

## MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 13 December 2010, in Minsterworth School.

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors - R Crisp  
R Few - Chairman  
S King  
S Ruffley – Vice Chairman  
L Simms  
C Thomas  
Borough Councillor Davies  
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 3 (1 partial attendance)

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillor Bourne.

### **2 MINUTES OF MEETING:**

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday, 8 November 2010, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed

**3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None

**4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** Not present

### **5 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:**

- The Localism bill has been announced. This will mean greater co-operation between parish/district/county councils together with closer working with Borough and County Councillors
- Hygrove Lane enquiry – held in the Village Hall. This time the Inspector used a microphone and could be heard better – he seemed more efficient than the Inspector used for the Starcroft Lane enquiry
- Uplands Nursing Home in Maisemore was closed overnight. If anyone had any concerns over any other nursing homes to let him know straightaway.

### **6 PUBLIC COMMENT: (MAX 10 MINUTES)**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public comment.

### **7 PLANNING**

**7.1 Applications:** Graingers, Main Road, Minsterworth: Erection of first floor extension over existing ground floor kitchen and utility to rear. TBC have granted a non-material amendment for proposed changes to permitted planning application reference 10/00703/FUL.

Foxgrove House, Main Road, Minsterworth: TBC have granted a non-material amendment for proposed changes to permitted planning application reference 10/00487/FUL.

**7.2 TBC Decisions:** None

**7.3 Appeals:** None

**7.4 Hygrove Lane** – The Chairman confirmed that the use of microphones had improved matters. Enquiry started at 10am and had finished by 12 noon after which was the site inspection. Strong concerns were raised about the narrowness of the lane. Should hear the outcome on the 4 January. Mr Brazil denied all knowledge that he knew there was a footpath running through the site until recently and he had now applied to GCC for a diversion. Anyone else who was blocking a footpath would be fined £5,000 – why has Mr Brazil not been fined? Clerk to contact Suzanne Hopes.

**7.5 Starcroft Lane** – When the Chairman spoke with TBC they said that the Inspector's decision had been made and there were no grounds for appeal. One Councillor asked who was going to police it?

## 7.6 Enforcement Matters:

**The Firs, Main Road, Minsterworth** – The Clerk had spoken with David Taylor who sent an email informing that the owner and his Planning Consultant have been advised on the 13.12.10 that an application to retain the current building in its current form, including kitchen would not receive officer support and is likely to be refused as it is considered tantamount to a new dwelling and enforcement action would then follow. However the applicant has been asked whether they would be prepared to make the building in to a “genuine” annexe by eg removing the kitchen area and the bedroom wall thus making it an open area with some ancillary accommodation. This option would still require planning permission, but would likely to be looked on more favourably. David Taylor is awaiting their response.

Councillors were not happy about this – basically the garage has had the front taken off and moved back and the roof raised and has been converted to a small bungalow and people have been living in there for quite a while. If anyone else living in Minsterworth had done this they would not be allowed to get away with it. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of complaint to Mella McMahon with copies to Mike Dawson and Derek Davies.

**Fairlie, Main Road, Minsterworth** – The Clerk had spoken with David Taylor at TBC who confirmed that a change of use to C2 would be required as a care home. He would await a copy of the advert.

### Any Other Planning Matters:

It was brought up once planning permission is granted by TBC no-one checks on the building works as they take place and Foxgrove House and High Cross House are prime examples of properties not being to the specified and passed plans.

## 8 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-31 December 2010	294.81	Cheque No: 101067
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Minsterworth School– Hire of Hall:

PC meeting 13 December 2010	26.00	Cheque No: 101068
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<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£320.81</b>	
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### Receipts

<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
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**8.2 Financial update to end of November 2010** - This was circulated with the agenda -noted.

**8.3 Draft Budget for the financial year ending 2011/2012** – The Clerk presented four drafts of the budget based on increases of 13.5%, 15%, 17.5% and 20%. Although this sounded a lot the precept is fairly small to start with. It is obviously not good to have a budget where the expenditure exceeds the income and now reserves have been run down Councillors felt it was time to try to have a breakeven budget. The Clerk reported that TBC had said that there would be no election costs to parishes in the May elections. It was agreed to raise the precept to £6240.

## 9 MATTERS ARISING:

**9.1 Report from representative of Village Hall Committee** – Hall to open on New Year’s Eve – it is looking very good.

**9.2 Police Matters** – The Chairman reported that he attended the police meeting at Cinderford where Richard Boyles was present, the Inspector for the Forest. He explained at the meeting why Police Officers would not be attending Parish Council meetings apart from the annual meeting where they will present the annual report on crime and local issues and answer any questions. There are 41 separate parish meetings within the policing area and it was impossible to attend them all and by not attending Parish Council meetings the police officers could carry on their policing duties.

PC Sharon Duberley had been to visit the Chairman and he suggested that she familiarises herself with the lanes and be more aware of the layout of the Village.

### **9.3 Highway Matters:**

**Grit** – During the recent ice and snow Councillor Crisp and the Chairman carried out some gritting around the lanes on the hills and bends. The Chairman had also put out extra grit bins on the hilly parts where needed and GCC had been around and refilled the current grit bins and filled the new ones. One of the Councillor's stressed that the GCC are quite prepared to prosecute anyone seen stealing grit out of the bins,

**Rat Run Signs** – The Clerk had run off 12 posters on the A3 printer and this had been passed to Councillor Thomas for laminating and then would be passed onto Councillor Bourne to put up.

**A48 – Fatalities** The Clerk reported that she had written to the various bodies as instructed but had not received a response from any of them. However, Richard Gray gave the Clerk Inspector Kevin Roseblade's email address who this matter would fall to. The Clerk had a long chat with him and he agreed that a positive way forward from the PC trying to get the various bodies concerned to raise the profile of the road would be the best idea.

It was agreed that the Clerk should email Garry Handley, Inspector Roseblade and Richard Gray stating that The Parish Council is very anxious to educate people using the A48 of the problems associated with this road and that the PC feel that a number of pro-active measures could be undertaken and would seek their assistance in making these happen:

1. Target the area by the Severn Bore with the speed camera van regularly in attendance - say 3 times a week for a month – this will get around locally that the area is being speed checked. It would be great if the area was highly regarded like Maisemore where most people drop their speed to 30mph.
2. Erection of several signs giving figures of the number of accidents/fatalities at this location similar to those on the B4008 (road to Stonehouse)
3. The installation of a static camera at the Severn Bore site.

**Watery Lane** – The Clerk had circulated an email from Richard Gray stating following a site visit he noted that there is still a section which requires attention and he also suspected that the ditch across the fields also require works. Both of these should assist in removing excessive surface water from the carriageway. The Chairman did not agree with this and said that the water is come from underground.

**Potholes by the Church** – these are on a programme for filling but no timescale has been given.

**Sunken Drain** by Duni Farm, Main Road, Minsterworth. Clerk to report.

**A40 Highnam** – Traffic lights at pedestrian crossing seem to go red randomly. Borough Councillor Davies said he would take this matter up.

**9.4 Dates for 2011** – The Clerk explained that apart from the March meeting all the others would be the second Monday in the month meeting in the Village Hall. However the Clerk explained she would be on holiday on the second Monday in March so suggested meeting on the first Monday and this would have to be in the School as the Hall had a booking. Councillors were quite happy with this proposal.

**9.5 Standing Orders** – Defer to the January to allow Councillors more time to study proposed revisions.

**9.6 Footpath EMW/8** – In the public comment section it was reported that the path was difficult to walk as the stumps had been cut up and left. The Chairman said he would have a word with the person concerned,

## **10 CORRESPONDENCE: NONE**

**11 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 10 January 2011 at 7.30pm to be held in Minsterworth Village Hall.

The meeting closed 8.50pm.