

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 13 January 2014, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

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

Parishioners: 5

1 APOLOGIES: None

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Monday, 9 December 2013 were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: As follows:

- He has been copied in on emails from the Clerk re the various highway matters that are currently ongoing.
- He gave Councillor Blowey the hard copy of the proposed works on the A40 to try and reduce the congestion on the A40. With the A417 closed at Maisemore and the lights not removed at Over the traffic was much improved. It was planned to have a meeting with the Gloucester and Forest MPs and definitely those affected Parishes must be involved.
- With the recent closure of the A417 at Maisemore there are many people talking and signing petitions about raising the Maisemore Road. This would have to have culverts built under the road otherwise the flooding situation could get worse for Minsterworth. The recent earthworks on the outskirts of Gloucester are in fact helping to protect Minsterworth.
- Re high tides at the beginning of January the EA got the forecast right predicting the surge behind the high tide.
- Like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their assistance in delivering a very smooth operation of dealing with the potential flooding issue.
- TBC are the only authority who are providing sandbags
- Subsequently had met with the MP re the recent flooding issue and to discuss about a second river crossing to alleviate the traffic on the A48 and A40.
- EA have announced 1500 job losses and it was clear that they will not be carrying out the same level of maintenance however he has been informed that the Minsterworth flood defences will be maintained to the current levels.

Councillor Thomas said that would like to thank Councillor Awford and David Steels from TBC for all their help during the recent floods and was happy to report that no homes in Minsterworth were flooded.

5 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: As follows:

- Gave a short overview on the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Gloucestershire and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Gloucestershire was one of just 39 local enterprise partnerships in England, created by Government to promote a healthy economy. Driven by economic development company GFirst, Gloucestershire's key themes are promotion, skills, connection and investment with the aim of realising Gloucestershire's economic and commercial potential.

- Government will only pay funding to LEPs with successful applicants being able to access over £2.5M to finance such projects for example M5 Junction 10, Elmbridge Park and Ride roundabout, removing hatchings on the A40 by Highnam Court

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

7 PLANNING

7.1 Application:

13/01216/FUL Parcel 77110, Hygrove Lane, Minsterworth: The use of land for the stationing of static and transit caravans for residential purposes for 5 gypsy pitches, together with the formation of additional hard standing and utility/dayrooms ancillary to that use.

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council **object** to this application for the following reasons:

- The applicant is already in breach of the proposed application as 3 large trees have been felled
- The impact of the development in the open countryside off a narrow lane which cannot take any extra traffic.
- Access onto the main A48 is very difficult and dangerous from Hygrove Lane.
- There is no “need” in Minsterworth for further pitches. There are currently pitches available on other sites in the Village.

7.2 Decisions:

13/01133/FUL Land at Starcroft Lane, Minsterworth: Variation of condition 3 of 09/01027/FUL to allow further 3 year temporary permission for use as a transit gypsy site for 8 touring caravans – **Granted**

13/00497/FUL Highcross House, Minsterworth: First Floor extension to dwelling (revised scheme ref 12/00885/FUL) - **Refused**

7.3 Appeals: None

8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

8.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-31 January 2014	328.12		
Less Tax for January	<u>44.00</u>	284.12	Cheque No: 101206

Inland Revenue	44.00		Cheque No: 101207
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MVH – Hire of hall 9.12.13	28.60		Cheque No: 101208
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Cost of photocopying 200 A4 flyers for Affordable Housing	8.75		
	<u>VAT 1.75</u>	10.50	Cheque No: 101209

Westbury Wood Ltd: Clear site of bus shelter After car accident, remove all rubbish leaving The site safe and tidy. Price includes removing Parts of car to local tip (bumper etc)	465.00		Cheque No: 101210
Total Payments		£ 832.22	

Receipts

GRCC contribution towards hire of hall on 22.10.13	25.00
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Total Receipts	£25.00
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8.2 Financial Statement for the month ended December 2013 was circulated – contents noted.

9 MATTERS ARISING:

9.1 January 2014 Floods: The Chairman wanted to thank Councillor Awford for all his assistance on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday it was greatly appreciated. Also wanted to thank Steve Robinson at Forest Concrete for donating the sand to fill the 300 sandbags that were deployed to local residents. The Parish Council's emergency flood plan sprang into action which involved making sure the Village Hall was available if required; those houses that were vulnerable cars were moved to the Village Hall carpark for safety which was full, reminded residents who had sandbags that they needed plastic to line the sandbags.

It was agreed that she would put a note in The Villager with a flow chart of what people should do in the case of another emergency situation with a high tide – most residents were aware of the procedure but it would appear that a few new residents were unfamiliar of whom to contact, where to get sandbags etc.

The Village was spared of a major incident as the wind strength was less than forecast – the water was 1” from going over the A48.

Councillor Thomas reported that she had another 200 unfilled sandbags ready for the next high tide on the 2 February.

The Chairman reported that the EA used to employ over 30 people to carry out maintenance and that figure was now 12 and on the Friday there was only 1 man on duty on the ground. It was agreed that the Parish Council should email the Environment Agency stating how disappointed the Parish Council was.

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

9.3. Highway Matters: Grit Bin Pound Lane: The Clerk reported that she had heard from Richard Waters who stated that Glos Highways are unable to replace the grit bin but can deploy a half barrel to be used instead.

Road Markings Church Lane: The Clerk read out an email from Richard Waters which stated that the original proposal included the introduction of an island which would further protect motorists waiting to turn right into Church Lane and further discourage southbound motorists from overtaking on the hatched markings. Glos Highways are seeking to pursue this and Councillor Awford's contribution to the work was pushing this forward. The construction of a traffic island in the middle of such a busy and fast flowing road has to be approached with considerable care. The design of the island has been completed and tenders for the construction of the island were recently invited from appropriate contractors. Tenders returned last week and these are now being assessed with a view towards appointing a contractor and programming the works. He will advise the Parish Council when further information regarding the construction of the island is available.

Historic Cobbled Causeway on The Street: The Clerk read out an email from Terry Moore Scott.

She also reported that Glos Highways Streetworks Team have advised that they have raised this with Severn Trent Water who are going to be inspecting the site week commencing 19 January and they will update the Parish Council accordingly. It was agreed to wait and see what Glos Highways say.

Overgrown Bramble Hedge - The Hawthorns: The Chairman reported that he had visited the owner of the property to request that they cut back their bramble hedge which was impeding the safe and easy use of School Lane. The owners said that they would arrange for it to be cut back.

9.4 Affordable Housing Scheme: Councillor Blowey reported:

- Mr Moore Scott had sent an article to him re Section 106 agreements which are related to planning applications and are designed to help make sure new developments enhance local communities and reduce the impact of developments on local areas.
- Referred to an article that had been on Radio 4 and also on Countryfile. The main point was that on several Affordable Housing projects Radio 4 investigated, the developers stated they would provide say 50% Affordable Homes. However, there was now legislation that should the developers feel that the project would become uneconomic at 50%, they are allowed to reduce it to say 10%. In the case of Persimmon Homes, they reduced the Affordable Homes to zero on all sites! This legislation was currently in place for the next 2 years and was intended to stimulate the housing market. All of the sites they mentioned were brown field, so that may make a difference.
- Spoken to Erin Davies at TBC and Martin Hutchings about the article
- Will put another note in The Villager stating that Erin Davies will be attending the next Parish Council meeting on Monday, 10 February to answer questions parishioners may have.

The Chairman said that he had spoken with the owners of the land in question and they are still in favour of selling the land if matters progress.

9.5 Dog Fouling: Defer to next meeting

9.6 Welcome Leaflet: It was agreed to defer this item until the February meeting.

9.7 Bus Shelter Minsterworth (nr Oakle Street): This was demolished around 6.30am on Sunday, 29 December with the driver taken to Frenchay Hospital. It was reported that the road was sheet ice and the driver lost control of the car and hit the shelter. Mark Maycroft was very helpful and quickly cleared the site making it safe. The Clerk contacted the police to obtain the drivers details etc and then contacted Came & Co - the insurance company - sending them full details together with a photograph. Two quotes for rebuilding the shelter were sent to the insurance company and the insurance company have already given the go ahead to instruct Westbury Wood to rebuild the shelter and they have sent a cheque to cover this cost which was £6255 plus the sum of £465 to clear the site. On receipt of the invoice for rebuilding the bus shelter the insurance company will then claim the £250 excess from the driver.

On discussion with the Chairman, the Clerk had written to Glos Highways asking whether the road had been gritted on the Saturday night and she had received confirmation that the A48 along with all of Glos Highways other main roads were gritted on the evening of the 28 December.

9.8 Severn Bore 2014: It was agreed to hire the toilet for the following dates:
31 January-3 February; 1-4 March; 11-13 August and 10-12 September

10 CORRESPONDENCE: None

11 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION: None

12 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday 10 February 2014 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed 9.20pm.