

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 12 January 2013, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

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

Parishioners: 3

1 APOLOGIES Councillor Garbutt and Thomas. The Chairman paid tribute to Dave King and John Jenner who had recently passed away. They would both be sadly missed. He requested a minute's silence.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Monday, 10 December 2012 were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 SIMON CULLEN EA - Review of Severn Estuary Strategy: Simon Cullen's draft had been circulated prior to the meeting for Councillors to consider. He said that he and his colleague Dan Matthews had been revising the strategy for over a year now. He explained that the flood risk for Minsterworth village is different for Minsterworth Ham which by 2030 is expected to flood annually. The standard of the flood defences for the village will be maintained and improved taking into account rising sea levels. However the flood defences at the Ham would be very difficult and costly for EA to improve and the EA are currently liaising and doing work with the landowners to see what can be done. Figures quoted in draft relate to fluvial flooding. He stressed that no works will take place in one place with compensation to other areas and the EA use various models of the River Severn to ensure this. Councillor King said that by the erection of flood banks in Worcester and Upton-Upon-Severn the water is pushed further down the Severn and thinks that the extreme flooding at Hawbridge and Tirley is a manmade engineering problem. This definitely applies to Moorcroft House as flooded once in 1947 and had never flooded again until 2000 – a lot of the problems are down to Glos Tip being built and building houses on floodplains - talked about erecting a bund around the property but EA informed owners that the bund had to be within 3m of a building which would then mean you would not maneuver tractors and trailers.

Simon Cullen said that he hoped to have a draft available of the Review of the Severn Estuary Strategy for formal consultation in the next month and it might take a couple of months before the EA can put together suggestions for dealing with the flooding situation at Minsterworth Ham as this is much more complex.

The Chairman thanked him for attending the meeting.

5 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: As follows:

- Pleased that Glos Highways had done some work on the road to Ham Green.
- Re the budget he has been invited to sit in on these negotiations and went through Cabinet last week.
- Needed some decisions from the PC regarding how they wanted to spend his allocation of £5k to be spent on road safety. Tirley Parish Council have still not come to a decision whether they are willing to sell their vehicle activated speed sign as they have had two donated by National Grid. Perhaps the money should be spent on impact signage. Councillors felt that the area that

should be targeted was around Oakle Street. The Clerk again raised the fact of matched funding from Glos Highways on areas like vehicle activated signs – Clerk to forward email from Brian Watkins and he would obtain a definite answer.

- Flooding - Parishioners above Maisemore ie Tirley and Chaceley are feeling rather hostile as their flooding problems have been made worse with improvements made in Tewkesbury and other areas is just pushing the problems further on down the river. He is trying to arrange a meeting with the EA – Anthony Perry and said he would include Minsterworth in the meeting.

6 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: As follows:

- As previously reported TBC are undergoing a review of its organization which should make a saving of £750K-£1M. There will be improvements to the telephone system from the 14 January, the planning system on the website and the ability to pay bills on line.
- Explained about Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's approach to housing and requires all local authorities to produce a SHLAA to evaluate the availability of land for housing within their area. The primary role of the SHLAA is to: Identify sites with potential for housing; Assess their housing potential; Assess when they are likely to be developed. He said that if the Parish Council had concerns on the effect on flooding for Minsterworth if more houses are built at Highnam then they should write to the JCS team at Tewkesbury highlighting their concerns.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT (MAX 10 MINUTES): Mrs Aldridge from Court Cottage spoke about her planning application. She had been advised Oliver Rider from TBC that the case officer was recommended refusal of the application as the proposed extension would not be in keeping with the existing dwelling . Currently the stairs at a very steep angle of 42% and stairs should be at 48% - they are extremely hazardous and Mrs Aldridge has fallen down them several times injuring herself. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had visited her property to hopes that commonsense will prevail as far as the planners are concerned. Borough Councillor Davies has requested that the application is dealt with by the planning committee so there will be a site visit in the near future. She brought along to the meeting a montage of photographs and have sent a copy to TBC.

8 PLANNING

8.1 Applications: None

8.2 TBC Decisions: 12/00885/FUL Highcross House, Minsterworth: Extensions to dwelling and erection of a greenhouse – **Refused.**

8.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions: None

8.4 Enforcement Matters: None

8.5 Court Cottage, The Street, Minsterworth: This matter was discussed in public comment. The Clerk said that the Parish Council had “no objections” to this application.

9 FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-31 January 2013	317.64		
Less Tax	<u>57.40</u>	260.24	Cheque No: 101163
Inland Revenue: Tax for FJW		57.40	Cheque No: 101164
MVH – Hire of hall 10.12.12		28.60	Cheque No: 101165
Brandon Hire: Hire of toilet for period 14-17.12.12	50.00		
	<u>Vat 10.00</u>	60.00	Cheque No: 101166
Total Payments		£406.24	

Receipts

Total Receipts **£0.00**

9.2 Financial Statement for the month ended December 2012 was circulated – contents noted.

9.3 Budget for 2013/14: The Clerk circulated a spreadsheet with three examples of how the Localisation of Council Tax will impact the residents of Minsterworth. TBC has given the Parish the tax base figure and the support grant figure for 2013/14 and this alters the picture as to how the percentage increase of the Parish Precept will appear on the tax council tax bill. As GCC and TBC are not increasing their precepts the Councillors wanted to keep the percentage increase as low as possible so agreed to keep the precept the same as last year - £6360 - however due to the Localisation of Council Tax it will appear on the Council Tax bill as a 4.92% despite the precept remaining the same as last year. The Clerk said putting an explanation of this into the March edition of The Villager and the Councillors agreed that this was a good idea.

10 MATTERS ARISING:

10.1 Report from representative of Village Hall Committee: Nothing to report.

10.2. Highway Matters:

Water Lane: Great surfacing but water is lying on it as the ditch from Hamptons Farm requires clearing out. Previously the Chairman had cleared out this ditch as it is fed with water from the other side of the Main Road which runs under the road and into that ditch. Clerk to contact Richard Waters.

A48 between Appithorne to Railway Bridge: No update – Clerk to chase

Road to Ham Green/ Mrs Trigg's property: Glos Highways have carried out repairs to this road.

A48/Church Lane Turning: No update – Clerk to chase

Bury Lane: Potholes – Clerk reported these prior to the meeting – she reported that she had been contacted by Mr Bourne about these and also Councillor Ruffley said that he had taken photos of the potholes and sent them to Glos Highways on the 3 January. County Councillor Awford said he would chase up this matter.

Church Lane: This road by the Church wall is in a bad state of disrepair as heavy vehicles have damaged the edge attempting to pass the earlier pipe replacement works. There are many pot holes and collapsed areas. Clerk to report to Glos Highways.

Crash Barrier: No further update.

Footpath EMW/8: Suzanne Hopes inspected the path and reported there is a partially collapsed wall near the top end of EMW/8 and the householders have temporarily fenced off part of the path leaving a narrow way through for walkers. She feels that this is exacerbating the otherwise minor issue with a short length of tree root which protrudes onto the footpath. Once the full width of the path is available again, then she does not consider the tree root to be a significant problem. Councillor Garbutt spoke with the householder at Pump Court the owner of the wall who has arranged for repair but this will have to wait until the better weather. The Chairman said he would go and have a look at the path and ascertain how passable it is.

Rat Run: The Chairman reported that there was a lot of traffic using the rat run that morning, however Councillor King said there had been an accident at Two Mile Lane and traffic was using Oakle Street and adding to the traffic on the A48.

A40: During the heavy rain the stretch of road floods by the Toby Carvery this is down to the kerbs along this road being blocked up. This is the responsibility of the Highways Agency.

10.3 Review of Severn Estuary Strategy:

10.4 Affordable Housing Scheme: Prior to the meeting the Clerk had forwarded to Councillors an email received from Paul Skelton which stated that TBC had provided a view on the various sites put forward by the Parish as possibilities. Although the site favoured by the Parish Council was not the best in TBC's view they would be happy to discuss it further if this was the site ultimately favoured by the Parish Council. He encouraged Councillors to attend the Place Planning Event at TBC on 31 January. The Chairman and Councillor Blowey said they would attend. Regarding clustering with other Parishes it was agreed that Councillors felt that as there are so many

differences in relation to Minsterworth there would be of no benefit to cluster with say Highnam or Maisemore.

10.5 The Standards Regime and the Localism Act 2011: It was agreed to defer this agenda item until next month as it was 9.15pm and this matter needed to more time to be considered.

10.6 Severn Bore 2013: Defer

11 CORRESPONDENCE:

11.1 TBC: **Working Together –Seminar 31 January:** Dealt with in agenda item 10.4.

12 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION: None.

13 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday 11 February 2013 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed 9.17pm.