

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

www.minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk

Email: clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk

Mrs F J Wallbank
Clerk

24 March 2011

Fresh Fields
Ledbury Road Crescent
Staunton
Glos GL19 3QB
Tel: 01452 849178
Mobile: 07792 989212

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

I hereby give notice that the Annual Parish Assembly will be held at Minsterworth Village Hall on Monday, 11 April 2011 at 7.30pm

Fiona Wallbank

Clerk

AGENDA

(subject to change)

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 12 April 2010
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes
- 4 Phil Awford, County Councillor
- 5 Derek Davies, District Councillor
- 6 Police Report
- 8 Any matters raised by electors.
- 9 Close of meeting followed by refreshments

All residents are invited to attend this meeting. Attached are the minutes from last year's meeting together with relevant reports for this year.

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 12 April 2010 in Minsterworth village hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors - Terry Bourne
Rod Crisp
Richard Few – Chairman
Steve King
Lynda Simms
Cathy Thomas
Borough Councillor Davies
County Councillor Awford (partial attendance)
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: approx 23

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and pointed out the Fire Exits.

Apologies: Councillor Ruffley, Paula Lynch, Barbara Coldwell.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 16 April 2009 were agreed and signed.

3 Matters arising from the minutes

Bus Stop – Hygrove Lane – The Clerk reported that this matter had been discussed regularly at Parish Council meetings and meetings had been held with Richard Gray. Richard Gray and his colleagues in the Safety Audit team had examined the site and had concluded that there was a minimal risk due to the volume of traffic using the junction. He said there were many sites that have a history of serious injury or deaths which would obviously take a higher priority for safety schemes.

A few days later Richard Gray advised that they would be erecting two reflective bollards adjacent to the bus shelter however only one bollard was erected and was put too close to the bus shelter itself to provide any protection for the bus shelter users. The Chairman met again with Richard Gray and it was agreed to erect several more bollards as you approach the bus stop from Minsterworth, the idea being to push the traffic away from the bus stop. Richard Gray also felt that when in the bus stop you could quite easily see if the bus was coming through the site hole.

4 Phil Awford, County Councillor said that as his report had been circulated he was willing to take any questions on his report or any other matters.

Bus Shelter Hygrove – He will take this matter up with Glos Highways again – as pointed out originally there is no protection on the Gloucester side with traffic coming out of Hygrove Lane using the slip road however they have now put posts on the other side.

He will also raise a road safety issue that when coming from Gloucester up to Highnam roundabout the barrier on the right hand side obscures the sight line and the kerb needs to have the kink removed and barrier needs to be shortened.

Speeding and safety is more of a problem on the A48 than anywhere in the County.

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5 Derek Davies, Borough Councillor said that his report had also been circulated and was willing to take any questions. Re the hatchings outside Linton Lodge he highlighted his campaign “Highways Start Listening” and encouraged everyone who travels along the A48 and is affected by the queuing traffic to send an email to Graham Dalton at the Highways Agency – graham.dalton@highways.gsi.gov.uk. He had recently attended a meeting at Churcham Parish Council when David Stock was present to answers questions – he stated that there was no evidence to support the view that the hatchings caused extensive queues during peak periods although it does affect how and where the queues form. The principal problem emanates from Over roundabout. This conclusion confirms the views expressed in the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit Acceptance and Exceptions report.

Re Planning Applications at Hygrove and Starcroft Lane – these had been refused by TBC planning committee. The Chairman had met with the committee members during the site inspection panel meeting and gave a very good presentation and he and County Councillor Awford had “done their bit”. Chances are that both applicants will go to Appeal and it is at that stage that the Village needs to write letters and turn out at the appeal hearings and show that Minsterworth has a “raw deal” when it comes to the amount of traveller sites in one small village. No idea when the appeal hearings will be but there will be plenty of warning and can be notified in The Villager.

Tony Pearson reported that the Village Hall has not received the necessary recycling bins and as the recycling facilities outside had been removed it is essential that the Village Hall received the relevant containers. Borough Councillor Davies said he would ensure that the Hall receives them.

Tony Pearson pointed out that the Hall would not be available for hire from the 1 September to the end of December 2010 due to building works.

A few comments were received regarding the fact that the small food caddies were very light in weight and after being emptied could blow into the Main Road and cause an accident. A good idea would be to put them inside the green bins when emptied – Borough Councillor Davies said he would ask the operatives to do this. Another parishioner commented that overall the operatives do a good job.

Terry Bourne reported that he had also attended the meeting at Churcham and echoes Derek Davies views about David Stock – he really has no idea of the situation regarding the hatchings. Also something needs to be done about the fact that traffic travelling from Gloucester comes to a standstill when traffic has to cross the A48. He thanked Borough Councillor Davies for all his continued work for the Village.

6 Police Report

The Clerk reported that PC Sian Roberts was unable to attend and so was the new PCSO Helen Devlin. Unfortunately no report had been sent. The chairman said that there was little police presence in the village or contact from the PCSO.

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7 Planning Policy for Minsterworth

TBCs local plan is due to expire in 2011 and has been in place for the last 10 years. The planning policy for Minsterworth stipulated “no new development” as there was no need for development as there were not many sites suitable for planning in Minsterworth. The Chairman would like to seek the views of elderly people in the Village who would perhaps like to remain in the Village but downsize and also if any young people would like to move into the Village. Most smaller properties have been extended into larger properties.

Borough Councillor Davies said that TBC are number 1 in the Borough for supplying affordable homes and 11th in the country. Although there is no mains drainage this is not a great problem any longer.

Cathy Thomas proposed that the Parish Council carry out another Housing Needs Survey (one was carried out in November 2007 and lasts five years) this proposition was seconded by Lynda Simms and 12 people voted in favour of the proposition.

8 Matters Raised by Electors:

Tony Pearson reported that water was running down School Lane was coming from an overflowing septic tank which is in The Hawthorns. The Chairman said that he would visit the house and speak to the owners.

Dr Lynch said that Minsterworth is proud to have the Bore happening in the Village. This is a natural phenomenon and unfortunately it is being flattened by the boat traffic on the river. 5-10 years ago this matter was taken up with Gloucester Harbour Trustees and a small note was put on information the EA produced. He had been touch with the Harbour Authority recently – apparently there is no legal reason why various organisations cannot put boats on the river.

A motion was passed that the “Parish Council would do whatever in its power to support any action to reduce motor craft abuse of the Severn Bore”. Dr Lynch said that he would like to report back to the PC possibly in July.

Allan Selwyn asked if TBC had paid their usual amount of £450 to cover the cost of hiring toilets for the Severn Bore etc as it was not shown on the financial report. The Clerk reported that this money had not been received but had chased TBC and it had been an oversight and would be rectified as soon as possible. Mr Selwyn also queried why expenditure exceed income – the Clerk said last year at the APA the PC was asked why there was so much money in contingency funds so during this financial year the PC had been able to make a donation of £1,000 to the Village Hall Fund. Strictly speaking the PC should not hold more than one year’s precept in the bank but as Minsterworth has such a low precept this could be a worry. The precept for 2010/11 has been raised by 4% which was the maximum the PC felt they could increase it during this economic climate.

Roger Dauncey thanked the Council and Clerk for their work during the year. He encouraged more people to attend Parish Council meetings as well as the APA – people seem to attend when there is a certain issue that concerns them but it would be encouraging to see larger numbers each month which could add considerable weight to grass root democracy.

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The Chairman said that the recent planning applications at Hygrove and Starcroft Lane had been refused by TBC and thanked Borough Councillor Davies for all the work he had done. TBC had recommended a 3 year temporary permission which would then cause a major problem to find new sites at the end of the 3 years. TBC has to work harder to look for other suitable sites as there is a total imbalance in Minsterworth.

9 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Refreshments were served.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Richard Few

Minsterworth Parish Council has had a busy year with two planning appeals heard here in the Village Hall. Both appeals have overturned previous planning inspectors' decisions, which we have found very frustrating.

We have had meetings with the Chief Planning Officer concerning the appeals and other planning infringement in the Parish and we are hoping that these matters in future can be properly dealt with.

The year has seen more fatalities on the A48. I have therefore asked the Police to do more speed checks to curb excessive speeding.

The lanes in the village have had most of the pot holes repaired, but Watery Lane is getting in a very poor state.

The hatching lines on the way to Gloucester are remaining. We have pursued this matter, but the Highways Agency will not budge. There is still queuing through the village in the morning, but it seems to be clearing more quickly.

On a positive note, Tewkesbury Borough Council has not increased the Council Tax, and the new Government are saying that they are going to give more power to local governance. We eagerly wait to see how this affects us at Parish Council level.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors and our Clerk, Fiona, for all their support throughout the year.

Ham & Calcotts Green Report 2010 – 2011

Again this year I can report that, thanks to local farmers both Greens are looking well cared for, which residents using the Greens for Dog walking etc. really appreciate.

Unfortunately we have suffered an increasing amount of fly tipping in the village, including in the vicinity of the Greens. Please could I again urge residents to continue to be vigilant, a prosecution for fly tipping in Minsterworth would, I am sure help to deter others! Please contact a member of the Parish Council or TBC to report any fly tipping.

Councillor Cathy Thomas

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Phil Awford – Severn Vale

I make this report following a tough Budget that sees the County Council having to make savings of £114 million out of our net Budget of £400 million over the next four years and a reduction in Government Grant

This following on from efficiency measures already undertaken which saw the County Council find £40 million over the last five years, hard choices have ensued following on from massive consultation, however many Communities are taking up the offer to take on some of the provision that can no longer be met by the County Council.

The administration are making massive changes to the way services are to be delivered, much more will come through commissioning and as a consequence there is a major restructure of both Officer and Cabinet positions.

Gloucestershire residents told us that vulnerable children and adults were the highest priority, whilst Highways continue to be a major local issue they came well down the list throughout the consultation.

I have worked with both Gloucestershire Highways and our MP to attempt to resolve the accident issues on the A48 through Minsterworth together with the added support of the A48 group.

Camera operation and enforcement, built in safety features are still being considered, funding will be a barrier given the National move away from cameras together with the considerable reduction to the Gloucestershire Highways Budget.

I have worked closely with Cllr Davies on Borough issues including local Planning Appeals and the subsequent conditions, we remain determined to improve enforcement.

I have worked closely with the Parish Council on the issue of Flooding particularly on the most recent Estuary Strategy consultation in relation to predicted sea level rise and its potential impact on those parts of the Parish that border the river , I continue to oppose those developments on the Gloucester City side that would also impact on the Parish .

As always, I will close with my thanks to the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk and the residents of Minsterworth for their continued support particularly through these most challenging times

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BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Derek Davies

For thirteen years the previous Government has created problems which we may discover has financial implications stretching into the foreseeable future. Let us hope that the new coalition Government will take a businesslike approach to sorting out this mess.

It is beginning to make a start with the new LOCALISM BILL currently being put through Parliament. One of the features of the Bill will be PLANNING.

For many years Minsterworth and your local Councillors have been critical of the Planning Laws in terms of fairness; particularly where it states that different rules apply for selected groups. The Minister of State for Local Government Eric Pickles has stated that under the changes to be made will be the rule of a "level playing field" everyone will be treated the same way. This means that in future Local Communities will have the right to determine planning on an equal basis in line with new planning guide lines.

Taxes: Tewkesbury Borough Tax has been frozen for the next two years and both Phil and myself can now claim that for the past four years Tewkesbury has held the record for the lowest Tax in the County Districts. Only to better that by being the fifth lowest tax of all English Districts Councils. Comparative figures:

Cheltenham	£187.12	
Cotswold	£144.38	
FOREST	£162.48	The average Council Tax for all English
Glos	£180.42	District Councils is £165.83
Stroud	£186.93	
Tewkesbury	£99.36	

Both Phil and my-self have formed a good team in looking after the interests of the Borough in keeping down costs for what will be a difficult year ahead.

I would like to express my personal thanks to your Chairman Richard, one of the hardest working Chairman for many a mile supported by his team of Councillors and not forgetting Fiona completing a Parish Council to be proud off. I certainly hope the whole team continues the good work after May 5th when both Phil and I will be offering our services to you the voters of Minsterworth again.

Sincerely

Derek

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Snow Warden Report 2010 – 2011

Although Snow fell early this winter and lasted to Christmas & beyond, it did not cause too many problems to the Village. The Parish Council provided extra salt/grit bins and we were fairly lucky in getting enough grit delivered to help with the minor roads. An increasing problem was that some villagers were removing grit for their own private use on their drives, but this soon reduced when it became very obvious that snow was not settling in some areas! Let's hope that snow and its associated problems do not reappear later this spring!

As in previous reports, if any villager requires assistance during heavy snow conditions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Councillor Cathy Thomas

Flood Warden Report 2010 – 2011

Thankfully this year has seen no flooding; the river did flip over slightly during the large February Bores, but with no serious consequences. The Environment Agency has recently put out notification of their plans to guard against flooding, which will affect some of the residents of Minsterworth. The Parish Council will continue to work to the benefit of all Minsterworth residents to make sure that as far as is possible No residents will be further affected by worse flooding and that all considerations for the flood protection of the village are investigated. The Environment Agency is due to attend our Parish Council meeting (March) and following this, may be further invited to address the village with their proposals.

If residents of Minsterworth are concerned, please attend the arranged meetings and visit the Environment Agency website for more information.

Councillor Cathy Thomas

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COMMUNITY EMERGENCY ADVISER AND HOME GROUP REPORT

As CEA I continued to keep the directory of Minsterworth residents up-to-date and also the "Welcome To Minsterworth" handout, which carries a number of recent changes. Any resident, old or new, who would like a copy of the February 2011 edition should ask me.

Concerning Minsterworth's history and heritage Terry Moore-Scott reports on several notable developments with all of which local support has been involved.

The completion of the **Victoria County History (VCH) volume XIII** which includes Minsterworth. This was compiled Dr Simon Draper of the Gloucestershire Archives and makes very interesting reading. The actual publication awaits further central funding, but the draft version is already available on the VCH website:

www.vicoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/gloucestershire

(Select the tab for "work in process" and then "Minsterworth".)

As part of this project Gloucestershire Archives arranged an investigation by Mr Duncan James - a historic buildings expert - to assess a number of **older structures in Minsterworth**. Perhaps the most interesting discovery was that the Apple Tree Inn, rather than dating from the 17th century onwards (as previously thought) contains within it a hall house dating from the late 15th/very early 16th century. (Each of the owners of the structures looked at by Mr James should have a copy of his report.)

A Flood Forum community website has been created by The University of Gloucestershire as a result of their work into the history of Severn River floods. Among other things it includes oral history video presentations including one by Mrs Christabel Mortimer recounting her memories of the 1947 floods in Minsterworth. On the same website Mrs Vera Smith of Elmore Back and Mrs Jean Conrad give their memories of the floods. These can be accessed on the Minsterworth website www.minsterworth.org.uk selecting "gallery" and then "video".

R.M.Dauncey
01452 750372

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PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

Allan Selwyn

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 otherwords promoting the education (including social and physical training) of such person.

At the time of going to print one grant has been made to the school in the current financial year.

The most recent bank statements show:-

30 day account	£872.60
Current account	£327.34
Total:	£1199.94

WINKLES CHARITY FOUNDED BY WILL DATED JUNE 1722

This charity issues small grants towards heating costs to persons of state retirement age who live alone.

December 2010 saw five payments, being given making a total of £75.

As at 23 December 2010 there was £285.12 standing in the Lloyd TSB bank account.

Further information on grants can be obtained from the Trustees

Mrs. Jane Fraser-Hook	01452 750288
Mr Gerald Savage	01452 750401
Mr Allan Selwyn	01452 750384