

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 10 February 2014, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors - R Blowey
R Crisp
R Few
N Garbutt
C Thomas
County Councillor Awford (partial attendance)
Borough Councillor Davies
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 13

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors King and Ruffley.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Monday, 13 January 2014 were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 MARTIN HUTCHINGS, GRCC AND ERIN DAVIES, TBC

Erin confirmed that she had not received any further comments to the proposed sites since her meeting with the Parish Council in December. There was only one site up for consideration was the one adjacent to the overspill carpark at the Village Hall as the landowners of site B – land at Calcots Green did not wish to proceed. A discussion took place on possible numbers of the proposed development and how these would be made up. Looking at 10 houses with a mix of affordable and open market homes but it would really depend on how much land was available. The Chairman confirmed that the amount of land was not restricted but 10 houses was a good starting point however if a couple more were required this could be possible. The consensus of opinion was that a one bedroom bungalow would not be worthwhile building and it was proposed 3 2-bedroom bungalows, 2 2-bedroom houses and 5 3-bedroom houses. It was felt that the timescale could be minimum of 18 months but more likely be 3 years. Erin said she would like to present a scheme to the Housing Associations by the end of April so that she could make a bid for funding which was available from 2015-2018. Her intention was to have some nice quality “eco” friendly properties built. A discussion took place on the possible access to the site which would be shared with the Village Hall. The Chairman confirmed that there was no opposition from the Village Hall however the Village Hall would have to benefit from the scheme.

Mr Simon Bourne asked if Erin had contacted the owners of the Old People’s Home at Hygrove. She confirmed that this was in private ownership and she had sent several emails but had received no reply to date. The Chairman said that site would definitely be considered by Highways as the lane would not be suitable for extra traffic and the exit onto the A48 was dangerous.

Erin said that she would run the proposed scheme passed the planners before speaking to the Housing Associations.

The Chairman thanked Erin and Martin for taking the time to come along again to the Parish Council meeting.

5 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: As follows:

- The County Council are not proposing any increase in their budget
- Due to the intense media interest the EA have changed their stance on the possible maintenance work required on the river. Residents and local knowledge on the “pinch points” will help “steer the EA in the right direction. MPs will be pushing for the EA to take action.
- Flood levels are higher than predicated but not as high as 2007 levels.
- Felt that TBC has done a first class reacting in this crisis. Further high tides next weekend.

- Had a meeting with the Highways Officer 10 days ago to look at various problems around the Parish. It will take quite a while before all the required works to the roads are carried. The Clerk and Councillor Thomas wanted to thank Phil Awford, David Steel and the team at TBC for doing such a fabulous job in this crisis. Clerk to send a “thank you” email.

6 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: As follows:

- Gave a short synopsis on the JCS who the Government has challenged local authorities to build 33,200 dwellings over the next 20 years. He pointed out that there were 15 service villages and Minsterworth was one and these service villages and the JCS has identified total need for housing over the next 20 years and allocates 880 houses to the 15 Service Villages collectively. On average that is 2-3 houses per year for each village.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT (MAX 10 MINUTES): Comments received.

8 PLANNING

8.1 Application: None

8.2 Decisions: None

8.3 Appeals: Land Adjacent to Hygrove House, Minsterworth: The Planning Inspectorate has allowed planning permission to be granted for the alterations and extension to the existing property to form a residence ref application 13/00780/FUL.

9 FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-28 February 2014	328.12		
Less Tax for February	<u>44.00</u>	284.12	Cheque No: 101211
Inland Revenue		44.00	Cheque No: 101212
MVH – Hire of hall 13.1.14		28.60	Cheque No: 101213
Total Payments		£ 356.72	

Receipts

Aviva Insurance: Cost of rebuilding bus shelter

Plus cost of Westbury Wood’s invoice to

Clear site following accident 6470.00

Total Receipts £6470.00

9.2 Financial Statement for the month ended January 2014 was circulated – contents noted.

9.3 Financing of sand for sandbags during recent floods: The Chairman said that he had obtained sand from Forest Concrete to fill the sandbags that had been distributed to residents during the last month. Whilst Forest Concrete did not request money for the sand he had now had three deliveries and it was agreed that a cheque for the sum of £50 should be sent to Mr S Robinson as a contribution towards the cost of the sand and delivery charges.

10 MATTERS ARISING:

10.1 January 2014 Floods: The Chairman reported 1200 acres of land from Over to Minsterworth were flooded and Steve King was having to evacuate his farm of all animals as the water was likely to flood the farm and house. Councillor Garbutt said that the water was within 1” of breaching the floodbank. Councillor Thomas said that Minsterworth did an excellent job with everyone helping to fill and distribute sandbags to those who needed them. The advice to residents was to leave the sandbags in place for the time being. Councillor Thomas said that if any residents had an problem with getting insurance for their properties due to their postcode then they were to contact her as Phil Awford had a company that were quite willing to take on new customers and not charge “silly” premiums. When all

the flooding has “calmed down” the Parish Council needed to write to the EA and get them to change their map as to exactly which postcodes flood.

10.2 Report from representative of Village Hall Committee: The Clerk reported that at the Village Hall Committee meeting they discussed organizing an afternoon tea party for new arrivals (during the last 6-9 months) in the village to meet residents – provisional date 27 April.

10.3. Highway Matters:

A48 Improvement Proposals: Councillor Blowey gave a short synopsis of what the Highways Agency proposed to do to the A48 in 2015 and briefly reported how the Parish Council felt the situation with the traffic queuing might be. He proposed to write an article for the next edition of The Villager giving the Highways Agency take, the Parish Council suggestions and ask for other suggestions from parishioners. It was also agreed that the Parish Council should consult with other surrounding Parish Councils ie Maisemore, Churcham, Huntley, Highnam, Westbury-on-Severn and Newnham on Severn.

Watery Lane: Again concerned was raised about the amount of water on the Lane. It would greatly help if the ditch was cleared out but the owner whose responsibility it is does not wish to clear out the ditch. The Chairman said that when he had time he would clear it out.

Road Markings Church Lane: The Clerk reported that she had been informed by Richard Waters that a provisional date for the works was 10 March to be confirmed nearer the time. The works will take approximately one week to complete and will be done during the off peak hours.

Historic Cobbled Causeway on The Street: The Clerk reported that Richard Waters had a site meeting on the 23 January with the contractor for Severn Trent regarding the reinstatement of the cobbled path outside Lyn Paddock. The contractor claimed the cobbles were already missing with the recent work was undertaken, which was difficult to disprove, but Glos Highways will try to persuade Severn Trent Water to do the reinstatement work.

10.4 Affordable Housing Scheme:

10.5 Dog Fouling: No Governors meeting – report next month.

10.6 Welcome Leaflet: It was agreed to defer this item until the March meeting.

11 CORRESPONDENCE:

11.1 Peter Woodman – Sale of The Orchard next to La Campagna, Starcroft Lane Mr Woodman’s email regarding the piece of land for sale next to La Campagna, Starcroft Lane had been circulated to all Councillors prior the meeting and the Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with Nicola Hughes from Steve Gooch. It was agreed that the Parish Council could only consider a planning application when it was officially put before them and felt that there was nothing stopping the Mr Woodman from submitting an application. Clerk to advise Mr Woodman.

Any Other Correspondence:

Environment Agency: Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Consultation Response: The Clerk read out the email from the EA which had also been circulated to all Councillors. The main point was that their Strategy sets out that it will be their intention to continue to carry out maintenance of the bank as long as the economic benefits outweigh the costs of doing the work which will be subject to funding. Councillors felt that due to all the recent negative publicity about the EA there would be more funding for the EA so repairs along the riverbank will now be carried out. The Chairman reported that around New Year’s Eve water was pouring through one of the flood defences that had recently been repaired by the EA and if Steve King had not done some emergency repairs the floodbank would have been breached. The Chairman also said that the EA might well be split into a Rivers Authority and EA which he felt would be good.

12 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION: None

13 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, 10 March 2014 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed 9.30pm.