

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 11 April 2016, in Minsterworth Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors - Roger Blowey - Chairman
Rod Crisp
Nigel Garbutt
Steve King
Gerry MGrath
Tony Pearson
Cathy Thomas
County Councillor Awford
Borough Councillor Davies
PSCO Dave Birch (partial attendance)

Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 30

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone

Apologies: Dr & Mrs Lynch, Mr & Mrs Savage, Mr Cockcroft

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 13 April 2015 – Signed by the Chairman

3. Matters arising from the minutes: None

4. Police:

The Chairman introduced PCSO Dave Birch and gave a brief outline of the duties of a PCSO.

As reported last year by Sergeant Hooper Minsterworth is considered to be a low crime area. PCSO Birch gave the crime figures for January-March 2016 – 5 incidents: 1 assault, 1 burglary, 1 attempted burglary, 1 criminal damage to dwelling and 1 possession of cannabis.

He said that there had been a spate of burglaries in rural areas and asked parishioners to be vigilant and if they see any suspicious to dial 101.

Q Accidents on the A48 – could there be more co-ordination with the Police so that locals who can easily get to their homes could be let through.

A Some police crews are dispatched from the Forest and some from Gloucester. Really depends on where the accident is but will speak to his Superior to see if there could be more co-ordination.

Q Are the markings outside properties marking them for burglaries?

A Operation liberal - Doorstep crime is a real problem with criminals targeting the most vulnerable in communities

Q Increase of drug taking activity at Cornham

A He would look into this further. The Chairman asked him to report back to the Parish Council on this matter.

5. Affordable Housing Scheme proposed for the Village: The chairman reported that the scheme was still rumbling on very slowly as there was quite a number of issues that needed addressing the main one being the point of access. Negotiations have been slow but are progressing now. District Valuer said there was no need for Open Market Housing but without this element it alters the financial aspect of the project and Rooftops were reluctant to go ahead without any Open Market Housing which in turn the Landowner who was selling the land at

below the market value would get even less. It has been agreed to change the tenure of some of the houses to shared equity to enable the developers to get some return.

6. Phil Awford, County Councillor: His report had been circulated and welcomed any questions: He highlighted the following points:

- Disappointed about the increase in the precept but necessary.
- As a County Councillor he gets a sum of money to spend on Highways Matters across his 21 Parishes and this year he is getting an extra £10,000 making a total of £30,000.
- Is very involved in attending flooding meetings
- No date as yet for building of the incinerator
- Meeting with Richard Waters the next day to discuss the condition of the A48. If a white circle has been put around a pothole some action should be taken within 28 days – the potholes have to be at a depth of 4” before any action is taken.

The Chairman said the Parish Council had received several complaints about the condition of the A48 and looks forward to repair works being carried out in the near future. He commented that Glos Highways had kindly sided the footway and although he was originally sceptical about the creation of the third lane at Over Roundabout this had certainly increased the traffic flow.

Q The Bus Stop needs to be relocated before the hatchings

A A40 is the responsibility of the Highways England not GCC.

7. Derek Davies, Borough Councillor: As his report had been circulated with the agenda he would take it as read. He apologised for the small increase in the Council Tax however Tewkesbury is still the fourth lowest in the Country. There has been an increase in drug taking activities in Highnam and an increase in spite of burglaries. The police had arrested a number of people regarding the burglaries.

8. Village Resilience Councillor Pearson said that that a questionnaire had been sent out with the November edition of The Villager and to date had only received 20 completed questionnaires and urged people to complete and return the questionnaires as it is important for information to be collected on what survival equipment parishioners may have and what help might be required in an emergency. More volunteers are needed to offer help in the case of an emergency. Perhaps 2-3 people at various points along the village.

9. Broadband Survey Councillor McGrath said that he had only received 19 responses following the questionnaire that was sent out with The Villager. Unfortunately, Minsterworth has not been included in the plan to be upgraded as part of the current phase of the Fastershire project and it is essential it the Parish Council wants to get included in this project to show that it has the backing of the parish behind it.

The Chairman added that when he and Councillor Pearson visited Mark Harper MP they raised this matter with him and Mr Harper stressed the importance that the Parish Council had the backing of the village.

One parishioner asked if the Parish Council had contacted Churcham as some properties are on the same exchange as are some properties in Minsterworth. Councillor McGrath said that the questionnaire had only been sent to Minserworth Villagers but would widen the area.

10. Minsterworth Clean-up for The Queen: Councillor Thomas said it would be a good idea to carry out a communal litter pick to clean up the village. The current litter pickers do a fabulous job but it is impossible for them to tackle the whole of the Village. It was agreed that on Sunday 8 May 2pm Villagers are invited to meet at the Village Hall to carry out a litter pick for 1-2 hours. This would be advertised in The Villager. Clerk to contact TBC to organised the use of picking sticks, high viz tabards and rubbish bags.

11. Matters Raised by Electors:

Severn Bore Parking: One parishioner felt there should be more control on where people park on the occasion of a Bore as visitors are damaging the verges in front of properties by the Church. Councillor Thomas said traffic mainly parks at the Village Hall for the people who arrive with enough time to spare to walk down to the Church however for those people who arrive at the last minute and refuse to park where they are directed they are impossible to control.

Noise Village Hall: One parishioner said that on a number of occasions the music from the Village Hall was very loud and continues on until 1.15am. The Chairman said the Parish Council would take this up with the Village Hall Committee.

Bury Lane Road Sign: This sign is in a poor condition and needs to be replaced.

British Legion: Mr Bourne asked the Village to support the British Legion with its next trip in September to Bletchley Park to the home of the War-Time Code-Breakers. Date to be confirmed.

12. Close of Meeting – The meeting closed at 9pm.