

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 12 October 2020, via Zoom

PRESENT:

Councillors - R Blowey
N Garbutt
S Ingham
S King
C Thomas
R Thomas
N Powell
BC J Smith
CC P Awford
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk
Parishioners: 2 (partial attendance)

1 APOLOGIES: None

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday, 14 September having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed by the Clerk

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 REPORTS FROM CC AWFORD AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS:

BC Smith reported as follows:

- White Paper – Radical Planning Reform 2020
- Briefing was given to members on what is proposed in the future, and to give feedback as a Council. At present planning lacks transparency and is too complicated. Paper aims to speed up process and increase land availability for homes. User experience should be better.
- Autumn White Paper on the Council structure and reforms has been shelved until January. Gloucestershire to remain as it is at present as its working.
- Accident and Emergency temporary structure in the two main General Hospitals is to remain as it is until the end of March 2021. This will enable better services during the second spike and the addition of Winter Pressures. This structure is providing best delivery of services for patients and staff.
- TBC are currently busy, as staff being deployed to other areas within the Council that are requiring support during the on-going pandemic. Parish Councils and Parishioners are requested to be mindful of this when services are slower that would be expected.
- Government have launched a new payment scheme for those on low incomes who are unable to work while self-isolating.

The Chairman asked if TBC had a shortened version of the White Paper. BC Smith reported that she had received a presentation in slide format and she would see if she can share the slides with us.

CC Awford reported as follows:

- Also been involved with Government White Paper with regards to the EA. It does not encourage the building of the right type of houses in the right places.
- Re-organisation is going to be a costly operation to the taxpayer
- Awaiting feedback from Craig following his visit with the Chairman
- Hot topic of moving the Eco Village at Westbury to a 4,000 development at Churcham.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT: None

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-31 October 2020	398.07		
Back pay for June, July & August	31.95		
Less Tax	<u>26.60</u>	403.42	Via Bank Transfer
Inland Revenue: Tax for FJW			Via Bank Transfer
Refund due to Clerk		26.60	
AGP Lawn mowing services for Minsterworth Park on the 1, 17 & 29 September	111.00		
Mole services	<u>30.00</u>	141.00	Via Bank Transfer
Cost of wildflowers – refund due to Mrs S Ingham		40.45	Via Bank Transfer
System Force IT: Labour for compliance with WCAG2.1	50.00		
	<u>VAT 10.00</u>	60.00	Via Bank Transfer
Parish Magazine Printing: October Edition		93.70	Via Bank Transfer
Total Payments		£765.17	

Receipts:

The Villager -advertising	336.30
Total Receipts	£336.30

6.2 Financial Statement: For the month ended September 2020 was circulated via email and signed by the Clerk as agreed.

7 MATTERS ARISING:

7.1 Report from Village Hall Representative: The Chairman reported that the Village Hall had planned to reopen on the 1 October 2020 but now it will be a limited opening. Hoping to use the time on getting some more external repair works done.

7.2 Minsterworth Park: Looking particularly good.

Wild Flowers: Have been planted at the village hall when you drive out and at the Park.

Councillor Ingham asked if the hedgerow at Ellis Bank could be cut back twice a year. Chairman to write to Rooftops (this was done and hedge has since been trimmed).

7.3 The Harvey Centre:

The Chairman reported that the email from Farzana Aldridge had been circulated to the Councillors for their consideration prior to the meeting. This stated as follows:

- *The land on which the former school and schoolhouse were built was donated in 1832. In addition, funds were donated before and after that date for the purposes of building and maintaining the school and schoolhouse and employing a school master/mistress*
- *Our legal advice has clarified that the school building belongs to the Free School Charity registered with the Charity Commission, and the Diocese of Gloucester have accepted that this is the case.*
- *Upon the closure of Minsterworth C of E Primary School, the Diocese of Gloucester submitted an application for a s554 order to the Department for Education (DfE). This would have allowed the Diocese to dispose of the building and the capital receipt for the land could have been used by the Diocese, as it felt to be appropriate. This would have meant that this local resource would have been lost to the local Minsterworth community.*
- *The trustees wrote to the DfE disputing the authority of the Diocese to make such an application, and the DfE put a hold on further action until the matter was resolved between the trustees and the Diocese.*
- *The Diocese of Gloucester has now written to the DfE withdrawing their s554 application and have informed the trustees accordingly.*
- *The trustees have been in touch with the DfE for advice, and the DfE response is that an application for s554 order from the trustees does not meet the legislative requirements*

- *The trustees are now in communication with the Charity Commission to seek advice on the possible application for Cy-pres. This scheme will allow the change of use of the building and land from a school to use of it by the community. The trustees await a response from the Charity Commission*
- *The revised objects for the charity are to **promote social cohesion, educational inclusion and spiritual well-being for children, young people and adults in Minsterworth and the surrounding areas.** The delivery of these objects would be through a range of non-statutory educational and **community focussed** provision*
- *The Diocese is handing over the building and land to the trustees on the 25th October.*
- *Detailed action plans have been formulated to develop and refurbish the building for community use*

The Board of trustees will be approaching the Parish Council for support in the future and would be grateful if our request is considered favourably as the provision from the former school building will be to support children, young people and adults residing in Minsterworth and the surrounding areas

The Chairman stated that the group need congratulating on the amount of effort put in achieving the ownership of the building and the land to be retained for the village. Next stage for the group will be planning what they are going to do with it. The Parish Council supports the objectives in principle and for financial help, any requests will be considered on its merits.

7.4 Highway Matters: The Chairman reported:

- Accident data supplied by Craig Freeman was inaccurate and incomplete however thanks to Mrs Alford and Mrs Dowding and Ruth Thomas for collating more accurate data
- The PC would like to ask all residents to report any (including any minor) accidents to the Police and the Parish Council going forwards. This should be collated via the Clerk and Councillor Ruth Thomas would collate and report back to the PC every 3-6 months. Include regular near misses. Councillor Ruth Thomas will put a note in The Villager
- Before the PC can move forward at all with A48 safety measures, speed data is needed. Speed data recording via 2 rubber strips across the road to remain in place for 1 week. This will cost £100 for the first spot and £60 for another site. Councillors unanimously agreed to proceed with the expenditure of the rubber speed strips.
- Councillors will submit their thoughts where the locations could be and CC Awford could guide the PC

7.5 PROW: The foot stile on EMW14 has been vandalised but now been replaced. EMW19 has been cleared really well by the landowner.

7.6 Provision of bench seats: Terry Moore-Scott's request to place a bench seat on the riverbank was turned down by the EA because it may have an adverse effect on the bank. There are currently numerous riverbank seats, eg at the Severn Bore, Newnham and Rodley. It was agreed that the PC would write to the EA and ask again for permission for a seat to be placed on the riverbank and the PC need to choose a site where the water does not go over the bench. There is an offer to pay for the bench in memory of a deceased parishioner.

7.7 Bus Shelters (BS): The Chairman reported that he would like to thank Chris King again for all his assistance in clearing the bus shelters along with Ian Brookes and other PC members. The ivy has caused some damage to the roof tiles which have become loose and will need recementing. There is money in the budget for bus shelter repairs. The Chairman wondered if it would be a good idea and ask if any parishioners would be willing to volunteer to adopt a bus shelter and keep it clean and tidy if they live near one. This was agreed by the PC.

7.8 The Villager: Dawn Ricketts has been successful in increasing the advertisers and generating extra income. It had been agreed to go back to monthly editions.

7.9 Remembrance Day: Councillor Ingham had circulated some suggestions regarding Remembrance Day memorabilia. It was agreed not to purchase any this year however Councillor Thomas and the Chairman would decorate the flagpole as they did last year. The PC had purchased a poppy wreath which would be laid as usual.

8 PLANNING

8.1 Applications:

20/00929/FUL Wellsprings, Main Road, Minsterworth: Erection of a two storey side & rear extension & single storey rear extension

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council has no objections to this application

19/00465/FUL Charlton, Main Road, Minsterworth: Change of use of dwelling and adjacent detached dwelling from C3 (dwelling house) to C2 (Children's care home). Erection of a replacement single storey rear extension and erection of front and rear dormer extensions. front and rear dormer windows.

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council strongly objects as no adequate drainage system has been proposed and verified and refer to Simon Jones Parry, Civil Engineer's letter/reports dated 3 July and 26 September. Minsterworth Parish Council request these reports/letters are placed on the planning portal as relevant documents.

8.2 TBC Decisions:

20/00618/FUL Eame Hill Farm, Main Road, Minsterworth: Change of use of vacant barns to Use Class B8 (storage and distribution) – **Granted**

20/00662/FUL Highbury, Main Road, Minsterworth: Erection of two storey side/rear extensions. Demolition of existing garage and erection of a single storey side extension (Revision of 19/00711/FUL) - **Granted**

8.3 Appeal: None

Appeal Decisions: None

Site Inspections: None

8.4 Charlton, Main Road, Minsterworth: Ownership of Charlton has changed and no longer belongs to the original owner but changed into joint ownership and the original owner is now one of 4 owners. There is talk of the property being an assisted living site rather than a care home. Highways are saying no more than 2 vehicles present. Two reports came in from Simon Jones Parry, Civil Engineer independently requested to look at the drainage. None of the proposal put forward by the applicant are adequate. Both reports have been sent into Dawn Lloyd and neither have been put on the planning portal and as drainage has been one of the main concerns it seems strange why these reports have not been uploaded onto the Charlton file. The PC to write to TBC requesting that these drainage documents be displayed on the planning portal.

Mr Billingham had received a text from one of the owners of the property asking him to pay half the cost of putting in a treatment plant which is very inappropriate indeed.

Other Planning Matters: Proposed development of 4,000 in Churcham:

The Chairman gave a short outline of the proposal:

For the Forest of Dean to try and get their housing allowance fulfilled by 2046 they want to build 4,000 houses at Churcham. Apparently, the landowners are in negotiations with Robert Hitchens Homes on 476 acres of land running from Highnam roundabout back to Churcham. The chairman is in communication with Churcham, Highnam, Huntley and Westbury Parish Councils ref setting up Zoom meetings.

On-line petition currently live <https://www.change.org/churchamdevelopment>

Comments from the Councillors as follows:

1. BC Smith has written to Matt Barker and Adrian Goode at TBC asking if they are aware of the proposed scheme as 500 houses might be in TBC area – she is still waiting to hear back. She suggested that perhaps Highnam join in the PC Council group
2. Problem trying to stop it as Robert Hitchens is a very larger development with a lot of influence.
3. Rather than go against the scheme, request prior major infrastructure improvements for example improve the current transport network by putting in a dual carriage way along the A40 and from Highnam roundabout to Elton Corner.
4. New road system must be mandatory before any building works are carried out.
5. There is talk of the FODDC making a decision within the next 8 weeks as they have been talking about this proposal for at least a year.
6. Got to look at everything we can gain via a CIL or Section 106.
7. Meeting on the 15 October to put the strategy in front of the Planning Committee

8. Ought to be looking at another River Crossing to at least take some of the A48 traffic off the A40.
9. Infrastructure not only roads but look at water and electricity supplies. Only advantage to Minsterworth is that it might become a step nearer to getting mains drainage in the Village.
10. Main problem would be the amount of traffic. Road network needs to be sufficiently improved to take over 4,000 extra vehicles per day
11. Water run-off from any possible development will not go back to the Leadon it will be into the existing network into Linton and then down into the Hams and there are already existing problems with water.

It was suggested that the above points are submitted to the FODDC prior to their meeting on the 15.10.20.

4,000 houses is equivalent to another town the size as Cinderford. 120 houses per Parish might be a better solution however you would not have the same opportunity to get improvements to an already overstretched road network.

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Epney/Longney Riverbank: Is being raised by 1m which puts significant change of events nearer home. CC Awford declared an interest on this topic he is already on to this matter and in dialogue with Rhys McCarthy.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the EA – Anthony Perry/Jo Martin and ask for more information on the scheme and request what the impact will be on Minsterworth.

Remembrance Sunday: The numbers will be severely restricted on the service this year due to the Covid pandemic. The Chairman will liaise with the Church Warden.

10 DATE FOR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING: Monday, 9 November 2020 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.