

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 10 October 2011, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

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

Parishioners: 7

1 APOLOGIES - Borough Councillor Davies. Councillor Garbutt was attending the Highways Seminar and maybe late.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Monday, 12 September 2011 were agreed and signed with two typos amended.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- Just come from the Highways Seminar at GCC. Leaflets given out “Winter Maintenance” and Meeting the Challenge
- A lot of media attention on the announcement that the Highways Agency wants to close the A4019 between Cheltenham and Tewkesbury for £12m of "urgent repairs" to the bridge at junction 10 of the motorway as the bridge was approaching the end of its working life and action was needed. Council bosses have joined forces to oppose the plans and drawn up a list of demands for the Highways Agency. Both Tewkesbury Borough Council and Cheltenham Borough Council have also expressed concerns that the closure would have a serious affect on the residents, visitors and local economy in both towns. Demands include 24-hour work, compensation for local businesses, improved junctions on the diversion routes and that the M5 southbound and northbound slip roads are kept open at all times. Work on the bridge, which has been in place for 40 years, has been scheduled to begin in March 2012 following the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival however County Councillor Awford felt this would be more like 2013 to allow time to consult. Councillors asked the question why a new bridge could not be built alongside the existing bridge but apparently the Highways Agency says there is not enough room. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Lawrence Elcocks at GCC regarding this.
- He had attended a Scrutiny meeting regarding the Severn Estuary Study. It has been agreed to hold a meeting inviting everyone that is affected. The Chairman said that they had heard little from Mark Harper MP.
- He had been to a meeting about the provision of sites for gypsies and travelers and it was reported that 80% of the traveler population lived in Tewkesbury and stated that Cheltenham had to provide some sites. He had a copy of the protocols that Councils have to go through by statute to deal with unauthorized encampments and gave a copy to the Chairman.

Councillor Blowey asked if the proposed boundary changes would affect Minsterworth. The Forest is to increase in size taking in Westgate and Kingsholm but the Glos MPs are challenging the proposition the object is to make the numbers stack up to balance the electorates.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT (MAX 10 MINUTES)

6 PLANNING

6.1 Applications: No applications.

6.2 TBC Decisions: None

6.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions: None

6.4 Enforcement consultation: The Firs – Following last month's meeting the Clerk had sent a very strong email to Mella McMahon (Councillors had received a copy). Mella had replied stating that TBC did not follow up their commitment to keep the PC informed and failed to advise the PC of the delays in issuing of the enforcement notice and apologized for the poor service. She confirmed that the enforcement notice had now been issued. The Councillors agreed that they would like to have a copy of the notice which will state procedures, time scale etc.

6.5 Traveller Site Planning Policy & National Planning Policy Framework – It was still not clear what the proposed changes are. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had responded to the previous consultation but it would be helpful to know how this differs. County Councillor Awford said he would find out what TBC's response was. Consultation ends 17 October 2011.

Any Other Planning Matters:

Starcroft Lane – The Chairman said he knew that there were several vans on the site. Councillors wanted to know whether the conditions stipulated at the Hearing had been adhered to prior to occupation and also whether TBC had seen sight of the log that the Rocky Smith is keeping. Clerk to write to David Taylor and copy in CC Awford.

7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-31 October 2011	306.60		
Less Tax	<u>61.20</u>	245.40	Cheque No: 101102
Inland Revenue: Tax for FJW		61.20	Cheque No: 101103
Minsterworth Village Hall – Hire of Hall: PC meeting 12.9.11		28.60	Cheque No: 101104
GAPTC – Training Course for Councillor Garbutt 8 November		80.00	Cheque No: 101105
A48 Subscription due 23.11.11		8.00	Cheque No: 101106
Total Payments		£423.20	

Receipts

Total Receipts **£0.00**

7.2 Financial Statement for the month ended September 2011 was circulated – contents noted

7.3 Contribution paid by PC for The Villager – The Clerk had circulated an email from Tony Pearson with detailed costings for 2010 and 2011. The estimated shortfall for 2010 was £339.80 with £459.70 for 2011. The Councillors were all in agreement that this was an extremely important publication for the Village and certainly did not want to see it disappear. Currently the Parish Council pay £216 and has done so for the last 4 years and previously £175 for the printing of 2 pages with additional pieces of information concerning the Village also included throughout the year. Councillor Ruffley said the VHC were planning to increase advertising fees. It was agreed that the Parish Council would increase their contribution for 2012 to £400. Councillor Thomas asked for the statement that was previously included after the PC report to be reinstated – Councillor Ruffley confirmed he would speak to Paula.

7.4 Training Course – the Clerk reported that Councillor Garbutt had asked if he could attend the "Being a Good Councillor Course" on the 8 November hence why the cheque had been raised. All Councillors were in agreement.

Councillor Garbutt entered

8 MATTERS ARISING:

8.1 Report from representative of Village Hall Committee – Councillor Ruffley said the main item was the PCs contribution to The Villager.

8.2. Highway Matters:

Highways Seminar – Councillor Garbutt reported that GCC has built two snow domes and has 11,500 tonnes of salt which should be enough for the winter. Launched “Meeting the Challenge” with three elements – Community Action- Glos Highways (GH) give support and tools to carry out work within the Community for example snow wardens and grass cutting, Community Match – If there is a scheme the community badly needs GH will match-fund the cost to enable this to happen for example footway resurfacing or community safety schemes and Community top-up – GH provide a product list of services and items that Communities can buy directly for example extra gully cleaning or traffic monitoring services.

He had spoken with Val Garside of TBC who said she could get litter picking carried out by people carrying out Community Service. It was agreed that Councillor Garbutt would contact Val Garside. He also reported that he attended the TBC Seminar last week and had obtained a contact sheet of Who’s Who at TBC with contact details. He said he could photocopy this for all Councillors to have a copy.

Water Main replacement – The Chairman reported that he had met with the contractors working for Severn Trent. The water main will be replaced from the Main Road at the junction of Watery Lane through the village, a small section on Calcotts Green and along Church Lane. A moling system will be used digging every 100 metres, they plan to start works in November and will take 6 weeks. All affected residents will be notified and kept fully informed if there will be an interruption to their water service. The Chairman got them to agree to make a donation to the PC of around £300-400 and asked them to be careful where they park their vehicles. Councillor Thomas asked the Chairman whether they could put a connection at the Church and he said he would speak to Severn Trent.

Road Safety Sign – The Councillors felt that these new signs were very good and much better than the previous small ones – accident figures are based on a three year period so will alter.

Parking at the School – County Councillor Awford has been in dialogue with Richard Gray about the possibility of putting a continuous yellow line to deter double parking (he declared an interest as he is a School Governor). Councillor Thomas confirmed that the School had also contacted Highways.

8.3 Housing Needs Survey – The revised questionnaires had been circulated showing the PCs amendments. It was agreed that this questionnaire should go out with the November edition of The Villager. To encourage and remind people to complete and return the questionnaire it was agreed to put up posters around the Parishes

8.4 Police Matters – The Chairman reported that he had asked the clerk to request that PC Sharon Duberley should attend tonight’s meeting but unfortunately she had a prior engagement. Clerk to ask her to attend the November meeting. There had been a break-in and theft from two properties in Minsterworth

9 CORRESPONDENCE:

9.1 TBC – Queen’s Diamond Jubilee – Email received from TBC regarding this matter highlighting that a number of beacons will be lit across the UK on Monday, 4 June 2012 shortly before the start of the Olympics. Councillors agreed that some form of social event should be held and the best idea would be a joint event with the Village Hall, Church and PC. Councillor Ruffley would speak to the Village Hall and for Councillors to give this matter some thought.

10 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Broadband Meeting – Councillor Ruffley reported that he had attended one of the information evenings that have been held around the county. Gloucestershire and Herefordshire have been successful in securing a substantial amount of funding to deliver improved Broadband services in rural areas. The first priority is to prove there is enough demand from local people, communities and businesses. The Borders Broadband survey is now live on the GFirst website on www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband and everyone should be encouraged to complete this survey. An article was placed in the October edition of The Villager notifying Villagers of the survey.

11 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, 14 November 2011 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed 9.15pm.