

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 11 June 2012, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

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

Parishioners: 2

1 APOLOGIES - County Councillor Awford. Councillor Thomas and PC Duberley would be late. The Chairman wanted to take this opportunity to thank the organisers of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations which was a major success. He and Councillor Crisp presented the mugs to the school children and Mrs Blowey took some photographs. The Chairman said that the children were a credit to the village and wanted to congratulate the staff. The remainder of the mugs were sold at the Jubilee Event.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Monday, 14 May 2012 were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 POLICE: PC Sharon Duberley reported that there had been three crimes for the period April 2011-April 2012 – theft of a motor vehicle, theft miscellaneous and fraud. From April 2012 to date there had been two crimes one of criminal damage and one of assault. She reported that the police offices at Cinderford, Coleford and Lydney would be closing and they would be operating out of the District Council Offices. The Chairman reported the contractors working on renewing the water main had had their guards stolen which were around the holes in the road which could have caused a major accident. He also said that there was a lot of litter that had been thrown from vehicles along the A48 and was mainly fast food packaging. Also people have been loitering in the Church carpark. PC Duberley said that she would monitor

5 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: Not present

6 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: As follows:

- Planning Enforcement Department under review to make it more efficient especially with respect to how they communicate and for PCs to understand the constraints under which the Enforcement Department can legally take action etc. He encouraged the Parish Council to send in their comments how improvements could be made but several Councillors felt it would be more beneficial if TBC could consult with PCs/TCs once draft proposals had been agreed. Derek said he would speak to TBC to see if this was possible and get back to the PC.
- On a personal note he wanted to say that he felt the Jubilee Celebrations were magnificent and a terrific credit to those who organized the day.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT (MAX 10 MINUTES) None

8 PLANNING

8.1 Applications: None

8.2 TBC Decisions: None

8.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions: None

8.4 The Firs, Main Road – The Clerk read out the reply email from Paul Skelton which stated that since the time period for compliance with the enforcement notice had lapsed TBC has been in contact with the owner’s advisor and it did appear that TBC would be getting an application in an attempt to regularise the situation. In such circumstances TBC will always allow a reasonable period of time to allow an application to materialise, rather than resorting to formal action which may prove to be abortive work. What is a ‘reasonable’ period will be a subjective judgement and from our perspective will also have to take into account capacity within the team, which is currently operating with 2 members of staff covering the whole borough. Having reviewed the file and been involved in the decision-making process Paul felt that TBC had acted reasonably in this case, but that ‘reasonable period’ has now expired in his view so have instigated formal proceedings. They will, as a matter of course, still continue to attempt to persuade the owner to comply with the terms of the notice. Should Committee agree to prosecute however it will not give TBC an immediate result. They will seek to expedite matters however they will have to prepare their case and wait for a court date (which at the moment is likely to be anywhere between 6-8 weeks).

9 FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-30 June 2012	317.64		
Less Tax	<u>63.40</u>	254.24	Cheque No: 101136

Inland Revenue: Tax for FJW		63.40	Cheque No: 101137
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Minsterworth Village Hall – Hire of Hall: PC meeting 14.5.12		28.60	Cheque No: 101138
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Shirley Fowler – fee for carrying out Internal Audit of accounts for the financial year Ended 31 March 2012		35.00	Cheque No: 101139
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Minsterworth Church		175.00	Cheque No: 101140
Total Payments		£556.24	

Receipts

Total Receipts	£0.00
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9.3 Financial Statement for the month ended May 2012 was circulated – contents noted.

10 MATTERS ARISING:

10.1 Report from representative of Village Hall Committee – Councillor Ruffley reported that there some general maintenance on the hall was required including repairing a leaking roof which needs some urgent investigating. They are in contact with some roofing contractors to carry out preliminary investigations.

10.2. Highway Matters:

Site Meeting – This had been arranged with Richard Waters, Phil Awford and Councillor Crisp to attend. Unfortunately to the road network being congested it was unable for this to take place. Clerk to re-arrange.

Road to Mrs Trigg’s property – The Clerk reported that County Councillor Awford had verbally reported this to Gloucestershire Highways but felt it needed to be included in the site meeting.

Sunken manhole cover near Church Lane – Still not been repaired.

Replacement Water Main/Road Closure – The contractors were now as far as the Church car park and are doing an excellent job. They were fantastic over the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations arrangements. The Chairman said he was pursuing the £300 that Morgan Sindall has promised to the Parish.

Watery Lane – Chairman to raise with Richard Waters.

Overhanding Hedges – Some hedging is overhanging Watery Lane from the property “Greenacres”. The Chairman said he would speak to the owners; Also the hedge in Pound Lane has not been cut back – Clerk to chase Highways.

10.3 Review of Severn Estuary Strategy – No further update. The Clerk said that she would email Dan Matthews.

10.4 Affordable Housing Scheme – Councillor Blowey reported that:

- Site meeting with Frances Evans and Councillors Few, Blowey on the 21 May. Looked at the four potential sites. Frances Evans made some comments and would consider them further with Martin Hutchings from GRCC.
- Another meeting taking place between Frances Evans and Martin Hutchings to carry out further site visits and may identify other sites on the 14 June.
- Frances Evans wanted the Parish Council to supply contact details of the potential sites but Councillors felt that this was not appropriate at this stage.

10.5 The Standards Regime and the Localism Act 2011 – As Part of the Localism Bill various changes will be made – the first element is that the Standards Board has been abolished (31 March 2012). The Department for Communities & Local Government has confirmed that the rest of the new Regime, including a locally based Code of Conduct and a Register of Interests which must be available on the TBC website, will come into force on 1 July although Regulations to bring this about are still awaited. TBC hope that PCs in the Borough will adopt a Code which is the same as theirs to give some local consistency and to assist in making the process of dealing with any complaints more efficient. [To provide more information TBC are holding a seminar on Monday, 18 June at 6pm at their offices.] They were agreeing the code that they will adopt at their meeting to be held on Tuesday 26 June and will be in contact with Parishes after this date.

11 CORRESPONDENCE: None

12 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Trees Planted for the Jubilee – The Chairman reported that along with Councillors Crisp and Blowey they had planted three trees which had been kindly donated by the school children who had been nurturing these for two years. They have been planted alongside a tree that was planted for the Silver Jubilee. The Clerk had sent an email to the school to thank the children for donating the trees. Councillor Thomas said she would print off the pictures taken of the Councillors planting the trees and give them to the school.

Grass Cutting at Calcotts Green – Councillor Thomas asked the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Hugh Dowding who has cut Calcotts Green again.

Earl & Countess of Wessex Visit to Gloucestershire – Councillor Thomas thanked the Parish Council for nominating her and her husband to attend this event.

Council Tax – Councillor Blowey said that one of the items of correspondence sent through by the Clerk concerned a consultation on Council Tax. The Government is replacing the existing national council tax benefits scheme with a “Local Council Tax Support Scheme”. He is of the opinion that the Parish Councils are amateurs to be administering Council Tax.

13 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, 9 July 2012 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed 9.05pm.