

## MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 14 February 2011, in Minsterworth Parish Hall.

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors - T Bourne  
R Crisp  
R Few - Chairman  
S King  
S Ruffley – Vice Chairman (partial attendance)  
L Simms  
C Thomas  
County Councillor Phil Awford (partial attendance)  
Borough Councillor Derek Davies  
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 9

The Chairman welcomed everyone and took the opportunity to wish Roger Dauncey well as he was having an operation the next day. He pointed out the emergency exits.

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillor Ruffley and County Councillor Awford would be late

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

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday, 10 January 2011, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed

**3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None

**4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** This item was taken out of agenda order as Councillor Awford was delayed

- Budget is to be finalised.
- Biggest concern is the cut to the Highways budget.

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

- TBC has handled the rather large reduction in expenditure very well and Parishes will not be affected.
- TBC are in a healthy position as they took steps to cut costs before the Government said that they had to.
- TBC still have the lowest Council Tax in the County and the sixth lowest in the Country and they are very proud of it.
- TBC will be commenting on the application for diverting the footpath EMW/17 at Hygrove Lane and he is recommending that they object to this diversion as it is an offence to block a footpath and this has been blocked for quite a number of years now.
- TBC have carried out a count on the number of traveller's vans in the Borough. He will let the Parish know the results.
- Highnam have produced some leaflets encouraging people to clear up after their dogs
- Confirmed that there has not yet been an application for a Solar PV Farm on Corseleas Meadow.

The Chairman asked Roger Blowey to carry out his presentation on the proposed Solar PV Farm on Corseleas Meadow.

- Photovoltaic cell panels – one or two layers of semi conducting material which creates electric current when exposed to direct sunlight.

- Arranged in rows 3 metres high on open banks facing south at an angle of 30-40 degrees (or roofs or walls that face 90 degrees south).
  - Rents of £12-£1500 per acre – guaranteed 25 year rental.
  - Farmer can use the electric himself and Gov pays 4 x the amount used as a FiT. Excess goes into the Nat Grid but it is estimated that this will cost every household £80 per year on their electric bill.
  - Specified site requirements is a minimum of 25 acres – on this site a hedgerow would have to be removed.
  - Gov has agreed to a target of 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.
  - Solar panels would produce ‘clean’ energy but why replace one environmental issue (carbon) with another (loss of countryside).
  - The panels will be visible from footpaths, houses and to the residents of Minsterworth.
  - Question whether there will be an increased flooding of Long Brook?
- The Chairman thanked Mr Blowey for his presentation.

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

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public comment.

## **7 PLANNING:**

### **7.1 Applications:**

**11/00038FUL** Copse House Farm, Main Road, Minsterworth: Two storey rear extension

Decision by 22.2.11

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council has **no objections** to this application.

**10/01369/FUL** Rosedale House, Main Road, Minsterworth: Removal of side garage & replace with a new garage

Decision by 25.2.11

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council has **no objections** to this application.

**11/00146/FUL** Land Adjacent Port Ham Switching Station Westgate Street, Gloucester: Erection of 1 no 3-bladed wind turbine up to 67 metres maximum in height (49 metres to the hub), substation, access road and associated works.

The Councillors noted this application and made no comment.

### **7.2 TBC Decisions:** None

### **7.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions: Site at The Lodge, Hygrove Lane, Main Road, Minsterworth:**

Change of use of land to use as a gypsy site for 15 pitches and associated ancillary development and change of use of land to use as a gypsy site for applicant’s immediate dependants and their families to site 3 touring caravans and one mobile home plus associated ancillary development.

The Planning Inspectorate has allowed Mr Brazil’s appeals and granted temporary planning permission for three years.

The Chairman said that was very disappointing. He has asked TBC to strictly monitor the number of vans as reports have been received that at times there are up to 40 vans on the site.

### **7.4 Enforcement Matters:**

**The Firs, Main Road, Minsterworth** – The Chairman and Councillor Thomas had that afternoon been to TBC offices and met with Paul Skelton. The Chairman reported:

- TBC have been to site and seen that the garage is now a house.
- The applicant was going to submit a planning application to convert the garage into living accommodation but this was withdrawn.

- Paul Skelton informed the Councillors that if the building was only used for sleeping and there was no dining, cooking or washing facilities then permission would probably be granted.
- Councillors asked whether the footings were strong enough?
- Paul Skelton said that the building was not sufficiently detrimental and it would not be expedient to serve an Enforcement Notice.
- Councillors raised issue of Council Tax.

Borough Councillor Davies stated that the new Government are looking to change planning law and hopefully the changes will be effective – one possible change could be that if an applicant is subject to an enforcement notice then they cannot put in a planning application.

**Fairlie, Main Road, Minsterworth** – Clerk reported that she had received an email from David Taylor stating that planning permission is not required for the current use of the premises. The current use falls within a new Class for Dwelling Houses C3(b) - those living together as a single household and receiving care.

**7.5 Proposals for a Solar PV Farm on Corseleas Meadow** – The Chairman stated that although Corseleas Meadow is not in the Parish of Minsterworth the possible proposed application will affect about 30-40 Minsterworth residents and will have a large impact on the landscape. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mella McMahan with a copy to Derek Davies requesting that the views of Minsterworth Parish Council and residents should be taken into consideration should an application be received and request that the Parish Council is notified.

**7.6 Proposed Diversion of Footpath EMW/17 at Hygrove Lane** – An application has been received and GCC have written to the Parish Council as follows:

*The current line of this footpath runs through a travellers' caravan site and is partly obstructed by a caravan/mobile home and other structures. The area which it runs is somewhat intimidating for the public to enter and walk through giving the impression of a private residential area. It is frequented by travelers and dogs are often running loose around the footpath. Walkers may therefore be deterred from using the footpath at present. The proposed new route runs along Hygrove Lane and then along a track along the perimeter of the caravan site.*

The Chairman stated that since the law changed on footpaths it is now very difficult to divert a footpath and several residents in Minsterworth would dearly love to have a footpath diverted that is on their property. It was agreed that the Parish Council are totally opposed to this diversion request for the following reasons:

- Been blocked for many years now
- Not a good enough reason for the diversion

If GCC allows this diversion it will set a precedent for other residents who have a footpath on their property to be diverted.

## 8 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

**8.2 Financial update to end of January 2011** - This was circulated with the agenda -noted.

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-28 February 2011	294.81	
Reimbursement of printer cartridges for Epson A3 printer	<u>15.99</u>	310.80 Cheque No: 101072

Minsterworth Village Hall– Hire of Hall: PC meeting 14 February 2011	28.60	Cheque No: 101073
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£339.40</b>	

### Receipts

<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
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## **9 MATTERS ARISING:**

**9.1 Report from representative of VH Committee** – Now the work has been finished and all the bills have been received there is a debt of £4,000. Three members of the Village Hall Committee have contributed the shortfall and they will receive the loan back over a period of time via fund raising events etc. Money currently being saved as there is no caretaker.

**9.2 Police Matters** – Nothing to report.

**9.3 Highway Matters: Salt Bins** – Richard Gray reported that he would organize for these to be refilled. The Chairman did not think they had so Councillor Crisp said he would check and let the Clerk know.

**Watery Lane** – The Chairman reported that about six potholes had been filled.

**Bury Lane** – Richard Gray said he would arrange for this lane to be inspected.

**Bury Lane Road Sign** – Borough Councillor Davies spoke with Stuart Bowes at TBC about this matter and this sign has been added to the list of signs requiring replacement in April. The sign will include “leading to The Street and Calcott’s Green and “Light Vehicles Only” as the original one does. Also he noticed that one of the signs for Church Lane was in poor condition so this has been added to the list.

**9.4 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations Royal British Legion** – The Chairman reported that he had attended a RBL meeting where this matter was discussed. Councillor Bourne reported that it had been agreed at the meeting to mark these celebrations with an event at the Village Hall but unfortunately the weekend suggested by RBL namely 10/11/12 June the Hall already had bookings so it was decided to hold a 1940s event with bangers and mash on Sunday 29 May 2011 at lunchtime. The Chairman encouraged parishioners, family and friends to support this event and confirmed that the Parish Council will give their full support.

*County Councillor Awford entered*

**9.5 Severn Bore** – It was agreed to hire the toilets for the following dates:

Friday, 18 February to 22 March

Friday, 18 March to 23 March

Tuesday, 27 September – 1 October

Wednesday, 26 October – 31 October

**9.6 Footpath EMW/8** – This matter can come off the agenda.

**9.7 Annual Parish Assembly** – to be held on Monday, 11 April 2011. It was agreed that a leaflet would be prepared as previous years and delivered to every household. The Clerk asked for reports by Sunday, 6 March 2011.

**9.8 Internal Audit for the year ended 31 March 2011** – The Clerk asked the Councillors if they wish Shirley Fowler to continue carrying out the Internal Audit and they were all in agreement.

**Effectiveness of Internal Audit Control** – The Councillors were quite with the procedure set up to monitor the internal audit control.

**Review of Financial Regulations** – The Clerk asked if there were any amendments required to these financial regulations but the Councillors did not have any.

## **10 CORRESPONDENCE:**

**10.1 TBC – Town/Parish Seminar – Thursday 3 March 6-8pm** – The Chairman and Councillor Ruffley said they would attend.

**Any Other Correspondence:**

**Environment Agency – Managing Food Risk in the Severn Estuary – Opportunity to comment** – The EA has produced a plan to manage tidal flood risk in the Severn Estuary over the next 100 years following the Pitt Review and the flooding of 2007. There is a meeting at the FODDC Offices on Thursday, 17 February which he will attend along with Councillor King and is hoping to get Graham Quarrier, Project Manager to come and give a presentation to the Minsterworth residents and also look at the lie of the land in Minsterworth. The current plan shows

from 2030 flooding will occur annually with water flooding properties and land on a more regular basis, with the position of the tip it stops the water entering the Hempstead flood plain. When the tide reaches Minsterworth the water ends up in Cornham which is acting as an unpaid floor protection for Gloucester City. The Parish Council will formulate their response at next month's meeting but everyone should be encouraged to respond to this document either via paper copy or on line. The link is <http://www.severnestuary.net/frms/publications.html>

The Chairman said that if anyone required a hard copy of this document then they should let him know.

**GRCC 2011 Vibrant Village of the Year** – Closing date for entries Monday, 4 April 2011. It was agreed not to enter this competition.

**Community Engagement Meeting** – Becky Lashley is carrying out some research on behalf of nature conservation organisations in preparation for a project they wish to develop to restore and protect traditional orchards in Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. The Chairman said he would meet with Becky Lashley.

**11 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 7 March 2011 7.30pm to be held in the School.

The meeting closed 9pm.