

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 10 September 2012, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors - R Blowey
R Crisp
N Garbutt
R Few
S Ruffley
C Thomas
Borough Councillor D Davies
County Councillor Awford
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 4 (one partial attendance)

1 APOLOGIES Councillor King

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Monday, 9 July 2012 were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: As follows:

- On the 3 September 2012 Gloucestershire County Council's blueprint for dealing with waste was given the seal of approval by the Planning Inspectorate.
- Javelin Park Incinerator scheme is going to Planning.
- Another issue is the challenge of funding for schools
- Highways are negotiating for a new contract.
- Verges along the A48 from Highnam to Chaxhill were cut that day as Glos Highways decided to only carry out one cut this season as a cost saving exercise.

5 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: As follows:

- TBC are supporting the Warm and Well scheme offering free cavity wall and loft insulation for privately rented and owned properties only and is subject to survey and available funding. Also if you have solid walls grants are also available. This scheme is being supported by six authorities in Gloucestershire.
- Currently at TBC they are reviewing all in house Development Systems. They are reorganizing the council offices and staff and have rented out part of the TBC offices to some County Council departments and the police with a view to creating a community hub. Currently the planning services are being looked at.
- TBC are looking at waste and recycling services and joining with Cheltenham and Cotswolds setting up a private company to deal with waste and recycling.
- Disappointed with lack of response from TBC re the parishes proposed project on Affordable Housing.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT (MAX 10 MINUTES) None

7 PLANNING

7.1 Applications: None

7.2 TBC Decisions: 12/00654/FUL Highcross House, Minsterworth: Extensions to dwelling & erection of a greenhouse – **Refused**

12/00206/FUL North and South Stables, Starcroft Lane, Minsterworth: Use of land for the stationing of static and touring caravans for residential purposes for 4 no gypsy pitches together with the formation of additional hard standing and utility/dayrooms ancillary to that use - **Refused**

7.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions: None

7.4 The Firs, Main Road – The Clerk reported that she had chased Paul Skelton that day and had received an update from David Taylor. He stated that he had finally visited the property on 6 September and can confirm that the owners have taken the appropriate measures to ensure that the building is no longer considered to be a separate residential dwelling. There are now no kitchen facilities within the building. The building can of course be used as ancillary to the main dwelling. He confirmed that TBC have now closed the file on this matter however the enforcement matter regarding trading from the site is still ongoing.

8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

8.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

Accounts for Payment:

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-30 September 2012	317.64		
Less Tax	<u>63.40</u>	254.24	Cheque No: 101148

Inland Revenue: Tax for FJW		63.40	Cheque No: 101149
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Total Payments **£317.64**

Receipts

Total Receipts **£0.00**

8.2 Financial Statement for the month ended August 2012 was circulated – contents noted.

9 MATTERS ARISING:

9.1 Report from representative of Village Hall Committee – Nothing to report as the next meeting is on 18 September.

9.2. Highway Matters:

Flytipping - The Chairman reported that a serious matter of fly tipping occurred at the top of Pound Lane blocking the road completely. This happened one weekday just before 7pm in broad daylight. There were around 500 small nails together with the remains of a garden shed along with other items. He contacted CC Awford and Borough Councillor Davies who arranged for TBC to deal with the matter. He cleared the rubbish to one side with his JCB and TBC sent a team to sweep the road – it took a couple of days to have the site completely cleared. The Chairman would like to thank TBC for their prompt action in this matter. Councillors felt that fines for fly tipping should be much larger to discourage people from doing this.

Verges – The Chairman reported that at long last the verges had been cut following complaints of people not being able to walk the footways, site visibility problems etc. CC Awford reported that he was not entirely sure that by carrying out only one cut is a cost saving exercise as the job was more difficult to do with the severe growth. He was surprised that the “A” roads had not been done sooner. Hopefully things will be done differently next year. Also the A40 has been left overgrown causing visibility problems together with the barrier on the Highnam roundabout. The Chairman felt that it had been done too late in season. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Glos Highways with the PC views on this matter.

Replacement Water Main – The Chairman reported that works had been completed. Mostly the contractors had done an excellent job up until the contractors were changed. Not everything has been finished to everyone’s satisfaction. He will be submitting an invoice for the time he has spent on this project and will ask for the cheque to be made payable to the Parish Council. There is a large pothole at the side of the road between Calcotts Green and the Church. CC Awford to report.

Open Days at Area Team Offices – The Clerk read out a letter from Will Windsor-Clive regarding the setting up of these meetings during the Autumn where offices will be able to update Councillors on the in-year schemes and key topics such as potholes, winter etc and seek feedback on the following year’s programmes and establishing the Parishes scheme requests.

Road to Mrs Trigg’s property – The chairman said that there was a very bad pothole as well as the lane being in a dreadful condition. CC Awford said he would report this.

Sunken manhole cover near Church Lane – Finally this has been repaired after over a year of complaining.

Church Lane Turning – Following the last meeting CC Awford had emailed Richard Waters but had no further update on this.

Overhanging Hedges: Pound Lane – The Clerk had confirmed to Richard Waters that Mrs Shepherd as the owner of Pound Cottage was the correct person to be contacted.

Footpaths: Alongside the School - complaints have been received that this is overgrown. Councillor Thomas said that she would look into this as the school might be responsible for part of this. She would report back to the Clerk.

Oakle Street/The Dinney overgrown – Councillor Garbutt said he would investigate this and report back.

Crash Barrier - Following an accident back in July when the crash barrier at The Dinney was damaged the Clerk reported this to Glos Highways but to date has not been repaired. CC Awford said he would report this.

A48 Closed – following an accident at Chaxhill on Saturday 7 September. Thankfully it was not a fatality.

9.3 Review of Severn Estuary Strategy – The Clerk read out an update email from Dan Matthews. He wanted the Parish Council to propose a list of interested parties and possible dates re a working group for Minsterworth to be able to discuss the possible option with the community and landowners of the possible impacts of flooding and the potential options for reducing these impacts. It was agreed that it would be best to wait until after the GCC workshop on Developing a Local Strategy for managing flood risk in Glos which will take place on Monday, 29 October – venue to be confirmed. Councillors Blowey, Few and Thomas said that they will attend this event.

The Chairman reported that there had been an IDB meeting and he had taken them to see impact that Glos tip and the housing development at Highnam affects the flooding at Cornham. There are around 250/300 acres that are unfarmable.

9.4 Affordable Housing Scheme – The Chairman apologized to the Parish for the delay in progressing this matter any further. The Clerk reported that she had emailed Frances Evens to obtain an update for the meeting but unfortunately Frances was not in a position to update the Council. Councillor Blowey had also emailed Frances detailing to the dates and lack of action which were as follows:

1. 20 July 2011: decision by Minsterworth PC in conjunction with Martin Hutchins, to proceed with Housing Needs survey
2. 21 July 2011: RB attends coach tour of other Affordable Housing sites and reports to PC. Decision to proceed with survey
3. 19 December 2011: Housing Needs Survey completed and identifies a ‘need’ for housing
4. 9 January 2012: Martin Hutchins attended PC Meeting and discussed results. Agreement to proceed
5. 2 April 2012: discussed at parish assembly and voted to proceed with a small development. Councillors discussed potential sites, which TBC wanted to view
6. Monday 21 May 2012: Frances Evans visited and Councillors showed her a range of sites
7. Subsequent to that visit Frances wrote to RB asking if she could visit again with Martin Hutchings
8. Frances visit with Martin was to have been on 14 June 2012, and you were to have reported back after that meeting

9. 3 July 2012: Fiona wrote to Frances asking for an update ref her visit with Martin - responded No update yet, just waiting for comments on the sites. Will keep PC informed when she had all the details back.

10. 12 July 2012: Fiona wrote to you again, requesting a further update

11. 3 September 2012: Council meeting in just one week, so can you PLEASE give us an update on your decision ref proposed siting of the Affordable Housing, and a report on the next action your require to be taken

Frances did send an email that day stating that she and Martin had in fact looked at 12 different sites and would be speaking to the planners re these. Councillor Blowey had asked her to present a document by 24 September to give the PC two weeks to consider prior to the next meeting.

9.5 The Standards Regime and the Localism Act 2011 – The Clerk reported that she had spoken with Sara Freckleton who was waiting for a response to her correspondence regarding the registering of members interests on websites. As soon as she had received replies she would contact Parishes. On this basis Councillors decided to defer adopting a Code of Conduct as register of members interests had to be registered within 28 days of adopting a Code.

Regarding a procedure for the handling of dispensations it was agreed to use Form A and these needed to be sent to the Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the meeting where the items needed to be discussed and that the Clerk could grant the dispensation. The Clerk would have to amend the Standing Orders to this effect.

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

10.1 Highnam Parish Council – Setting up a Planning Strategy Group – The letter from Mike Heenan, Chairman had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that at the current time Minsterworth PC was not interested in joining a Planning Strategy Group with adjoining parishes. Clerk to write to Mr Heenan.

10.2 GCC – Highways Development Management Standing Advice – The document had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed that no comments need to be made.

10.3 Audit Commission – Appointment of external auditor – Confirmation that Grant Thornton UK LLP will be the external auditor for the next five years. If the Parishes income/expenditure is up to £10, 00 then there will be no fee otherwise it is likely to be £100.

11 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION: The Chairman said that he wanted to pass on the Parishes condolences to the family of the late Dinah Browning who would be greatly missed.

12 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, 8 October 2012 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed 9.05pm.