

# MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

[www.minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk)

Email: [clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk)

Tel: 01452 849178/07792989212

26 March 2014

## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held at Minsterworth Village Hall on Monday, 14 April 2013 at 7.30pm.

*Richard Few*

Chairman

### AGENDA

(subject to change)

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 8 April 2013
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes
- 4 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme proposed for the Village
- 5 Richard Waters, Gloucestershire Highways
- 6 Police Report
- 7 Phil Awford, County Councillor
- 8 Derek Davies, District Councillor
- 9 Late on the A48/A40 due to Traffic Congestion
- 10 Any matters raised by electors.
- 11 Close of meeting followed by refreshments

**All residents are invited to attend this meeting. Attached are the minutes from last year's meeting together with relevant reports for this year.**

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## MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 8 April 2013, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

### PRESENT:

Councillors - Richard Few – Chairman  
Nigel Garbutt  
Steve King  
Cathy Thomas  
County Councillor Awford (partial attendance)

Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: approx 24

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and pointed out the Fire Exits. Introduced PC Gareth Hughes and Ken Haines, Village Agent.

Apologies: Councillors Blowey, Crisp and Ruffley, Borough Councillor Davies. Terry Moore- Scott.

The Chairman reported that it had been a sad year and sadly Minsterworth had lost some key figures namely Bernard Collins, Dave King – who had only spent 2 nights away from Minsterworth during the whole of his life, John Jenner – former Clerk and Roger Dauncey whose legacy will never be forgotten.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 2 April 2012** were agreed and signed.

### 3 Matters arising from the minutes:

**Turning into Church Lane:** The Parish Council along with County Councillor Awford have met with Gloucestershire Highways on site to discuss how the safety of this junction can be improved. Gloucestershire Highways are currently coming up with a proposal.

**Potholes:** Major pothole by Hygrove Lane

**4 Gloucestershire Highway – Richard Waters:** Unfortunately not present

**5 Police Report: PC Gareth Hughes** introduced himself and reported that there had been 7 crimes for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 – 1 criminal damage, 2 burglary, 2 theft from a motor vehicle, 2 actual thefts. All of these have been investigated and several have been detected. From a Police point view the crime figures are very low with no anti-social behaviour.

He explained that there had been some recent changes regarding Community Policing – namely the A48 corridor along with Cinderford town had been allocated to 3 police officers based in the Forest. The PCSO for Minsterworth is Helen Devlin who has recently returned after maternity leave. Residents should have a point of contact to report matters 24-7. NHW is still in operation and Chrissie Parkes oversees the scheme. Plans are in place with the traffic department and GCC to try and reduce road accidents on the A48.

Q: When will be the burnt out vehicle be removed.

A: Been reported to TBC to remove however will chase this up.

The Chairman invited PC Hughes to have a tour of the Village to become familiar with other areas other than the main A48.

**6 Ken Haines, Village Agent:** Showed a very informative video on the work of the Village Agents around the County. He covers Highnam, Minsterworth, Longford, Innsworth, Longlevens. Since taking the role as Village Agent for Minsterworth he has had a number of referrals for Minsterworth.

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Basically Village Agents are like very good neighbours with many contacts. Officially anyone over 50 years can access their services but mainly used by people around 75-80 years.

One parishioner suggested that he puts a very basic article in The Villager giving examples of how they can help eg having electric blankets serviced. Mr Haines said that he certainly would do that.

**7 Phil Awford, County Councillor** said that as his report had been circulated he was willing to take any questions on his report or any other matters. He said that by the end of the week he would like to think the pothole by Hygrove Lane would be filled. He did not think that by the County putting a white line around a pothole it exonerated them of a legal aspect. There is £5,000 to be spent on Highway Safety in the Village.

Re the Turning into Church Lane Richard Waters and his colleagues had looked at what could be done to make the junction safer and thought new road markings might be used. Ann Alford felt that people ignore road markings and there was no one around to “police” them.

Q When traffic is leaving Gloucester why does this traffic have to come to a standstill to allow a vehicle on the other carriageway to turn left towards Gloucester. There is no need for this to happen.

A This is down to the Highways Agency and has raised this with them on a number of occasions. Will report again.

The Chairman reported that Watery Lane had been resurfaced and Glos Highways were trying to get the ditch cleared to prevent the surface breaking up again.

**8 Derek Davies, Borough Councillor:** In his absence County Councillor Awford said he would try and answer any questions.

Q: Do the blue recycling bins get sorted in this country

A: Yes

**9 Proposed Affordable Housing Scheme:** The Chairman reported as follows:

- Following last APA when parishioners voted that the Parish Council should pursue this matter the PC has been liaising and had site meetings with TBC and the Housing Enabler Officer.
- Unfortunately progress has been very slow due to various new policies introduced by TBC and little progress has been made in the last 4 months.
- Thoughts that the scheme will be a mixture of affordable and market housing of about 6-10 houses. The scheme has to have a mixture for a developer to be interested.
- Several sites are currently being considered and currently waiting for reports from Gloucestershire Highways whether these are deemed suitable.
- PC hoping to have some answers by mid-May.

Q: There is a plot of land for sale near Pound Lane of 4 acres. Is this one of the sites under consideration?

A: No – Currently for sale for £160,000.

Q: Where are the sites under consideration?

A: Around the centre of Minsterworth near the School.

Q: Will the affordable housing be offered to local people.

A: 32w

Q: Is there not still a no build policy in Minsterworth.

A: Although the TBC Local Plan has expired until the JCS document has been adopted the Local Plan still applies therefore there is still a no build policy but there are exceptions for affordable housing schemes.

**9 Review of Severn Estuary:** The Chairman reported as follows:

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- EA doing some new plans on possible flood bank realignment in the Cornham area of the Parish.
- EA have downgraded the figures of rising sea levels.
- There are currently three properties that flood regularly in the Parish.
- There has been a change to how the rivers behaves North of Minsterworth.
- Previous consultation document produced by the EA was very disappointing – hopefully the one due out soon will be much improved and will concern Cornham mainly.

Q: How is responsible for the cleanliness and rubbish in the river.

A: More rubbish in the rivers when there is a high tide. Hempstead Tip has changed the river as the flood plain is constricted. Sewage is allowed to be discharged into the river on a high tide

## 11 Matters Raised by Electors:

**Dog Fouling:** It was reported that dogs are regularly fouling the footway alongside the main road maybe putting in a “dog” bin by the School might help? It was agreed that a note would be put in The Villager encouraging dog owners to pick up after their dogs. Maybe involve the school children in designing a poster? Will discuss further at the May Parish Council Meeting.

The “dog” bin by the Church needs emptying.

**Litter picking:** The Chairman thanked all the litter pickers who collected litter – they did a sterling job. A parishioner reported that a consider amount of paper had blown out of the recycling bin from the school as the lid of the bin had blown open. Suggest to the School to “weight down” lid.

**Grass Verges:** How many cuts will the verges received this year? Two as GCC admitted that carrying out one cut last year did not work.

**12 Close of Meeting** – The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Refreshments were served.

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**Richard Few**

As we go into the New Year, the village has seen the worst flooding since 2007. The Hams at Cornham and the properties in the area have been flooded again, and a solution needs to be found for this ongoing problem.

The Oakle Street end of the village survived with inches to spare, and I would like to thank all those concerned who helped during the high tides.

The proposed housing development site is now being considered on the land adjacent to the car park at the village hall. I will give an update at the Parish Assembly on the latest developments.

The Main Road though the village continues to create concerns, due to the queuing and safety issues. Some improvements are being considered to help traffic flow, and the Church Lane junction is going to be improved. Resurfacing works took place at Pound Lane, Watery Lane, and along the bottom lane towards the Church, much improving the road surface. Bury Lane and outside the church are still awaiting resurfacing.

The Post Office closed last year and is now being run on a temporary basis at the Apple Tree. I do hope that as many residents as possible use this facility, or we will lose it.

2014 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War I. We fully support the local branch of the British Legion in their plans to commemorate those who gave their lives at this time.

I would like to thank all my fellow Parish councillors, Tewkesbury Borough Councillors and our Clerk, for their support throughout the year.

*Richard Few*

## Flood and Snow Warden Report

**Councillor Cathy Thomas**

It could be said that Minsterworth has been blest with No Snow (so far) since the last report, BUT some would also suggest that an average light covering of snow might have been preferable to the constant deluge of water coming from above!

Sadly we have seen the worst flooding for a number of years, with 4 properties, within the village flooded and several just outside the village towards Westbury and a large area of farm land under water.

Thanks must be extended to Tewkesbury Borough Council, Phil Awford, fellow villagers & Parish Councillors who delivered, filled & distributed over 400 sandbags to properties at risk of possible flooding in the village. It was hard work, but worthwhile, helping to put resident's minds at rest, many of whom have contacted me since to thank us again for the help. What a great effort – Well done 'Team Minsterworth'!

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## COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

### Phil Awford – Severn Vale

The past year has been another challenging one for the County Council, Borough Council and this Parish Council

Firstly, the County Council who continue to deliver those vital services despite not raising Council Tax for the past few years, a considerable achievement given the financial climate and demand particularly in adult care and safeguarding services. This, together with the constant problems on our road network is a difficult balance, not helped of course by recent flooding and bad weather. The County Council has put in a bid for £15 million in order to repair those areas impacted; however, this would only get us back to where we were before the winter events.

Locally, I am part of the Scrutiny Group looking at A48 traffic issues, the recent Environment Scrutiny Committee took over two hours of evidence from those Councillors who have Parishes on the A48 as to the concerns in their areas. Obviously, some work with the existing A48 group, however, many Parishes do not engage but it is hoped they will given the media attention to both the accident and congestion issues.

Flooding again has dominated the early part of this year; I have to thank all of those who helped me through high water levels in the preparation of sandbags in January together with the tremendous support through the even more challenging February event!

However, recent investment did enable more protection, without which many more homes would have flooded, whilst of no comfort to those who did flood, that work did protect several hundred homes in February

It is very much on the Agenda now to seek ways of reducing levels of risk particularly as 2015 tidal impact is predicted to be higher, I am grateful of course, for the Grant Aid being made available from both Gloucestershire County Council and Central Government in order that residents can set about rebuilding their lives.

Residents will be aware that the subject of a new river crossing is now also in the spotlight, obviously, this would make a massive difference to Minsterworth and the extended A48. I am sure many will have views as to where it should go, however, this will be many years off as yet, if indeed it gets on the Government Agenda given its likely costs.

We remain then somewhat dependent on the outcomes of the Highway Agency work to relieve the congestion; I fear that whilst we could see some improvements the impact will not be massive until such time as work journeys change and perhaps car sharing and use of the bus lane becomes available.

*Phil Awford*

Highnam Division  
Gloucestershire County Council

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## BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

**Derek Davies**

Tewkesbury Borough Council is still undergoing a Transformation strategy in order to make significant savings whilst improving the service over the next five years. Doing more for less is the theme, part of that theme is reviewing our services and seeking shared partnerships with other Authorities. We are already cooperating with the County Council including renting some of our office space to County Departments. Our Legal department is now shared with Cheltenham as a joint service and working well. The local Tewkesbury Police station has moved into our offices, which is why at our reception desk you will see a policeman as well as a TBC receptionist. So we are making savings, and cutting out the excesses of common ground, services and being a responsible Landlord.

It is necessary this coming year to make savings of £1M to meet the requirements of the Government. At the same time we will keep the Council Tax frozen for the fourth year running. Comparative figures for Tax are listed.

Cheltenham £187-12

Cotswold £144-88

Forest of Dean £162-48

BAND - D- RATE

Gloucester £180-42

Stroud £186-93

TEWKESBURY £99-36.

THE FIFTH LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY

The good news on affordable Housing for Minsterworth is that Tewkesbury is throwing its weight behind the Parish to ensure the success of this cause.

May I please take this opportunity in expressing my personal appreciation of being your District Councillor for the past 26 years. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve. My thanks also to Richard and his fellow Councillors not forgetting Fiona Wallbank for her sterling help over the past year.

Sincerely

*Derek*

## **Ham & Calcotts Green Report Councillor Cathy Thomas**

Again this year, a big thank you to our local farmers Messrs King, Dowding, Watkins & Few for continuing to cut the Greens and keep them tidy for everyone to enjoy. This winter has seen both our Greens under water, with Calcotts Green, in particular suffering from inconsiderate drivers continuing to drive through the Flood waters, resulting in them missing the road & 'off roading' along the verges, the greens are slowly recovering and hopefully will return to their natural beauty by this summer.

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## PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

Allan Selwyn

### **HIETTS' CHARITY, FOUNDED BY WILL DATED 1719**

The aim of this charity is:-

"To assist persons who have not attained the age of 25 years, resident in the ancient Parish of Minsterworth, who are in need of financial assistance and are preparing for, entering upon or engaged in any profession, trade, occupation or service by providing them with outfits or paying fees, travelling or maintenance expenses, or by such other means for their advancement in life, or to enable them to earn their living as the trustees think fit"

In other words promoting the education (including social and physical training) of such person.

At the time of going to print no grants have been made in the current financial year.

The most recent bank statements show:

30 day account	£1387.79
Current account	£327.75
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1715.54</b>

### **WINKLES CHARITY FOUNDED BY WILL DATED JUNE 1722**

This charity issues small grants towards heating costs to persons of state retirement age who live alone.

December 2013 saw five payments, being given making a total of £100.00

As at 17 March 2014 there was £390.51 standing in the Lloyd bank account.

### **Further information on grants can be obtained from the Trustees**

Mrs Jane Fraser-Hook	01452 750288
Mr Gerald Savage	01452 750401
Mr Allan Selwyn	01452 750384