

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Monday, 9 February 2009, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors - T Bourne
R Few – Chairman
S Ruffley
L Simms
C Thomas
Borough Councillor D Davies
County Councillor P Awford

Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 4

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors Crisp and King. PC Sian Roberts.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday, 12 January 2009, having been circulated with the agenda were amended agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: County Councillor Awford on agenda item 9.6

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- GCC never ran out of salt, were never likely to and will not need to salt much more
- Currently there is plenty of capacity in the rivers but people need to keep an eye on the tides. Sandbags are available at TBC offices
- Police Authority setting their budget for 2009/2010

Councillor Thomas asked why the A48 and A40 were not gritted on Thursday pm and Friday am? County Councillor Awford said he would ask some questions.

5 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- The various missing road signs will be replaced. Funding will be found from the “Future Fund” fund. He said he would find out when the signs would be replaced.
- TBC are finally making some progress. REIP money has been secured – this follows on from Government money being passed onto the ‘South West region and TBC put in a bid for £300,000. This has been granted over the next 3 years and is to be used for flooding etc.
- A Corporate Development Board has been formed and they are there to make improvements to Council. They are currently applying “systems thinking” to the planning department as this system has been used on the Benefits department with great success.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT: (MAX 10 MINUTES)

The Chairman adjourned the meeting while the public made their comments.

7 PLANNING

7.1 Applications:

08/01585/FUL Mr N Powell: High Cross House, Watery Lane: New hay store & machine, animal shelter

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council has **no objections** but would like to receive information on the drainage proposed for the animal shelter.

08/01506/FUL The Firs, Main Road: Alterations to and conversion of existing detached garage to provide a residential annexe to the main dwelling – Revised plans for information only – corrected site layout septic tank details added.

7.2 TBC Decisions:

08/01539/FUL High Cross House, Watery Lane: Continued use of agricultural land as residential cartilage to the east of the site and erection of 1.8m high gates: The part of the application relating to the erection of 1.8 metre high gates and the continued use of agricultural land as residential cartilage to the western side of the site has been **granted** but the continued use of agricultural land as residential cartilage, to the eastern side of the site has been **refused**.

7.3 Appeals: None

7.4 The Firs, Main Road, Minsterworth –The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Sara Freckleton which stated that a meeting was to be arranged between the Enforcement Team and the Managing Solicitor (Keith Slipper) to review the evidence in view of the PCs ongoing concerns. Although initially TBC concluded there was no breach there is further consideration to be given in light of additional information and reports. There will be a case conference this week or next and Sara will advise the PC of the outcome.

The Chairman asked Borough Councillor Davies how many vans under planning terms can be parked on a site? Borough Councillor Davies said that was not that simple. It was reported that there was a huge number of black bags left outside the property for collection.

7.5 Land at The Lodge, Hygrove, Minsterworth – Sara Freckleton reported that the case continues to be reviewed and TBC will advise when a conclusion has been reached.

7.6 Hybank, Main Road, Minsterworth – Email received from Catherine Crowley which stated that she visited the property again on the 8 January to inspect inside the bungalow and at the back of the property which she was not able to do on her previous site visit. She advised the following:

“the main dwelling has currently 6 bedrooms let. The residents all have study bedrooms and share the communal areas: kitchen, lounge and 2 bathrooms/shower rooms. Currently there is no material change of the use of the dwelling according to Class C3 Town and County Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 which specifies “not more than six residents living together as a single household (including a house-hold where care is provided for residents)”. She has advised the owners that should they let another room then they will need to apply for a material change of use.

At the back of the property the small detached building is currently being used as a laundry room and is acceptable in planning terms as it has only been used previously as garden store/toilets for the main dwelling.

The stationing of a mobile home at the back of the property will need to be regularised and the owners who have stated that it has been there for a number of years will be invited to submit a Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development.

8 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

Mrs F J Wallbank:

Salary 1-28 February 2009	283.36	Cheque No: 100886
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Minsterworth Village Hall – Hire of Hall:

PC meeting 12.01.09.	26.00	Cheque No: 100887
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Mrs F J Wallbank:

Expenses for period October 2008 –

February 2009 for travelling,
photocopying, telephone, use of

Room etc	139.65	Cheque No: 100888
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Total Payments	£449.01	
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Receipts

Total Receipts

£0.00

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

9 MATTERS ARISING:

9.1 Neighbourhood Watch – There have been two incidents of suspect callers in the Forest on 30 January. The first in the Newnham area where a white male in his 40's approx 5'9", chunky build with slight Irish accent approached an elderly home owner claiming to be from the electricity board. He persuaded the victim to let him in and asked her to try out various electrical items. While talking he gained information about her pension and other details. In the second incident in the Cinderford area an elderly resident was approached about buying a motor scooter but was intercepted by a relative.

9.2 Report from Representative from Village Hall Committee – Councillor Ruffley reported: The Village Hall Committee is in the process of:

- Trying to raise funds for the modifications required to the Hall which will cost approx £80,000. They are currently obtaining 3 quotes from builders.
- They have been in touch with Simon Dix of TBC to discuss a grant application which may be available for up to 50% of the costs
- They have approached the Somerfield Trust and the Glos Environmental Trust and other organisations
- It is an essential facility in the Village and the VHC would like the PC to support financially if possible.
- They will be contributing up to £10,000 by way of fund raising events etc.

Councillor Bourne reported that the Royal British Legion is replacing the dead cherry trees as these are greatly admired by numerous people when flowering.

9.3 Highways Matters:

Bus Stop, Hygrove Lane – Nothing further to report.

Minsterworth Garage – Drains – Apparently GCC has not really done anything to improve the situation. Clerk and County Councillor Awford to email Richard Gray to chase up the CCTV survey.

Turning into Bury Lane from A48 – Nothing further to report.

Watery Lane – This lane has a dreadful water problem with a stream running directly across the lane. The ditches are blocked. Clerk to contact Richard Gray and copy in Bob Nightingale (Drainage Engineer) at TBC as he is working on minor flooding problems and may be able to help.

Lower Lane – the water is hanging around on this lane around the property "The Dell". Clerk to report.

Councillor Thomas would like to thank County Councillor Awford regarding the situation with the snow. Gordon King was on standby but was not needed. Farmers are not allowed to clear snow unless asked to do so. Also thanks to Rod Crisp for gritting Watery Lane – he did an excellent job.

9.4 Website for Parish Council – Councillor Ruffley reported that he had done some research on this matter with the Clerk's help and whilst it could be cheaper for him to create a website then it would be down to him to manage it. He has looked at some Companies who produce websites for Parish Council and one particular company was www.parishcouncil.net which looked simple and professional. The silver package would cost £250 to set up and £200 for hosting. The Clerk felt that this was quite a lot of money for a small Parish Council and said that Westbury's site on cost around £15 every two years for the domain name. She said that her niece had designed two websites and that she would have a word with her to see if she would be interested in designing a website for the Parish Council.

It was agreed to form a sub-committee to discuss this matter further to comprise of Councillors Few, Ruffley, Thomas and the Clerk.

9.5 Annual Parish Assembly – This is on Thursday, 16 April. Councillor Thomas offered to do the refreshments. It was agreed to produce the usual booklet containing various reports etc. Clerk asked for reports to be submitted by 1 March as the booklet would need to be with the printers by around the 15th March. It was agreed that the Clerk would invite PCSO Gee and Richard Gray from Glos Highways.

9.6 Police – Clerk reported that Sean Clarke was no longer the PCSO for Minsterworth it was now Rob Gee along with PC Sian Roberts who oversees Rob. The Clerk said that she had the received crime statistics for period 1 August to 15 December 2008 total of 2 crimes of “Other theft and handling” have been reported and the period 1 April to 15 December total of 6 crimes – burglary 2, other theft and handling 4 with 0 detected. Also following the email circulated about the Neighbourhood Police meeting held at Cinderford to try ascertain the policing priorities Councillor Bourne said he could not attend that meeting but would like to attend future meetings. Clerk to let Sian Roberts know.

Councillor Bourne reported that he had enlisted Sean Clarke’s assistance in getting the white van moved which was being regularly parked by the bus shelter opposite the school. Sean Clarke seems to have successfully dealt with this matter.

9.7 Severn Bore – Clerk checked with Brandon Tool Hire and the delivery/collection and hire charge of one toilet will be £70 plus VAT. 2009 3* and 4* Bores scheduled for Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 February; Thursday 12 & Friday 13 March; Weekend of 21-23 August & Weekend of 18-20 September. It was agreed to hire a toilet for all four occasions although it may be too late for the 11 February. [Nigel Powell offered the use of a portable toilet if Brandon could not deliver also suggested the PC try Border Loos as they would be cheaper.]

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

10.1 Calor Village of the Year – the 2009 competition was launched at the beginning of February and the deadline for entries is Friday, 8 May. The Councillors said they would give this matter some thought and discuss further next month.

10.2 GAPTC – Various plus questionnaire – January 2009 Newsletter. Clerk and the Chairman said they would complete Members Needs survey at the end of the meeting.

10.3 CPRE Gloucestershire’s Bledisloe Cup Competition – After 72 years CPRE will no longer be running this competition due to a steady decline in the number of entries.

Any Other Correspondence:

Tartaglia’s of Gloucester – Renewal of application for street trading consent. The Parish Council had no objections.

11 DATE/ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, 9 March 2009.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.