

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 11 January 2016, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors - R Blowey – Chairman
R Crisp
N Garbutt
S King
G McGrath
T Pearson
C Thomas
County Councillor P Awford
Borough Councillor D Davies
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 5

1 APOLOGIES: None

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING The minutes of the meetings held on the Monday, 14 December 2015 having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- GCC budget looking at a 2% increase plus another 2% for adult and social care – this will equate to around £40pa for a Band D property. Police and Crime Commission are looking at a 2% increase not sure about increase for TBC.
- Highway Matters – Seeing Richard Waters Tuesday and would speak with him again about the flooding at Downs Bridge. During recent rain the road was flooded and vehicles have to swerve out across the centre of the road to avoid the flooding. The drainage holes need power washing to unblock them. [It was agreed that the Clerk should email Richard Waters asking if a Risk Assessment regarding safety has been carried out.]
- Flood Watch – there are 2 media pages on Facebook – Gloucestershire Flood Watch and Worcestershire Flood Watch enabling locals can keep up to date on the water situation. Currently conditions are stable.
- Flood Defence Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 20 January at Tewkesbury. Chair of the EA had resigned his post.
- TBC site inspection on Friday at the proposed development for 725 houses at Twigworth.

5 TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:

- Thanked the Parish Council for their kind support following his accident.
- Very little to report due to his accident.
- Very concerned about the delays with the affordable housing scheme.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT (MAX 10 MINUTES) None received

7 PLANNING

7.1 Applications:

15/0132/FUL Greenacres, Main Road, Minsterworth: General enhancement of existing, private equestrian hard area, to include removal of dilapidated barn and some stabling and erection of new stable block including stone and some perimeter walling.

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council has **no objections** to this application.

15/01314/FUL Land at Starcroft Lane, Main Road, Minsterworth: Change of use of land to 6 no Romany Gypsy pitches and associated works including 6 no mobile homes, 6 no touring caravans, 6 no day rooms, and hard standing.

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council cannot support this application – the Chairman to draft a response which will then be circulated and discussed by Councillors.

8.2 TBC Decisions: None

8.3 Appeals: None

8.4 Planning and Travellers: Councillor Blowey reported that he and Councillor Pearson would attend the Gypsies and Travellers (G&Ts) and Travelling Showpeople January Hearings meeting on Thursday 21 January with the Inspector.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

8.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-31 January 2016	348.10		
Less Tax	<u>19.40</u>	328.70	Cheque No: 101325
Inland Revenue		19.40	Cheque No: 101326
Parish Magazine Printing:			
Printing The Villager A5 booklet			
194 copies of 20 pages –February	65.50		
Printing publication extra sheet	<u>9.20</u>	75.20	Cheque No: 101327
Minsterworth Village Hall:			
Meeting 14.12.15		28.60	Cheque No: 101328
Total:		£451.90	

Receipts:

Total: **£0.00**

8.2 Financial Statement for the month ended December 2015. Signed by Councillor Blowey.

8.3 New Audit Arrangements from 2017 for Smaller Councils: The Clerk had circulated the email from GAPTC re the Future of External Audit for Smaller Authorities. Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd has been created to take over the appointment of external auditors and the setting of audit fees for smaller authorities from 2017. This Company will formally appoint external auditors on the PC/TC's behalf for a five year period from the financial year 2017/18. This will happen automatically unless the PC decided to opt out and set up an independent Audit Panel to procure external audit itself. The deadline for those wishing to take a decision to opt out is 31 March 2016. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not opt out so at this stage nothing further needs to be done.

9 MATTERS ARISING:

9.1 Highway Matters:

Downs Bridge: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Litter Picking: Councillor Garbutt reported that all the clearance the PC did a couple of years ago had been undone by further littering, fast food detritus thrown out at the 'eating/drinking range' from Gloucester. Councillors said that currently Gerald Savage and Margaret Cotterill were volunteer litter pickers and did a wonderful job. CC Awford said that a pilot scheme was being carried out in Highnam between Highnam Parish Council, TBC and GCC. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Rachel North to see if a scheme could be set up in Minsterworth.

Church Lane: Councillor Garbutt said that the road outside the Church is in a bad state of disrepair with the verge all churned up and bad potholes in the road. When Richard Waters last inspected the

area it was during the summer so the problem was nothing like it is now. CC Awford said he would raise this with Richard Waters.

Bury Lane: Kerbs are obscured by mud and weeds.

It was agreed that Councillors should take pictures of areas of concern send them to the Clerk.

Slip Road from Westgate: This is in a very bad state of disrepair. CC Awford said he would raise this with Highways England.

9.2 Affordable Scheme: Councillor Blowey reported there has been a significant setback following the District Valuer looking at the scheme. He considered that financially it was not necessary to have 3 Open Market Housing. Rooftops will be revising the planning application to 4 shared ownership and 10 rented houses. Without any open market housing the income will be lower so this reduces the value of the land quite significantly. The Village Hall Trust has not decided how much income they require to release the end of the overflow carpark and this figure affects the figure that the landowner will receive. Erin Davies has managed to get an extension of time for the grant from Home and Community Agency until May.

9.3 Service Village Forum: No real update. It has been confirmed that any new traveller pitches are not classed as dwellings and therefore do not count towards the number of houses Minsterworth are required to build as a Service Village. Chairman to write to Elin Tettesall to challenge this.

9.4 Village Green: Councillor Thomas reported that she had found the Commons Registration dated 29 October 1976 stating that in the absence of any evidence of any person being the owner of the land the Commissioner would direct GCC to register MPC as the owner of the land under section 8(3) of the Act of 1965. This relates to Calcotts Green, Upper Ham Green and Ham Green. Clerk to send these to Land Registry as they have said that MPC does not own Calcotts Green.

9.5 Resilience Plan: Ongoing.

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

10.1 TBC Street Cleansing Service Review: TBC are reviewing the delivery of how often the litter and dog waste bins are emptied, litter pick areas and mechanically swept roads. PC to highlight any particular bins or areas the the PC considers a priority. There is only one dog waste bin in Minsterworth which is by the Church and this is a priority to continue to be emptied. Also the rubbish bin in Goose Lane layby is well used as are the rubbish bins in the laybys each side of the road just after Highnam roundabout when travelling towards Minsterworth. As mentioned earlier litter is a major problem throughout the whole of Minsterworth along the verges mainly fast food packaging. Clerk to write to Nick Firkins.

Any Other Correspondence:

Conservation Volunteers: Email circulated to Councillors re volunteers who are happy to complete outdoor maintenance and conservation tasks for a competitive price. Contents noted.

Gloucestershire Big community Switch: The scheme helps households potentially save money on their energy bills by using a reverse auction and a principle of bulk buying energy. Residents can register for the scheme online or over the phone by 1.2.16. An advert had been put in the February edition of The Villager and it was agreed that this should be advertised on the website.

“Smell” in Minsterworth: The “smell” has been reported to the EA by Councillor Garbutt and the EA are of the opinion that it is coming from the otherside of the river. One suggestion was that it maybe caused by the use of gypsum bedding - EA will visit the farm. Other Councillors thought the smell was coming from Churcham. Councillor Garbutt would pass this information onto the EA.

Email from David Taylor – re landfilling at The Lodge: had been circulated to Councillors. The Councillors were dissatisfied with his reply and Borough Councillor Davies asked the Clerk to send him a copy of the PCs original email and a copy of Mr Taylor’s response.

11 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION: None

12 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, 8 February 2016 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed 9.20pm.