

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 13 July 2009, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors - T Bourne
R Crisp
R Few – Chairman
S King
S Ruffley
L Simms
C Thomas
Borough Councillor D Davies (partial attendance)
County Councillor P Awford (partial attendance)

Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 10

1 APOLOGIES: PC Sian Roberts. Borough Councillor Davies would be late.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday, 8 June 2009, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: County Councillor Awford on police matters.
Councillor King on agenda item 7.1.

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- The report in The Villager had mis-quoted him as it said that 40 traveller plots had been located but this was not the case however he was hopeful that it would not be long before this is the case with a site being identified. There is money available from Government for the provision of more travellers' sites.
- Constantly pushing Highways Matters with Richard Gray but little progress is made.
- New role of County Chair Scrutiny for Education Services in Gloucester, also retained his seat on the Police Authority.
- Toured the area about a week ago with Lord Chris Smith, Chairman of the Environment Agency to discuss the issue of flooding – met also with Rob Keene from Highnam. He showed Lord Smith various obstructions that would not cost a fortune to get rid of.

5 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: This item would be deferred until Borough Councillor Davies arrived.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT: (MAX 10 MINUTES)

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public comment.

7 PLANNING

7.1 Applications: 09/00615/FUL Foxgrove Main Road, Minsterworth: Erection of two storey extension (south elevation) first floor extension (north elevation) new roof and loft conversion
Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council **object** to this application for the following reasons:

- The proposed extension is disproportionate in size to existing dwellings in the area and therefore would not be in keeping.
- **No details** have been given on how the proposed extra amounts of foul water will be managed.

- Proposed balcony on the first floor will infringe on the privacy of the adjoining neighbours.
- Proposed increase to accommodation could potentially give rise to additional vehicular movements on and off an already busy A48
- Proximity to neighbouring properties
- The Parish Council is concerned that there will be a loss of light to the adjacent neighbours if the proposed extension is built and request that a light assessment is carried out by a legitimate authority. The Parish Council is aware that this is property law and not planning law.

The Parish Council request that this application is dealt with by the planning committee rather than be a delegated decision.

7.2 TBC Decisions: None

7.3 Appeals: None

7.4 The Firs, Main Road, Minsterworth – The Clerk said that she had spoken with Catherine Crowley who reported that matters at The Firs were operating within planning law – as Borough Councillor reported last month the occupants seem to be using the house as a day room and sleeping in the caravans and everyone residing are members of the family – there were 4 caravans and 1 motor home and it was all within planning law. She confirmed that the case had now been closed however if further vans appeared they would investigate.

It was agreed that the Clerk should invite someone from planning and legal to come and address the PC regarding this matter.

It was also agreed that Borough Councillor Davies should try to arrange a training session regarding planning law with TBC.

7.5 Land at The Lodge, Hygrove, Minsterworth – The Clerk reported that she had received a phone call from David Taylor at TBC (Planning Investigation Team Leader) who confirmed that they had received two planning applications but they have not yet been validated so they are not in the public domain. The applications are:

1 Change of use of land to use as a gypsy site for applicants immediate dependants and their families to site 3 touring and one mobile home and associated ancillary development (09/00705/FUL)

2 Retrospective change of use of land to use as a gypsy site for 15 pitches and associated ancillary development (09/00706/FUL).

Apparently the fact that an enforcement notice is in place does not preclude the applicants from putting in further applications.

County Councillor Awford said:

- The Planning Inspectorate would probably allow the application now as the Borough Council had not provided any alternative sites for the applicants to move to.
- TBC alone should be looking for 120 pitches. They are definitely behind the “game” and have not provided what they should have
- The County Council have to provide 40 pitches – currently a site is being considered. He is determined that the County will come up with the required pitches.
- There has been money given by the Government over the last two years for the provision of traveller’s sites but it has not been used and he is adamant that it will be used this year.

Councillor Bourne said that in the Structure Plan it is stated that there was to be no new development in Minsterworth – does this not apply to sites for caravans?

Any Other Planning Matters:

Hygrove Lane, Minsterworth – Catherine Crowley confirmed that the owners were probably implementing planning permission 08/01021/FUL for the erection of 3 ancillary buildings.

8 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

8.1 Accounts for payment and receipts - Councillors agreed the following finances:

Accounts for Payment:

Mrs F J Wallbank – Salary 1-31 July 2009	289.03	Cheque No: 100105
Minsterworth Village Hall – Hire of Hall: PC meeting 8.6.09.	26.00	Cheque No: 100106
GAPTC – Nuts & Bolts Course held on 6.7.09 – Councillor Ruffley attended	80.00	Cheque No: 100107
Moore Stephens – audit fees for the year Ended 31 March 2009	120.00	
	<u>VAT 18.00</u>	
	138.00	Cheque No: 100110
Total Payments	£533.03	

Receipts

Total Receipts **£0.00**

Payments for August 2009:

Accounts for Payment:

Mrs F J Wallbank – Salary 1-31 August 2009	289.03	Cheque No: 100108
Minsterworth Village Hall – Hire of Hall: PC meeting 13.7.09.	26.00	Cheque No: 100109
Total Payments	£315.03	

8.2 Financial update to end of June 2009 - This was circulated with the agenda -noted.

Any Other Financial Matters:

Audit for the year ended 31 March 2009 – The Clerk reported that the auditors had approved the accounts and had made no comments. She confirmed that she would put up the audit completion notices.

9 MATTERS ARISING:

9.1 Neighbourhood Watch – No messages had been received.

Councillor Thomas reported that following last month's meeting she had gone to see the parishioner and had a chat about his right to light from the trees. Currently he does not require any help with the gardening.

9.2 Report from Representative from Village Hall Committee: Councillor Ruffley said he did not have an update on the fundraising but thanked everyone for their support with the summer fete.

The Clerk read out a letter received from Tony Pearson thanking the Parish Council for their donation of £1,000. The Village fete raised approximately £1500 and they are now over a third of the way to their target of £68,000 and should be in a position to start building work by the target date of 1 September 2010.

9.3 Highways Matters: The Chairman reported that had had yet another tour of the various problems in the Parish with Richard Gray and Councillor Bourne.

Collapsed Drain Cover outside “Appithorne” – This has been repaired

Collapsed Drain outside Councillor Simms House – This is getting worse

New Road Lay-out on A48 at Highnam – The Clerk reported that she had got a most unsatisfactory reply from Interroute who replied on behalf of the Highways Agency – she also

read out a reply from Mark Harper MP who was taking the matter up with the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency. A discussion took place and the following points were raised:

- The bus stop is moving again to just by the traffic lights.
- There is no hatching on the other side of the road outside Linton Farm so why is it any safer for these occupants to exit onto the A48 without any hatching?
- Can any resident living on main roads ask for hatchings outside their property?
- Motorcycles are allowed to use the Bus Lane and bikes activate the traffic lights.
- Somebody needs to carry out a survey on the movements in and out of The Lodge.
- The traffic lights allowing Mr Keene safe access across the road

Hatchings by church Lane – The white hatching and white lines were being repainted and had started that day. Councillor Bourne felt that red hatching would be effective and this was discussed with Richard Gray who said that it might be possible. During the site visit there was a very near miss accident and Richard Gray witnessed the problem first hand. It was suggested that the Parish Council carry out a risk assessment on this matter with dates, times etc of near misses etc – Councillor Ruffley reported that on the 11 July at 11am there was another near miss. Councillor Thomas said that she would ask Mr Fisher who lived right by the junction to see if he could record details etc.

9.4 Website for Parish Council – Councillor Ruffley reported that he had provided the Clerk with some text and photographs and the Clerk reported that now the information had to be uploaded onto the templates and hopefully there would be a draft for the September meeting.

9.5 Councillors Areas of Responsibility – These have been agreed and a leaflet will be produced and sent to every household. Area 1 - Councillors Bourne & Ruffley – The Dinney to School Alley; Area 2 – Councillors Crisp & Thomas – School Alley to Watery Lane; Area 3 – Councillors Few, King & Simms – Watery Lane to Downs Bridge or any Councillor can be contacted if preferred. There are no set responsibilities. This matter could now come off the agenda.

Any Other Matters:

Bus Shelter Hygrove – The Clerk reported that Councillor Simms had noticed that something had hit the bus shelter, damaging the roof. The curved piece of guttering which join the gutter with the downpipe had been knocked off as had the stop at the other end of the gutter. Some of the tiles had been loosened and the mortar holding them had come away. The Clerk had asked Mark Maycroft of Westbury Wood for a quotation and this was £45. It was agreed to ask him to go ahead.

Chicken Smell – The Chairman reported that he had spoken with David Smart about the strong chicken smell which lasted for 2-3 days a short time ago. David Smart apologised for the smell but it was due to a lack of wind and when this happens the smell goes up into the air and comes straight back down again. They do try to keep any smell to a minimum.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- They had a new Chief Executive – Mike Dawson who has come from an authority in Sussex.
- There have been voluntary and non-voluntary redundancies
- Peer review has been carried out with the results in 4-5 weeks time but on the face of it, it would appear that TBC are doing quite well but could do better in some departments.
- Budget meeting on Monday 17 August at 10am Highnam Village Hall and encourage a representative from Minsterworth to attend.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council would like more guidance on planning and Borough Councillor Davies agreed to try and arrange a training seminar.

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

Any Other Correspondence:

TBC – Budget Working Group – Following on from Borough Councillor Davies the Clerk asked who would be able to attend this meeting? It was agreed the Councillor Bourne would attend along with the Clerk.

Footpath from Main Road to Church Lane opposite Church Landing Yard – The Clerk read out a letter from Mr Cocks who said that for the last 22 years he had kept this footpath clear but needed someone else to take on this responsibility. It was agreed that the Clerk should report this to the Footpaths Officer at GCC.

11 DATE/ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, 14 September 2009 at 7.30pm. It was agreed not to hold a meeting in August.

The meeting closed at 9.14pm.