

# 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

## MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 14 April 2014, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

### PRESENT:

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

Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 10

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone

Apologies: Councillors Blowey, Garbutt and Ruffley, Borough Councillor Davies and PCSO Rogers, Mrs Cockcroft, Dr & Mrs Lynch

The Chairman thanked everyone concerned who helped with the litter picking.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 8 April 2013** were agreed and signed.

### 3. Matters arising from the minutes:

**Dog Fouling:** This matter had been discussed at Parish Council meetings and it was decided to involve the school children in raising awareness to encourage people to pick up after their dogs. The idea would be to get the children to design a poster and these could be displayed outside the school. Councillor Garbutt was raising this at a Governors meeting.

**Grass Verges:** Gloucestershire Highways had carried out two cuts last year.

**4. Affordable Housing Scheme proposed for the Village:** The Chairman reported that several Councillors and the landowners Stanley and Felicity Karger went to view 4 sites that the Housing Association “Treetops” had been involved in. The landowner is very keen that any development would be tastefully and sympathetically designed and the Chairman stressed that it would be essential that the village has an input as to what the development will look like.

Councillor Blowey had contacted Erin Davies (TBC) and Martin Hutchings (GRCC) to inform them that the land owner was keen to progress the matter, so they were going to arrange for a range of house types and ‘estate layout’ (ie village green effect) options to be demonstrated by the architects at an open day/eve at the Village Hall which could be in the next 2-3 months.

**5. Gloucestershire Highway – Richard Waters** had sent his apologies.

**Turning into Church Lane:** The recent installation of a bollard near this junction was welcomed and a definite improvement however some people felt that the bollard was not substantial enough and would soon be knocked over. One parishioner felt that some red hatchings should be put on the Village Hall side of the newly installed bollard, perhaps more substantial kerbing around the bollard and lighting up the bollard.

Q. What is being done about improving the safety on the A48 and reducing the speed on the stretch road by Oakle Street.

A. A48 meeting group was looking at ways to improve the safety on the A48 and this would be discussed later in the meeting. The Parish Council has raised reducing the speed on the stretch of road near Oakle Street but had been informed that this would not happen.

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Q. What is being about the weeds and debris at the side of the road which is building up.

A. Gloucestershire Highways no longer spray or remove weeds at the side of the road. Road sweeping would be a Borough issue.

Q. Had any surveying works taken place in the layby by Hygrove?

A. Parish Council were not aware of why this was taking place.

**6. Police Report:** The Clerk read out the report from PCSO Helen Rogers. There were 15 reported crimes for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 – 2 criminal damage, 3 burglary, 5 thefts, 1 drug and 2 others. There were only 7 crimes for the same period last year. The Chairman said that he was not impressed by the lack of police presence in the Village. The Clerk said that the police would consider these figures very low but concern was raised that it is double last year's figures. Clerk to email PCSO Rogers and raise this with her and ask how many of the crimes had been detected.

**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.

Following on from his report he stated that although Gloucestershire County Council had made a bid of £15M to repair roads etc but they had only received £3M.

Re flooding he was attending the Regional Flood Defence meeting and will be “banging the drum” on several matters – one of those being that the EA seemed to be back pedaling on carrying out major works required to the River Severn with respects to dredging etc.

The Chairman said that Minsterworth had really pulled together as a Village in the recent high tides with around 400 sand bags being filled and deployed to people who were at risk from flooding. Criticism was aimed at the EA how they handled the first high tide with warnings being received very late in the day, giving little time for sandbags to be filled and deployed. The Parish Council had written to Dyfed Evans who had agreed that Flood Wardens should be contacted personally in future. The Chairman said that there would be even higher tides in 2015 and thanked everyone for their co-operation during the recent high tides – it was a real Community effort.

**8. Derek Davies, Borough Councillor:** In his absence County Councillor Awford reported on last week's decision regarding the JCS. The number of houses had been reduced very late in the day and thankfully the 1825 houses assigned for Twigworth had been removed from the JCS. Apperley and Ashleworth are no longer Services Villages – now 13 in total.

The Borough Council are commencing repairs to the building at Tewkesbury as the roof has been leaking for some time. Also a new leisure facility will be built at the Council Offices as the existing swimming pool in Tewkesbury was in need of major repairs.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Awford very much for all his efforts in getting the houses taken out of the JCS at Twigworth.

**9 Traffic queues on A48/A40:** The Parish Council had contacted surrounding Parish Councils to seek their support on this matter, Improvements works to the Over Roundabout are proposed exactly what will be done but possibly traffic lights on the roundabout, making the island smaller to enable an extra lane on the roundabout. Also the hatchings by Linton Lodge will be removed although the Parish Council do not feel that this will improve matters. Possibly the bus lane will be used for multi-occupancy vehicles. The Parish Council feel ways to alleviate queuing traffic would be the provision of a filter lane off to Maismore at the Over roundabout and a filter lane off to the A38 Tewkesbury on the next roundabout.

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The Parish Council has written to Mark Harper MP in full support of his suggestion in the Commons for a third river crossing.

County Councillor Awford said that the proposed Park and Ride and Linton has been shelved for at least 9 years due to lack of funding as the Elmbridge Court Park & Ride was taking priority.

One parishioner commented that he had been forced to use the public transport system and felt it was excellent and more people should be encouraged to use Public Transport.

The A48 Meeting Group

Another Parishioner felt that Vehicle Activated Signs were effective reminding people of their speed. County Councillor Awford had asked Tirley Parish Council if they were willing to donate one of their cameras to Minsterworth as they were given two by the PRI Installation Company.

## **10. Matters Raised by Electors:**

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WW1:** Mr Bourne reported that on the 31 March 2014 a ceremony was held at the Village Hall when 31 school children from Minsterworth were involved in planting poppy seeds at the entrance and along the front. The Citizen newspaper had done a small article and taken a photograph. Mr Bourne said he was proud of the school in the way they involved the children in this event.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bourne for organising the event.

**11. Close of Meeting** – The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Refreshments were served.

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**Richard Few**

Twelve months ago, whilst writing my annual report, all the land on the Minsterworth Hams was underwater; thankfully this year, so far, the weather and the winds have been favourable. The Parish Council are working on the Village Emergency Plan, and in the near future hope to have this contingency plan drawn up, in case of any local disaster, including severe flooding in the village.

The affordable housing is still pushing ahead, with plans being submitted to the Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) very shortly for ten affordable and four open market houses. I would like to thank Felicity and Stanley Karger for their patience and continued support for this project.

Minsterworth has been named as a service village in the TBC Housing Development Plan. The Parish Council attended several meetings to discuss the number of houses allocated to us, and after a great deal of negotiation and some confusion, the number that TBC initially required of us has been significantly reduced. However the Parish Council remains wary and still has some concerns.

In the summer, three Traveller families were quickly evicted from Calcotts Green, at a large cost to the Parish Council. Through Nigel Garbutt's hard work, we now have a procedure in place to minimise costs if this should happen again.

The A48 traffic queues are still an ongoing problem, but we are waiting to see if the improvements to the Over roundabout will be helpful.

The Parish Council constantly nag our Highways Officer to carry out the repairs needed to the village roads, and I would like to thank all our litter pickers for their never-ending toil.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors and Fiona for their support and effort throughout the year.

Richard Few

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## COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

### Phil Awford – Severn Vale

Firstly, may I advise you that I report this year not only as your County Councillor but as the Chairman of Gloucestershire County Council, a role that is a tremendous privilege to do when so few get the opportunity.

I would stress however that it affords me no extra budget or influence in excess of any other Elected Member, it merely means that I chair County Council meetings and carry out the Civic role. The administration has yet again frozen Council Tax for this year and yet again starts on another round of savings.

Despite these, we are committed to carrying out some resurfacing in Minsterworth and I trust that work will commence soon, we also seek traffic calming and speed reductions given this sadly remains a major issue on the A48 .

I continue to work closely with the Parish Council on local issues, particularly around highways, road safety and flooding, residents will be aware of the massive investment made downstream by the Environment Agency protecting the A48 from future flooding together with protecting some properties and businesses. Obviously, there remains much more to do given the pressures for relieving areas to the North of Gloucester without compromising or further impacting those to the South of Gloucester especially Minsterworth !! We have been at the heart of the campaign to relieve congestion and at the time you receive this there may be some evidence around the impact of the Highways Agency scheme at Over and beyond. However, my belief and I know the widely held one is that a new river crossing would greatly benefit the area, something that I know the MP for the Forest of Dean is campaigning for!

In closing, may I thank the Parish Council and the Clerk for all of the support over the past year, and as always the residents of Minsterworth that I am pleased to serve?

*Phil Awford*

Highnam Division  
Gloucestershire County Council

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## BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

**Derek Davies**

Submitting this report is like writing to an old friend as I have been reporting to you for 27 years on matters of local Government concerning your lovely village, some of my Councillor duties are attending with queries as they arise. We all know that some of the problems require careful handling, and are the cause of frustration particularly in Planning. I am sure that the new Tewkesbury Borough Plan currently out for consultation will be well received and am be happy to answer any questions that may arise.

Again I am only too pleased to announce that Tewkesbury will for the fifth year in a row freeze your Council tax. This again places us in the top five throughout the Country. We will still be giving grants for innovative ideas. Please send applications direct to the TBC, grants section.

Thursday, 7 May 2015 Election Time - Please take the trouble to exercise your right to take part.

May I thank your Parish Council and Fiona for the considerable help extended to me throughout my time as your District Councillor?

Now may I thank each one of the residents, for the privilege of serving you as your district Councillor over 28 Years.

Sincerely

*Derek*

## **Flood and Snow Warden Report Councillor Cathy Thomas**

After the huge issues of flooding last winter Minsterworth has been really quite lucky this last year. The Parish Council, however, have successfully won a bid for some grant funding to purchase some emergency equipment, to hopefully help out flood / snow / disaster victims in the village, should the worst happen. A plan is in the process of being formulated and hopefully, with the help of the band of willing village volunteers, we will be able to support our village through future emergencies.

Should you be new to our village or have lived here a while, please don't hesitate to contact if you require assistance during such emergencies or indeed, if you would like to volunteer to help in a crisis. Our grateful thanks is extended to all who have volunteered so far to help out in an emergency, your generosity is much appreciated, thank you.

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## Ham & Calcotts Green Report Councillor Cathy Thomas

Our grateful thanks firstly go to our local farmers, for there continued cutting of the greens & helping to keep them tidy for everyone to enjoy. Even though the greens took quite a battering, last winter with all the flooding, they recovered well, during the summer. Calcotts Green also became a temporary residence to some illegal visitors, the village acted quickly and calm was restored to our beautiful village. Let us hope this year is kind to us & the greens can continue to recover, so that all the village can enjoy them.

## 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 but we are happy to discuss applications with any individual.

The most recent bank statements show:

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 30 day account  | £1556.01        |
| Current account | £327.85         |
| <b>Total:</b>   | <b>£1883.86</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 2014 saw four payments being given totalling of £100.00

As at 31 December 2014 there was £386.35 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 |