

## MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 8 September 2014, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors - R Blowey  
R Crisp  
R Few  
N Garbutt  
C Thomas  
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk  
County Councillor P Awford

Parishioners: 6

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillor King and District Councillor Davies

**2 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on Monday, 14 July were agreed and signed.

**3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None**

### **4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:**

- Thanked the Parish Council for their letter of support following his family bereavement.
- Allan Smith has left Amey which is a great shame as he took with him a considerable amount of local knowledge. Meeting set up with Richard Waters, the Chairman and him for Tuesday, 16 September at 9am.
- GCC are challenged to make £5M savings over the next 3 years with no increase in the precept and next year is an election year. That actually means that the County Council need to save £100,000 per day.
- Re flooding – recent meeting held. He has seen recent modelling that the EA have undertaken with 13 difference scenarios of flood flow etc. Running a flood channel through Gloucester will not improve the situation in Minsterworth. It will mean that properties most at risk will have to be defended with flood doors/barriers to protect them. Cornham area of Minsterworth does not have the capacity to take the Northern water. The raising of the A417 will not be a viable project.  
The Chairman said that he was very disappointed that the EA just don't grasp how the river works – felt that Officers from the EA should have come down to the area in January and February this year. Currently trying to arrange a meeting with the Director of the Environment.
- Verges have been cut once and the second cut would only be safety cuts. The Chairman felt that all road junctions needed cutting.

In the JCS Gloucester City Council is tasked to find 4 traveller pitches, Cheltenham don't have to find any and Tewkesbury Borough has to find 126. He has challenged these numbers.

**5 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: Not present**

**6 PUBLIC COMMENT (MAX 10 MINUTES):** Comments taken relating to the Travellers residing on the Village Hall car park for over a week and the Village Hall having to pay £1560 to have them evicted. Further discussed under agenda item 9.4 Village Greens.

### **7 PLANNING**

**7.1 Applications: None**

**7.2 Decisions:**

14/00225/FUL:Charlton House, Main Road, Minsterworth: Erection of a 4 bedroom detached house - **Granted**

14/00437/FUL: The Lodge, Hygrove Lane, Minsterworth: Retrospective application of the change of use of land to use as a gypsy site to provide 19 pitches etc – **Granted** (temporary for 3 years)

**7.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions/Site Inspections: The Lodge, Hygrove Lane, Minsterworth:** Correspondence received from Catherine Crowley informing the PC that an enquiry concerning a planning enforcement issue is being investigated and the PC will be updated via the monthly planning enforcement reports.

## 8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 8.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

Cheque drawn prior to the meeting:

Able Investigations & Enforcements: Employing

Services of this company to prepare and serve

Notice for travellers, hiring services of 4 bailiffs

And commercial two trucks

2000.00

VAT 400.00

2400.00

Cheque No: 101241

Accounts for Payment:

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-30 September 2014

337.96

Less Tax for September

33.20

Less Tax underpaid for August

0.20

304.56

Cheque No: 101242

Inland Revenue

33.40

Cheque No: 101243

Grant Thornton: Audit fees for the year ended

31 March 2014

100.00

VAT 20.00

120.00

Cheque No: 101244

Brandon Hire plc – Hire of toilet in 11-15

August

50.00

VAT 10.00

60.00

Cheque No: 101245

~~Minsterworth Village Hall: Hire of hall for various~~

~~Meetings in connection the proposed affordable~~

~~Homes scheme – 21 May, 18 June, 13 August &~~

~~6 September 12 hours at £7 per hour~~

~~84.00~~

~~Cheque No: 101246~~

**Total:**

**£2917.96**

Rooftops said they would  
Cover this invoice

### Receipts:

**Total:**

**£0.00**

The Clerk reported that Rooftops had agreed to pay for the cost of hiring the hall for the various meetings in connection with the proposed affordable housing development. Clerk to inform Julian Oxley.

**8.2 Financial Statement** for the month ended September 2014 was circulated – contents noted.

**8.3 The Villager – “Future”:** Following last week’s meeting with The Villager “committee” and the Parish Council the Clerk had spoken to GAPTC about the power that the Parish Council are able to spend precepted money on the running costs of this magazine. GAPTC confirmed that the Parish Council certainly had the power to spend the money however raised several points that they felt the Parish Council needed to consider carefully:

1. If the magazine is possibly not sustainable perhaps it would be better to amalgamate it with the Parish Magazine?

2. If the Parish Council takes over the responsibility of the magazine who would retain the editorial rights?
3. What are the risks and responsibilities in taking over the magazine?
4. Currently have an Editor ie Paula but who will take over this role if she no longer wants to be editor?
5. Relationships with the sub-committee members may be OK now but what happens if there is a “fall out”?

Also after the meeting it was agreed that Tony Pearson would contact the vicar Steve Taylor regarding the possibility of amalgamating the Parish Magazine and The Villager as currently there was a considerable overlap. It was pointed out that if people subscribed to the Parish Magazine if The Villager was to finish they would have to pay around £3 per annum for the magazine. Currently The Villager is available to read on the website but it would appear that quite a number of people like to receive a “hard” copy to read. It was agreed to defer any decision on The Villager’s future until the Parish Council has heard back from Tony Pearson.

**8.4 Audit for the financial year ended 31 March 2014** – The Clerk reported that Grant Thornton had approved the accounts with no points raised. Councillor Thomas expressed her thanks to the Clerk for completing this task efficiently.

## **9 MATTERS ARISING:**

**9.1 Resignation of Councillor: A secret ballot was held and Tony Pearson was voted on as Councillor.** The Clerk was asked to write to McGrath to thank him for his interest in becoming a Parish Council and if he was happy to become involved in other areas the Parish Council would be delighted. The Clerk pointed out that the next elections were in May 2015 – only 8 months away.

### **9.2. Highway Matters:**

The Clerk had arranged for the Chairman, Phil Awford and Richard Waters to meet on Tuesday, 16 September at 9am to go through various highways matters that required attention ie speed issues by The Apple Tree, grass cutting of verges, possible post erection at Calcotts Green, flooding at Downs Bridge.

**Grass Cutting of verges A48:** The Chairman said that all road junctions were getting dangerous and required attention asap.

**Church Lane:** It would appear that this work with remarking the road has been reasonably successful.

**Over Roundabout:** Councillor Blowey felt that as the proposed works to the roundabout had been postponed for a year the Parish Council should ensure that their view are heard namely a filter lane at the Over Roundabout for traffic going to Hartpury etc, a filter lane on the Northern Bypass for traffic going into Gloucester. Clerk to email Highways Agency and copy in Nigel Rigler at GCC.

**Rat Run signs:** The Parish Council had been successful with its application for a grant from TBC. TBC had agreed to grant £100 but stated that they would not normally grant money for such a scheme but had no other applications to consider. TBC had suggested that the PC approach their County Councillor which the Clerk had done and it was agreed to invoice Richard Waters for the remaining £154.40. A long discussion took place regarding the appropriate wording for the sign but it was agreed that

**9.3 Affordable Housing Scheme:** The Chairman gave an update – over 45 people turned out on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September to view, discuss and comment on the draft plans for the Affordable Housing development adjacent to the Village Hall car park. It is a really good indication of the overall level of interest in the project. Naturally not everyone was totally in agreement, and this led to some excellent suggestions coming forward. A representative from Rooftop Housing Group will present a summary of responses to the Parish Council on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm**. Erin Davies of Tewkesbury Borough Council and Martin Hutchings of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council will also be present. All are welcome to attend.

It has yet to be decided which homes are for partial sale or which homes are for rental, but if anyone has any interest at all and are a Minsterworth resident or have any connections with Minsterworth, they need to get their name on the list

Affordable Housing for rent [www.gloshomeseecker.co.uk](http://www.gloshomeseecker.co.uk)

Affordable Housing to buy [www.helptobuysouth.co.uk](http://www.helptobuysouth.co.uk)

**9.4 Village Greens:** The Chairman continued on from previous discussion on this matter that following the travelers being evicted from the Village Hall Car park site they went straight to Calcotts Green on the Thursday 24 July. On Friday 25 July he had asked the Clerk to instruct Able Investigations and Enforcement (who the Village Hall had used) to serve notice and evict the travelers on the Friday. This was done successfully with the involvement of the police where the travelers moved onto the RSPB site at Highnam Woods. The Chairman said that he had blocked off the access to Ham Green by putting a gate across which is now locked with access at the side for walkers and horse riders. It is obscene that the Village Hall and Parish Council have to use their valuable funds to evict the travelers.

Councillor Garbutt reported that clarification was required about the Police Force's policy and ability to assist Minsterworth with future incidents. Sadly the first response from the Chief Constable was unacceptable so Councillor Garbutt wrote again and this time got a more helpful response from Inspector Jan Blomfield.

Glos Constabulary have agreed to attend a meeting with the various interested parties to put in place a process should this happen again. The bodies that need to be involved are legal TBC, representatives from the Village Hall Committee, several Parish Councillors, County Councillor Phil Awford and Borough Councillor Derek Davies. The agreed date is Wednesday, 1 October. Councillor Garbutt said that he would organize the meeting and produce an agenda.

The Chairman said it is very difficult to stop travelers just driving onto Calcotts Green but there are 4 options as follows:

1. Do nothing – first time this has happened for 20 years.
2. Dig a ditch around Calcotts Green with two gateways but there are health and safety risks attached
3. Place big boulders around the Green – this would be very costly
4. Put in posts around the Green – costs involved would be 190 posts at £3/post £570, 2 gates £85/gate £170, 4 gate posts £100, fittings £60 – total £900. He would donate his time, use of equipment etc. It was agreed that when on the site visit of the Village with Richard Waters they would drive to the area and have a “look”.

The Chairman asked the question if posts were put around the Green would local residents be willing to contribute to the cost. Consideration needs to be given if this work was carried out and the travelers just knocked down a post to gain access how would the Parish Council stand?

Richard Cockcroft had drafted a letter to be sent to Mark Harper MP but it was agreed to have the meeting first with the various bodies before sending the letter.

The Clerk had been asked to find out if they Parish Council are covered on their insurance in the event this happened again. We could use the services of the legal team to draft a notice to quit order but not the services of a bailiff.

**10 CORRESPONDENCE: None**

**11 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:**

**Severn Bore Breakfast** – Thursday, 11 September 2014.

**Village Walk** – Saturday 13 September 2014 12 for 12.30pm.

**12 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** Monday 13 October 2014 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed 9.20pm.