

## MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 10 December 2012, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors - R Blowey  
R Crisp  
S King  
S Ruffley – Vice Chairman  
C Thomas  
Borough Councillor D Davies  
County Councillor Awford  
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 1

**1 APOLOGIES** Councillor Few and Garbutt.

**2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on Monday, 12 November 2012 were agreed and signed.

**3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None**

**4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** As follows:

- Re-surfacing work has been done in the Parish however the road to Ham Green has not been done and he would be taking this up with Richard Waters when he met with him the next day.
- Has to consider how the £10k is going to be spent - £5k on Minsterworth for Road Safety/traffic calming. He would like the Parishes views on this – does he target the derestricted area? Did not have an update on the possibility of a activated speed indicator sign from Tirley – was still awaiting a decision.
- Reported on the County Councils budget setting plans last month – there will be no increase in the precept however front line services will receive a hit in reduction of funding.
- Flooding November 2012 – Although he advised farmers to remove livestock from the land there was not the same problem for Minsterworth as the 2007 floods, however other areas had big problems. Surface water is now more of a problem than it used to be.

Councillor Ruffley said that Church Lane had been subject to white line circles around potholes – County Councillor Awford thought this practice had stopped – would speak to Richard Waters.

**5 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:** As follows:

- Hope that someone from the Parish will attend the seminar at TBC offices on Wednesday (12) as it will be a very informative evening – topics to be discussed will be place planning and localism.
- He has been co-opted onto a task force at Cheltenham to oversee “things” in connection with the JCS.
- Attended a seminar with all authorities in Gloucestershire on Gypsy Traveller Awareness. Part of the JCS was to look at Gypsy Traveller Awareness as a separate entity. Consultants are due to interview Gypsy Travellers to see what their needs are. Councils have to be pro-active at finding suitable sites and all must co-operate with issue.
- As reported last month there is an organizational review being undertaken at TBC and will be put in place in the New Year.

**6 PUBLIC COMMENT (MAX 10 MINUTES) None**

**7 PLANNING**

**7.1 Applications: None**

**7.2 TBC Decisions:** None

**7.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions:** None

**Any Other Matters:**

**Enforcement: The Firs, Main Road, Minsterworth:** The Clerk reported that she had received a reply to her email from David Taylor a copy of which had been circulated to the Councillors for their information – contents noted. David Taylor confirmed that he would continue to monitor this when in the area.

**8 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**8.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:**

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-31 December 2012	317.64		
Less Tax	<u>57.40</u>	260.24	Cheque No: 101157
Inland Revenue: Tax for FJW		57.40	Cheque No: 101158
MVH – Hire of hall 12.11.12		28.60	Cheque No: 101159
A48 Meeting – Subscription 2013		8.00	Cheque No: 101160
System Force IT – Annual hosting fees for <a href="http://minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk">minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk</a>	30.00		
	<u>VAT 6.00</u>	36.00	Cheque No: 101161
Brandon Hire – Hire of toilet 14-17.11.12	50.00		
	<u>VAT 10.00</u>	60.00	Cheque No: 101162
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£450.24</b>	

**Receipts**

**Total Receipts** **£0.00**

**8.2 Financial Statement** for the month ended November 2012 was circulated – contents noted.

**8.3 Budget for 2013/14:** Following last month’s budget discussion a second draft had been prepared and circulated. This reflected the amendments last month and was based on a precept for 2013/14 of £6560 which represents an increase of 3.1%. It was agreed that the precept for 2013/14 for Minsterworth would be £6560. County Councillor Awford confirmed that there would be no increase from GCC or TBC but was not sure about the Police. The Clerk brought to the Councillors attention the correspondence re the “Localisation of Council Tax Benefit” – GAPTC are advising Town and Parish Councils to wait to see what impact this would have to their Parishes before putting requests into the Borough/District Council. The Clerk spoke to TBC who confirmed that they are still awaiting guidelines from Government how this will affect the banding of properties. Borough Councillor Davies said that this would not have an impact on Minsterworth and felt that the Parish could put in their precept request to TBC. The Clerk said that at the TBC seminar on Wednesday this matter was being discussed so would wait to see what advice was given by TBC.

**9 MATTERS ARISING:**

**9.1 Report from representative of Village Hall Committee:** No report.

**9.2. Highway Matters:**

**Grass Cutting/Verges:** Response received from Richard Waters had been circulated to all Councillors for their information. Richard Waters stated that there had been advantages and disadvantages with the trial approach and over the winter they would be assessing these before finalising their approach for the next summer season. This assessment will include evaluating the financial implications of this trial. They were aware that whilst there will be front-end savings in

undertaking the trial approach, there were also additional incurred costs which need to be considered. As the PC mentioned there were disadvantages such as having vegetation tending to encroach over footways in some locations. All of these issues will be assessed and debated over the winter so that they learn from the trial and approach the next season with the advantage of lessons learnt from this season. He invited the PC to submit their views on the trial. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to Richard Waters email reiterating the points originally made.

**A48 between Appithorne to Railway Bridge:** Councillor Thomas said that she had taken a photograph of the weeds growing out of the gully. It was agreed to send this to Richard Waters highlighting the fact that the gullies cannot have been cleaned.

**Watery Lane:** Has been resurfaced along with Pound Lane and a few other areas. Glos Highways have done a super job – Clerk to email Richard Waters to thank him.

**Road to Ham Green/ Mrs Trigg's property:** Unfortunately this road was not included and is in a most dreadful condition and soon Mrs Trigg will not be able to get out to go to hospital which is vital. The Chairman had to email Richard Waters again at the weekend and he said he would send a safety team out to investigate. Councillors felt that this situation was getting very serious now. County Councillor Awford said he would pressurize Richard Waters when they met the next day.

**A48/Church Lane Turning: No further update.**

**Crash Barrier: No further update**

**Ditch by Church and Bungalows:** This did not seem to be a problem in the recent floods however did have silt that needed removing at some stage.

**Footpath EMW11:** Clerk reported to GCC the protruding tree routes on this footpath.

**A40 Highnam Vegetation:** Following Richard Waters conversation with the Chairman he had reported this problem to the Highways Agency about reduced visibility. Councillors reported that the A40 vegetation has now been cut.

Councillor Ruffley said that when travelling to the meeting he was turning out of Bury Lane and witnessed an ambulance travelling down the A48 and was overtaken by a vehicle which went across the hatchings.

**9.3 Review of Severn Estuary Strategy:** Councillor King reported that the EA has met with landowners in Minsterworth but the meeting was not really linked to the Review Strategy. The EA offered some solutions to the various problems landowners experience and these were the same solutions that were offered by the EA 10 years ago. The EA were supposed to write to everyone at that meeting but Councillor King said that he had received nothing. The EA have agreed to maintain the bank/sea wall below the Chairman's house for the next 20 years.

The Clerk reported that Simon Cullen had requested to attend the next meeting at Westbury-on-Severn and asked if he would like to attend the December meeting of Minsterworth. He said that he had met with landowners and did not feel it was necessary. It was agreed that the Clerk request that the EA attend the January meeting of MPC.

**9.4 Affordable Housing Scheme:** The Clerk read out an email from Paul Skelton that had been sent to the Chairman. He had spoken with the Place Planning Team who will be looking for Parish Councils to be involved in pilots for the Council's place planning approach. TBC has now formally agreed to place planning as one of the preferred approaches for working with their communities. He suggested that once the Parish is better informed about the potential ways forward the Parish Council may wish to be considered as a front runner. The Clerk also reported that Frances Evans had emailed Councillor Blowey suggesting that it may be an idea to get Martin Hutchings involved with the land owners as he can act as an independent party. Councillor Blowey raised the topic of "Community Right to Build" which is inviting Community Groups in England to apply for a share of the £17.5m fund which is being made available to provide seed corn funding to help groups to formally establish build up their development proposals and submit a Community Right to Build Order. The funding is available until the end of March 2015 or until funding is fully committed. Clerk to write to Paul Skelton saying that the Parish Council are waiting for TBC to state their preferred site before approaching the landowner.

**9.5 The Standards Regime and the Localism Act 2011:** The Clerk reported that Sara Freckleton was still awaiting a reply to her letter she had sent to the Government. At the TBC seminar on Wednesday from 5pm Sara would be available to answer any questions on this matter so the Clerk said that she would speak to her then. It was agreed to defer this to January however the Clerk said that at the January meeting this would have to be agreed one way or the other.

**9.6 Flooding November 2012:** Councillors reported that there was flooding at Cornham. All animals were successfully removed although those areas did not actually go under water. This flood was different to the floods in 2000 and 2007 as the river levels were dropping the land was filling up. Councillors thanked County Councillor Awford for all his help, advice and phone calls keeping the Parish up to date on what was happening up the river.

The Clerk asked if the Councillors knew of anyone affected by the floods with damage to properties as there was £50k available via the Gloucestershire Community Foundation to those affected. Councillor Thomas said that she knew of someone outside the Parish who had moved into one of the semi-detached houses by The Dog at Over the day before the floods and the water had gone through their house. County Councillor Awford said that this was not probably caused by the water from Highnam more from the fields behind The Dog however the surface water from Highnam was a concern. He also reported that he sits on the Committee who administered the 2007 Flood Appeal money and there is still money left in that fund and will probably be involved with this now.

**9.7 Dates for 2013:** Clerk confirmed that these were all the second Monday in the month apart from August when there would be no meeting. County Councillor Awford said that as from next Spring he would be taking on more responsibilities and would probably only make every other meeting but would send a written report.

## **10 CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **Any Other Correspondence:**

**Roses Theatre:** Request for Parish and Town Councils to make a donation. Unfortunately Minsterworth Parish Council has not in a position to make a donation that would be of any benefit. Roses Theatre now receives a large grant off the Arts Council.

## **11 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:**

**Christmas Bazaar:** To be held at the Church on the 15 December from 9-3pm. There will also be a 3 Star Bore at 9.15pm – Clerk confirmed that she had ordered a toilet.

**Sites for Recycling:** Councillor Blowey reported that TBC were offering financial rewarding communities if they are willing to host some recycling receptacle on their land. This information was passed to Councillor Ruffley to pass on to the Village Hall Committee.

**Borders Broadband:** Councillor Ruffley reported he had received an email from Christopher Cowcher from GRCC stating that they are campaigning for a focus group to be developed to raise awareness of the new network and how it can be used to improve and better people's lives as they will be signing a contract with BT next week. The meeting will be next Monday (17) and Tuesday (18) in the Gloucester area (venue to be confirmed). Unfortunately he was unable to attend.

## **12 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday 12 January 2013 at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed 9.04pm.