resilience Plan has yet to be completed but thanks to Tony, Cathy, Nigel and Steve for their efforts.

Once again I would like to thank all my fellow Parish Councillors, Tewkesbury Borough Councillors and especially Fiona, for their guidance and support. Chris Elias has filled the vacancy that arose during the year; his enthusiasm is impressive! I would also like to say a big thank you to the Parishioners who attend PC meetings. It's your Village – we value your comments and input, either written or verbal. We need to know what concerns you, and can do so much more with your help and support.

Roger Blowey
Chairman

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT Phil Awford – Severn Vale

This past year has presented ongoing challenge for the County Council, not least in attempting to provide for the increasing demands in both Adult Social Care and vulnerable children! Residents will be well aware of the recent budget where 2% was added to Council Tax in order to continue with this crucial support!

More locally, we face the continued issue of speeding traffic through the Parish and the issue of potholes and poor highway surfaces. I try to use my dedicated funding for safety features and am delighted that Highways Local funding is budgeted for yet again! I particularly welcome the re-think of funding the Lengthman scheme, it was not budgeted but those of us in Rural Divisions made a strong case for its continuation! Half a million pounds will enable all six Authorities within the County a dedicated team, a facility that will be put to good use on those lower priority issues that would not find funding elsewhere in the Highways budget. I can add that an extra £9 million has been put into the budget to continue with the Administrations determination to improve the network! Obviously, I will be getting the maximum I can for the A48, however, history tells us the better the surface the more motorists tend to speed up, traffic calming will be high on the future agenda!

As always, I am grateful for the support of both the Parish Council and residents, obviously I would wish to thank your Parish Council and Clerk for all of the help over the past year, I can say that it is a pleasure to work with you in order to get the best outcomes for the whole Parish.

Phil Awford

Highnam Division
Gloucestershire County Council

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BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Derek Davies

It is my pleasure to report on the activities at Tewkesbury Borough Council. One of the exciting items this year was the Building of a Fitness Centre in place of the Cascades Swimming Pool. The cost £7.5m. The overall saving will be many thousands of £s which was the cost of maintaining the very old existing swimming pool.

The Tewksbury offices have undergone many changes. In cost savings the bulk of the office staff has settled on the first floor using the hot desk system of working. This meant freeing up space which could be hired out to other parties such as Gloucestershire County Council etc. this has enabled us to create a public HUB in Tewkesbury incorporate Authorities and Business Personnel. The job Centre, CAB, Police is just three organisations also available at the HUB. The Top floor. We now have the top floor vacant and expect to let thus creating more savings This is all in the name of keeping your rates at an all-time low, despite the financial pressure placed on Local Governments. We have again last year kept our rates to be the fifth lowest in the Country. A record we can be proud of.

Affordable housing has been making very slow progress but I'm pleased to tell you that we are very close to making a start soon. My sincere thanks to all those people who have helped me in my efforts to unblock the system creating the hold ups. They know who they are. Phil my colleague has worked closely with me on Council matters and I'm delighted he has agreed to stand for the County Council again. May I mention my thanks to Roger your Chairman, Fiona Clerk, and you the Parish Councillors, for the kindness shown to me over the years. I have now been a Tewkesbury Borough Councillor for 31 years and loved every bit of it. OOPS! How could I forget our lovely Script Writer Paula.

Sincerely
Derek

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Flood and Snow Warden Report Councillor Cathy Thomas

This is probably one of the few reports I have written, when we have had a particularly dry time and not had any major problems with the River Severn or rain. Flooding may have been 'put on the back burner' regarding having to call upon our loyal band of volunteers to fill & distribute sandbags etc however, as a Parish council we are always aware that help may be needed at any time. You may remember, a while ago, we were fortunate to gain some grant funding, to aid our village should we face problems, including flooding, so we have purchased some emergency equipment and have worked hard on planning for a village emergency, as with all plans, it is updated regularly and is a 'work in progress' the resilience plan will become clearer as all the emergency equipment is purchased and stored securely.

Should you be new to our village or have lived here a while, please don't hesitate to contact if you require assistance during such emergencies or indeed, if you would like to volunteer to help in a crisis.

Our grateful thanks is extended to all who have volunteered so far to help out in an emergency, your generosity is much appreciated, thank you.

Snow has not been a problem (yet) again this year, but be assured our snow plough operator stands by, should the need arise, and to that extent we are very grateful for this backup.

Ham & Calcotts Green Report Councillor Cathy Thomas

Our grateful thanks firstly go to our local farmers, Messrs Dowding & King for their continued cutting of the greens & helping to keep them tidy for everyone to enjoy.

The Parish Council as confirmed owners of our village greens made the decision that posts should be erected along the roadside of Calcotts Green - this will initially help motorists in the event of flooding showing both the edge of the road and depth of the water. The Parish Council is pleased that both Ham and Calcotts Green are improving and continue to be a beautiful part of our village for all to enjoy.

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PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

Allan Selwyn

The Charities are run on behalf of Minsterworth Parish Council by trustees who are appointed by the Parish council. I been involved with the charities since 1995 and Mr Gerald Savage since 2003 and we feel we need to make way for others.

Hietts' Charity -founded by will dated 1719

The aim of this charity is:-"to assist persons who have not attained the age of 25 years, resident in the ancient Parish of Minsterworth who are in need of financial assistance and are preparing for entering upon or engaged in any profession, trade, occupation or service by providing them with outfits or paying fees, travelling or maintenance expenses or by such other means for their advancement in life or to enable them to earn their living as the Trustees think fit". In otherwise promoting the education (including social and physical training) of such person.

At the time of going to print a grant of £210.00 had been made to the school towards costs of guided reading books in the current financial year & we are happy to discuss any new applications with any individual.

The most recent bank statements show;-

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 30 day account | £1649.90 |
| Current account | <u>£ 328.09</u> |
| | £1977.99 |

Winkles charity founded by will dated June 1722

This charity issues small grants to persons of state retirement age who live alone to help towards heating costs. December 2016 saw four payments being given making a total of £100.00

As at 9 December 2016 there was £415.23 standing in the Lloyd TSB bank account.

Further information on grants can be obtained from the Trustees:

Mr Gerald Savage 01452 750401

Mr Allan Selwyn 01452 750384