

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 8 June 2009, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors - T Bourne
R Crisp
R Few – Chairman
S King
S Ruffley
L Simms
C Thomas
Borough Councillor D Davies
County Councillor P Awford
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk
Parishioners: 9

The Chairman welcomed everyone and pointed out the fire exits. He reported that very sadly Reg Cambridge had passed away and proposed a minute's silence. He had been a member of the Parish Council for many years.
He congratulated County Councillor Awford for his re-election success.

1 APOLOGIES: No apologies

2 MINUTES OF MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday, 11 May 2009, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: County Councillor Awford on police matters.
Councillor Crisp on High Cross House, Watery Lane, Minsterworth

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- The Chairman was meeting with Richard Gray on the 10 June and wanted action from Glos Highways rather than holding responses.
- Very interested to find out following the weekends rain whether the works done to the drains outside Minsterworth Garage had solved the flooding problem.
- He had been re-elected and had already had meeting with the Shadow Leader at GCC highlighting the problems in Minsterworth with travellers and that situation cannot continue.

Councillor Bourne asked whether he had any news on the remarking of the hatchings at the turning to Church Lane after the dual carriageway. He had nothing concrete to report but that there was now a commitment to spend £10M on roads and hopefully there will be a much quicker response to problems reported than what the Parish has experienced in the past.

5 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- Was glad to see that the drain opposite "Appithorne" had now been marked so hopefully would be repaired in the near future.
- Bus Shelter Hygrove – He had raised this at the A48 Meeting that Glos Highways had shown a distinct lack of interest about this matter. Following the meeting he had been contacted by Jenny Wilks, Glos Highways who said they would be doing something but they had priorities.
- Been contacted by local resident who had been ripped off by people claiming they were

gardeners and paid them £20 per hour for nothing. Also there is a problem with overhanging trees blocking light from his property but Borough Councillor Davies felt this was not an issue.

- TBC now in full swing with a complete new structure. Interviews for a new Chief Executive will be held on 15-16 June.
- TBC is considering shared services with another authority as this is the best way of getting around shortage of funds – maybe legal and building services.

Councillor Thomas said that she would go and visit the local resident and see whether the college can help with any gardening works and also suggest that the Village Agent makes contact to see if there is anything they can do.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT: (MAX 10 MINUTES)

The Chairman adjourned the meeting however there was no public comment.

7 PLANNING

7.1 Applications: 09/00307/FUL High Cross House, Watery Lane, Minsterworth: First floor and attic extension to dwelling. – Application withdrawn.

Enforcement has been to the property to investigate two reports – 1 building that is not in accordance with planning permission and another alleged unauthorised engineering operations – creation of a lake.

08/00828/FUL Highbank, Main Road, Minsterworth: Change of use of existing garage building to student let accommodation – This application will not be proceeded with as of 18.5.09.

7.2 TBC Decisions: None

7.3 Appeals: None

7.4 The Firs, Main Road, Minsterworth – The Clerk said that she had not had a report from TBC following last month's site visit. Borough Councillor Davies said that TBC had inspected the whole site and it would seem that the occupiers seemed to use the house in the day and sleep in the caravans at night. TBC now have details of who is living at the house and he feels Mr O'Brian is well aware that he has to comply with planning regulations.

7.5 Land at The Lodge, Hygrove, Minsterworth – The Clerk had nothing further to report on this matter nor did Borough Councillor Davies. Councillors reported that a shed had been erected on site and one more mobile home had been established. County Councillor Awford said that the County have to come up with 40 new sites for travellers. Clerk to email Enforcement at TBC asking for an update following their site visit and report the new additions to the site.

7.6 The Ryders – It was agreed that this can come off the agenda for the time being.

Any Other Planning Matters:

Hygrove Lane, Minsterworth: The Clerk had heard nothing from TBC and Borough Councillor did not have any further report either. Clerk to contact Catherine Crowley for an update following their site visit.

8 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

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| Mrs F J Wallbank: Salary 1-30 June 2009 | 289.03 | Cheque No: 100101 |
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| Minsterworth Village Hall – Hire of Hall: PC meeting 11.5.09. | 26.00 | Cheque No: 100102 |
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| Shirley Fowler for carrying out internal Audit for the financial year ended 31.3.09 | 30.00 | Cheque No: 100103 |
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| Minsterworth Village Hall – donation towards | | |
| Cost of building works | 1000.00 | Cheque No: 100104 |
| Total Payments | £1345.03 | |

Receipts

Total Receipts £0.00

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

9 MATTERS ARISING:

9.1 Neighbourhood Watch – Clerk had not received any official reports however Councillor Bourne reported an incident that he had been informed about and this had been reported via the Clerk to the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. His neighbour’s son had been walking their dog along Church Lane when he was approached by a man and a well dressed lady. The man asked him where he lived and what a lovely dog it was. Apparently there have been a number of reports of “dog napping” with the people stealing the dogs and demanding money for their safe return. Clerk to put a few lines in The Villager and the Parish magazine.

9.2 Report from Representative from Village Hall Committee:

- Ongoing fund raising – still looking to raise £44,000 – hopefully £40,000 will be funded via grants leaving £4-5,000 still to raise.
- Village fete on the 27 June – Grand prize draw
- Buy a brick for £1
- Natural Health Day on 18 October 2009
- If people buy via www.easyfundraising.org.uk and identify MVH a percentage of the cost will be donated to MVH.

9.3 Highways Matters:

Collapsed Drain Cover outside “Appithorne” – The Clerk reported that the drain cover outside this property belonged to BT and had been reported to them for inspection.

New Road Lay-out on A48 at Highnam – The Clerk read out an email from InterRoute regarding these changes following post project Road Safety Audit and feedback from members of the public the following alterations have been made to improve safety:

- The inside lane east bound from Highnam roundabout will be closed to traffic and hatch marking applied as far as the entrance to Linton lodge, ensuring the safety of vehicles entering and exiting at this point.
- The existing bus stop on the east bound carriageway close to Highnam Court is being closed and relocated to a point just beyond Linton lodge where it will provide a safety access for pedestrians.

The Clerk also reported that she had received a complaint email from Bernadette Hughes regarding these new arrangements as it has delayed her travel time into Gloucester quite significantly.

Councillors were in full agreement with Mrs Hughes. Traffic is now tailing back to the bridge on the A48 and some vehicle users ignore the hatchings - sooner or later a vehicle will come face to face with a bus waiting at the newly positioned bus stop. One Councillor’s said that when they got planning permission for The Lodge it was a condition that they could not enter and exit the property from the A48. County Councillor Awford said that he had already taken this matter up and also contacted Mark Harper MP who was furious about this.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to InterRoute with copies to Lawrence Elcocks, Nigel Edgeworth, Mark Harper stating that Minsterworth PC hold InterRoute responsible for any accidents that will occur due to the new arrangements and asked who was consulted, who carried out the Road Safety Audit and request copies of the feedback. Also there was no mention on the original plans that this could possibly happen.

Meeting with Richard Gray - The Chairman said that a meeting had been arranged for

Wednesday to go through the problems in the village and to get Richard Gray to agree to some action rather than holding responses. Issues to be discussed are: Watery Lane /Lower Lane. Drainage Problem at Minsterworth Garage, Road Markings – Hatchings by turning to Church Lane, Bus Stop, Hygrove Lane: Bus Stop Hygrove Lane, Pound Lane.

Potholes – Bury Lane. Chairman to inform Richard Gray.

9.4 Website for Parish Council – Councillor Ruffley reported that the content now had to be written and he would liaise with the Clerk.

9.5 Councillors Areas of Responsibility – The Chairman said that he had not been able to give this matter further consideration due to work. It was agreed to defer this until next month.

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

10.1 Email from Bernadette Hughes re chicken smell on Saturday 23 May 2009 – The Clerk read out the email which stated on the Saturday, 23 May there was a very strong smell of chickens around the junction of Oakle Street. Several Councillors said that they often smelt this smell at the top end of the village, especially when the sheds are ventilated. The Chairman said that the owners, Mr & Mrs Smart were in the process of erecting new sheds and he would speak to them.

Any Other Correspondence:

GAPTC – The Clerk highlighted two forthcoming courses which may interest fairly new Councillors – “Being a Good Councillor” on the 6 July or a series of 4 evening courses with the first one on 8 June.

11 DATE/ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, 13 July 2009 at 7.30pm. It was agreed not to hold a meeting in August.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.