

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 9 November 2020, via Zoom

PRESENT:

Councillors - R Blowey
N Garbutt
S Ingham
C Thomas
R Thomas
N Powell
BC J Smith
CC P Awford
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 3

1 APOLOGIES: Councillor King.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday, 12 October 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:

- There has been a lot of national, regional and local briefings this week to provide councils with more details behind some of the announcements already made eg grants, enforcement legislation, care of vulnerable residents. Many officers are deployed into other roles during this time which can slow down other services.
- Applications for the Council Tax reduction scheme appear to be levelling off with steady number of new applicants.
- The team responsible for business grants assurance is on standby to start paying business grants.
- The licensing team are developing licensing applications online.
- A £100m scheme for public sector leisure centres, swimming pools and gyms has been announced at National Level by the Government – it is to help to cover at least some of the costs of the leisure centres being closed.
- The Covid Community Protection Officers scheme has been launched, with two officers covering Tewkesbury, Cheltenham and Stroud in a bid to combat the spread of Covid 19.
- Ubico have been more stringent with checks on recycling and have not emptied and stickered blue bins with incorrect items in. This has been necessary to reduce the amount of contaminated recycling being sent to and potentially rejected by the MRF.
- There is still funding available for community grants of up to £1000 for each group undertaking charitable work within our villages. Parish Clerks have the details.

CC Awford reported:

- Closure of Day Centres, reception at Shire Hall etc due to Covid
- Adult social care scrutiny – Sarah Scott will be well scrutinised about Covid – daily releases from the County Council – numbers of Covid are on the up
- Contacted EA regarding a blocked PROW to be discussed later in the meeting

5 PUBLIC COMMENT: Franza Aldridge gave a short update on the current situation with regards to the Harvey Centre.

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-31 November 2020	398.07		
Less Tax	<u>20.20</u>	377.87	Via Bank Transfer
Inland Revenue: Tax for FJW			Via Bank Transfer
Refund due to Clerk		20.20	
AGP Lawn mowing services for Minsterworth Park on the 19 October		37.00	Via Bank Transfer
Parish Magazine Printing: November Edition		111.08	Via Bank Transfer
GAPTC: Being a Better Councillor Course 3.11.20		25.00	Via Bank Transfer
Katie Panting: Reimbursement of Villager Magazine expenses		36.74	Via Bank Transfer
Total Payments		£607.89	

Receipts:

The Villager -advertising	223.15
Total Receipts	£223.15

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

6.3 Proposed Budget for 2021/22: The Clerk had circulated a draft budget prior to the meeting. The Chairman said he would like to see a heading for A48 Safety with a provision of £1500 to cover the possible provision of a VAS sign. The Clerk had put in a provision of £2000 for Community Project however it was agreed to increase this to £2500 which would include possible legal fees for the proposed Churcham development, provision of wildflowers etc. The Clerk would prepare a second draft for consideration at the December meeting.

7 MATTERS ARISING:

7.1 Report from Village Hall Representative: The Chairman reported that the Village Hall is currently closed for COVID reasons

7.2 Minsterworth Park: Councillor Ingham reported that no ROSPA inspection had been carried out this year to date. The Clerk said she would speak to the Company who had carried out ROSPA inspections for Deerhurst and Westbury.

7.3 The Harvey Centre: The Chairman pointed out that Franza Aldridge's email was detailed in last month's minutes.

The PC has received a request for a £1000 grant, money would be used to improve the Harvey Centre and go towards the necessary works so Minsterworth Free School Foundation is able to attract more people to use the premises and therefore the increased financial viability of the premises. The chairman pointed out what would happen if the current proposals fail financially. Everyone, needs to be aware that achieving the ownership of the school and ground is an enormous asset for the village. If the current project fails the premises cannot be used for any other purposes and remains as a Community Asset for the Community. The charitable objectives are for the community wellbeing and support for children and young people. The total costings are in the region of £20,000 to carry out the necessary works. Discussions have taken place with the Village Hall about a possible conflict and it is felt there is no conflict. It was agreed that the PC would donate the sum £1,000 to go towards the necessary works. CC Awford requested a copy of the business plan of the Harvey Centre and feels that he may be able to match the PC's support and maybe a little bit more.

7.4 Highway Matters:

Speed Strips: The Chairman has asked Craig Freeman for four sets of speed strips one each in the following locations:

1. Between Appithorne and the Minsterworth sign
2. Adjacent to Deep Furrow bungalow
3. Just after the west end of the dual carriageway at Severn Bank, ie after Village Hall

4. Between the bus shelter and Oakle Street at the west end of the Village, i.e. east of the Minsterworth sign

Signs: 30MPH down Church Lane and Minsterworth signs still not been done.

7.5 PROW: Councillor Ingham reported:

- Hugh Dowding has very kindly offered to repair the gate that has dropped at the Church after pointing out that the EA said they would maintain the gates but are no longer doing so. CC Awford has open dialogue with Rees McCarthy at the EA. If the EA should be maintaining one, they should be maintaining the string gates from Pershore to the Naight that they erected and maintain. Normally the landowners would be responsible.
- Councillor Thomas reported the poor state of Cornham Lane due to EA traffic. CC Awford to take this up with the EA.

7.6 Provision of bench seats: The Chairman reported that the PC has sent a letter to the EA supporting the initial application. Suzanne Hopes also wrote a supporting email for the position of the seat.

7.7 The Villager: Moving forward fine with the new format and the October issue was more informative and interesting. Finance wise the advertising revenue is increasing.

7.8 Remembrance Day: Due to Covid this year the service was very different, well organized and Covid secure, bugler was 4 metres away from the main group, laying of the wreaths were done individually and no service inside the Church The PC also did a little decorating at the Village Hall.

Any Other Matters:

Raising of the Flood bank lower down the River: The Clerk reported that she had written to the EA but to date had not received a reply. (CC Awford declared an interest as he is on the Regional Flood Defence Committee).

8 PLANNING

8.1 Applications: None

8.2 TBC Decisions: None

8.3 Appeal: None

Appeal Decisions: None

Site Inspections: None

8.4 Enforcement Matters: Charlton, Main Road, Minsterworth: Nothing further to report

Suspect Sewage Running down Pound Lane across Watery Lane and into the ditch: PC wrote twice to TBC Enforcement but to date has not received a reply. It was felt it is now a matter of Health & Safety for the Parish and it was agreed that BC Smith would report this to Environmental Health at TBC as a matter of urgency. Concerned about what is being discharged. TBC drainage officer David Lesser should be contacted and revisit original conditions on the original planning application. (since the meeting, EHO's have been to investigate)

8.5 Proposed Development at Churcham: The Chairman reported:

- Inter Parish Chairman groups have taken place and there has been a huge amount of correspondence circulated
- FOD Local Plan proposal - not entirely sure that Minsterworth as a Parish had decided that they were wholly against any form of development in the A40/A48 triangle. However, concerns about the effect the development unless adequate infrastructure was put in place : there may be a full mains sewerage system that Minsterworth could tap into and if these provisos were met then we would not strongly disagree. The interparish group also wish to explore alternatives
- Provided adequate measures are put in place we do not want to reject this development out of hand at this stage.

Comments from Councillors:

- Do not necessarily agree with the proposed development but we need to get the best for Minsterworth. Possible Dual carriageway from Over Roundabout to Longford and Over roundabout to Elton Corner. Will not get mains drainage wrong side of the railway
- Main concern is they are not looking at drainage and how it will affect Minsterworth as Longbrook will not take a lot a huge amount of water without a lot excavation in Minsterworth
- In general, not particularly in favour but FOD Council must provide houses and they have to go somewhere

- Infrastructure points were raised in a meeting with Nigel Gibbons and his response was that until we have got further forward in the process as to where the developments will, be it is not reasonable to be spending huge amounts on what infrastructure needs to be put in place
- If the Churcham development was to go ahead it will be in 20+ years' time
- One of the decisions that needs to be made is MPC going to part fund solicitors' fees the Churcham group that wants to object
- Costs: David Crofts previous FOD Planner circulated his report and he will be one of the first people that will start looking at alternatives to the Churcham development and ways of ameliorating the impact on the area if the Churcham development goes ahead.
- The White paper states that brownfield sites must be considered first. Perhaps MPC needs to sit on the fence for another month or so. However, there are insufficient brownfield sites in the FOD to satisfy the housing need
- The Chepstow site is very large indeed and has the advantage that the Welsh Government creating a by-pass for Chepstow. Has the Mod decided to vacate the camp? Yes.

It was agreed for the current time Minsterworth Parish Council will monitor the proposals before any decisions are made.

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

New Hospital at Cinderford: The Public Consultation will run for eight weeks from **Thursday 22 October to Thursday 17 December**. The consultation materials and survey will be available online at <http://www.fodhealth.nhs.uk> and [\[getinvolved.glos.nhs.uk\]](http://getinvolved.glos.nhs.uk)getinvolved.glos.nhs.uk from the 22 October. This Consultation invites the public to comment on the proposals for the new community hospital in the Forest of Dean. Planning for the hospital is now at a stage where the proposals for the inpatient unit, outpatient services, urgent care, diagnostic services and other facilities on site can be discussed with the local community.

Dog Waste Bins: The Chairman reported he had received another request for additional dog waste bins - at least one bin on the A48, preferably 2. If only, 1, then at the end of the footpath running down by the former school. If 2, then the additional one by the footpath running alongside Deepfurrow Bungalow. It was agreed to build into budget for 2021.

Anti-Social Behaviour: Is taking place in The Village. There is a group of 4- 5 individuals undertaking ASB. Villagers are encouraged to report all incidents of ASB, and it was agreed that the PC would contact the police.

10 DATE FOR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING: Monday, 14 December 2020 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.52pm.