

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Monday, 12 January 2009, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors - R Crisp
R Few - Chairman
S Ruffley
L Simms
C Thomas
Borough Councillor D Davies
County Councillor P Awford

Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 6

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors Bourne and King

2 MINUTES OF MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday, 8 December 2008, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- GCC had agreed a 2.9% increase in Council Tax for 2009/2010.
- Front line services would not be affected and more money would be invested in old people and for people suffering with Alzheimer's to try to keep them in their own homes.
- Election year this year. Working on commitments to alleviate flooding.

5 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- Very sadly Bob Austin has been admitted to hospital and is very ill.
- Gordon Mitchell is in post.
- Following last month's meeting he contacted Sara Freckle ton and Chris Shaw to convey his concerns regarding the lack of communication from the Borough Council with the Parish Council. Not only did he have issues in Minsterworth also Maisemore and Badgeworth. He read out an email received from Dave Jones which stated that he would be looking into the problems reported.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT: (MAX 10 MINUTES)

The Chairman adjourned the meeting while the public made their comments.

7 PLANNING

7.1 Applications:

08/01369/FUL Deepfurrow House, Main Road, Minsterworth: Proposed 1.5 storey garage block with room above - Application withdrawn.

7.2 TBC Decisions:

08/01389/FUL Mr Love, Brook Farm, Oakle Street, Minsterworth: New all weather outdoor riding arena 60m x 20m for the purpose of exercising horses for private use. – Permission granted.

7.3 Appeals: None

7.4 The Firs, Main Road, Minsterworth – Nothing further to report.

7.5 Land at The Lodge, Hygrove, Minsterworth – Nothing further to report.

7.6 Hybank, Main Road, Minsterworth – The Clerk confirmed that she had emailed Catherine Crowley/Oliver Rider to report that building works were being carried out at the rear

of the property and to ask if the owner of the property had applied for a change of use for the property. However, the Clerk had not received a reply.

The Clerk reported following last month's PC meeting Borough Councillor Davies had spoken to Sara Freckleton about the lack of response from her department and enforcement and the Parish Council's extreme frustrations with the Borough Council. Sara had asked the Clerk for details of the emails which had not received replies etc to enable her to look into this matter further. The Clerk explained that due to changing computers the information had not been sent to Sara until the 5 January and she was out of the office until the 7 January and would reply after that date.

8 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

Mrs F J Wallbank:

Salary 1-31 January 2009	283.36	Cheque No: 100884
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Minsterworth Village Hall – Hire of Hall:

PC meeting 8.12.08	26.00	Cheque No: 100885
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Total Payments	£309.36	
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Receipts

Total Receipts	£0.00
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8.2 Financial update to end of December 2008– This was circulated with the agenda -noted.

9 MATTERS ARISING:

9.1 Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report.

9.2 Report from Representative from Village Hall Committee – Councillor Ruffley reported that he had been unable to attend the last Village Hall meeting. However, he had spoken with Fiona Thomas about the possibility of the Parish Council using the Village Hall website to upload information in connection with the Freedom of Information Act. Fiona Thomas said she was happy for a small amount of information to be uploaded to the website but if large amounts of information were to be uploaded this would be time consuming. Councillor Ruffley and some of the Councillors had looked at the Westbury-on-Severn Parish Council website and felt that this was very informative. The Clerk reported that:

- Long term it would be more beneficial if the Parish Council had their own website.
- Westbury-on-Severn Parish Council set up their website for very little cost as a local parishioner built the site
- A domain name was purchased and the website uses the Clerks own web space.
- Researched possible domain names for the Parish Council: minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk and this would be about £4.99 per annum. Names ending in .gov.uk were much more costly and difficult to obtain.

Councillor Ruffley said that he would do some research into the matter and report back at the next month's meeting. Clerk to put this matter on the agenda.

9.3 Highway Matters – Bus Stop Hygrove Lane – The Clerk confirmed that she had emailed Richard Gray confirming that the PC were quite happy for Gloucestershire Highways to investigate the modification of the island to ease the entry/exit of the buses. Richard Gray informed the Clerk that as the site is adjacent to the A48 he would need to have the improvement Safety Audited. Once this process had been completed and assuming no objections were raised then he would arrange for the works to be included within their works programme. The Chairman said that they had discussed raising the road surface to create a form of speed hump. County Councillor Awford said he would take this up with Richard Gray.

Minsterworth Garage – Drains – The Chairman reported that he thought Highways had done some work but had not seen the owner of the garage since the recent rain.

Turning into Bury Lane from A48 - The Clerk had confirmed that the PC were quite happy for the vegetation to be removed to allow for an area that pedestrians could step off the Highway. The Chairman said that at the site meeting they had discussed creating a wider spaly on the Glos side when turning right into Bury Lane. County Councillor Awford said he would take this up with Richard Gray.

9.4 The Apple Tree Pub –The Chairman reported that this had been bought by a local parishioner. He thanked him and wishes him luck.

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

10.1 Communities in Control: Real People, real power: Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity – A Consultation. The Chairman agreed to take the document and read it.

11 DATE/ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, 9 February 2009.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.