

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 14 December 2020, via Zoom

PRESENT:

Councillors - R Blowey
N Garbutt (partial attendance)
S Ingham
C Thomas
R Thomas
N Powell
BC J Smith
CC P Awford
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk
Parishioners: 1 (partial attendance)

1 APOLOGIES: None

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday, 9 November having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed by the Clerk

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Councillor Thomas declared interest in agenda item 6.3 and the Chairman in agenda item 6.4 when discussing a donation to the Village Hall.

4 REPORTS FROM CC AWFORD AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS:

CC Awford:

- Attended an Environment Scrutiny meeting - 3 hours debate regarding cleaning up the rivers
- Spoke with Anthony Perry about raising the riverbank
- EA will be coming out with a new style of flood warning – He is encouraging the EA to drop the word of “astronomical”
- Submitted the grant application for the Harvey Centre, awaiting confirming whether it has been accepted, however he has the money waiting

BC Smith:

- Asked if Councillors had received a copy of Tewkesbury News – No
- TBC want people to note bin changes – 2 days earlier than normal
- Covid Vaccination roll out started this week – Devereux Centre, Tewkesbury and Rosebank Surgery, Glos
- Covid Protection Officers working hard and found a couple of breaches that were in hairdressers

5 PUBLIC COMMENT: None

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank –

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------|-------------------|
| Salary 1-31 December 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 | |
| System Force IT: | | | |
| Renewal of hosting of website | 30.00 | | |
| | <u>VAT 6.00</u> | 36.00 | Via Bank Transfer |

Mrs F J Wallbank: Expenses for the period 1.1.20-31.12.20
Stamps 7.80

| | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Telephone Expenses £2 per month | 24.00 | | |
| 1/3 cost of Office 365 Home renewal | 26.66 | | |
| 1/3 cost of Subscription to Zoom | | | |
| £14.39 May-Dec inc | 38.37 | | |
| Use of room, lighting, heating & Electricity | 75.00 | | |
| 1/3 of cost to travel to Shirley Fowler to deliver books for auditing 20 miles round trip x 2 = 40 miles @ 45p per mile | <u>6.00</u> | 177.83 | Via Bank Transfer |
| Cost of wreath for Remembrance Sunday (refund Due to Clerk) | | 20.00 | Via Bank Transfer |
| AGP Services: Lawn mowing on 19.11.20 | | 37.00 | Via Bank Transfer |
| Harvey Centre – agreed donation | | 1000.00 | Via Bank Transfer |
| Parish Magazine Printing: The Villager | | 120.35 | Via Bank Transfer |
| Minsterworth Village Hall: Donation equivalent To the normal annual meeting hire charge less Meeting held in March | | 286.00 | Via Bank Transfer |
| Minsterworth Church: Donation towards upkeep Of maintaining Churchyard | | 1000.00 | Via Bank Transfer |
| Total Payments | | £3075.25 | |

Receipts:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| The Villager – Advertising | 25.00 |
| Total Receipts | £25.00 |

6.2 Financial Statement: For the month ended November 2020 was circulated via email and signed by the Clerk as agreed. Chairman said it was good to see more income from advertising in The Villager. Thanks to everyone putting in effort. 3 months ago, the PC agreed it was going to be bi-monthly roughly to the tune of £300 however with added income it looks like it will be pretty much self-financing with the PC acting as a back-up if required. Put on the agenda to review The Villager in 3 months-time.

6.3 Minsterworth Church: The Clerk reported the PC had received an email from The Church Treasurer asking if the PC would consider increasing their grant to St Peter's church? For many years, the PC had donated £175 towards the upkeep of the churchyard. This year the Church has spent £1620 on mowing, strimming and generally maintaining the church yard and many people have commented how well tended it is. Like so many charities, the pandemic has wrecked the church's finances as they have been unable to fund raise and, for many months, have been unable to hold services within the building - although on-line events have been held. They anticipate expenditure in 2020 will exceed income by about £8,000. After a short discussion it was agreed to make a one-off donation for this year of £1000 and increase the grant from £175 to £250 for next year reviewing annually. Councillor Thomas refrained from voting as a PCC member.

6.4 Proposed Budget for 2021/22: A second draft was circulated prior to the meeting and a further discussion took place with some amendments being made to the figures. It was agreed to donate to the Village Hall an amount equivalent to the PC's normal meeting costs for the year. The Chairman refrained from voting as he is a Committee member. If the precept were increased to £10,900 this would represent an increase of £5.52pa per household based on a Band D property.

Concerned was raised whether a section of the community pay council tax or not. Enquiries have been made with TBC. TBC has informed the PC that there are only 206 precept paying households currently which would seem quite low.

The Chairman will write an article for The Villager on what the precept is spent on.

It was agreed to make a final decision at the January meeting on the precept required for 2021/22.

7 MATTERS ARISING:

7.1 Report from Village Hall Representative: The Chairman reported that the second phase of the major repair works has commenced, replacing the rotting wooden wall plate around the building.

7.2 Minsterworth Park: Councillor Ingham reported:

- A ROSPA inspection has been booked and will be carried out in the new year
- Good news the grant application for £600 the bench has been granted
- Louise Gifford is looking into a second grant
- The Park will be used on the 20 December as part of the St Peter's festive celebrations
- New padlock for the no man's land between the Park and The Harvey Centre. Councillor Ingham will retain a key

7.3 The Harvey Centre: The Clerk confirmed that she made the donation of £1,000 to the Harvey Centre as agreed at the November meeting. The Consultation is still in progress.

7.4 Highway Matters:

Councillor Garbutt joined the meeting

Reduction of Speed Limit: The Chairman had asked Craig Freeman (CF) to go ahead with the speed strips and he re-affirmed the position for the strips. These would be installed in the next financial year.

Bad accident: Oakle Street stretch on Monday, 14.12.20 resulting with a partial road closure. The details of the accident have been sent to Councillor Ruth Thomas for the accident data statistics. Local resident requested the presence of the speed camera van along this stretch and the Chairman has asked CF to see if he can help. CC Awford said he would take this up with CF too. A possible site for a speed camera van is the piece of tarmac opposite Denny Farm. CF subsequently reported that the speed cameras were a Police matter, so P Council should take this up with the Police

30mph sign has been down for nearly 2 years at the entrance to Church Lane. The Chairman asked BC Smith to chase this matter.

Triangle warning sign is laying on the ground near just before the pedestrian crossing near to the school. Chairman said he would meet with Councillor Ingham about this.

Pound Lane: As the water is still running down the lane Councillors felt if this is left unattended and freezing weather occurs the road will become extremely dangerous. The Chairman reported – the EA have been out twice. - they have tested the water and say that its not sewage, so confirm it is no longer their responsibility. David Lesser (Jason Westmoreland's replacement) has been out from building control at Cheltenham and says when the building work is completed the problem will be resolved as the applicant has to dig up Pound Lane and pipe the water into the ditch at the junction of Pound lane and Watery lane so therefore the current situation is only temporary.

Watery lane is also bad. The owners of Hampton farm did eventually agree to clean out their ditch, but they never actually did it. The Chairman will write to ask Highways to have another look at Pound Lane and if they have any powers to enforce the ditch cleaning in Watery lane

Church Lane: The potholes seem to have deteriorated especially outside the Church. The potholes in Bury Lane have been marked

7.5 PROW: Nothing to report.

7.6 Provision of bench seats: Waiting to hear whether PC are going to obtain a second grant for the installation of the benches. Clerk reported still no reply from the EA – The Chairman felt they had had long enough and we should proceed with the provision of the benches once we have heard about the grant.

7.7 Raising of the Flood bank lower down the River: An email from the EA confirmed that the riverbank will be built back up to original levels – it could slightly be higher to allow for settlement. This will ultimately protect 272 properties.

7.8 Ham Green – Discuss creation of circular path and tree work: The Chairman reported:

- Chris King has been keeping it trimmed for the last few years.

- He had obtained a quotation from a local tree contractor regarding trimming and shaping the willow and oak trees and works would more than £2,000
- No parking so would not want people driving there
- Area of brambles that needs cutting back

Councillor Thomas reported:

- There is an Tributary that runs perpendicular to the lane to the main ditch and back up the lane and back up the other side
- Really attractive area with a wealth of wildlife area with tawny and barn owls, bats, rabbits, wildflowers etc
- Currently easy to walk the area

Councillor Ingham thought there might be a grant available to improve wildlife areas to enhance them.

It was agreed that the Chairman and Councillor Thomas would meet on site to look at the bramble area.

7.9 Anti-Social Behaviour Minsterworth: The Chairman has contacted Amber Jenkins who is the PCSO for Minsterworth. He would like to invite her to join the January Parish Council meeting and all Councillors were in favour. Slight change in the NHW co-ordinator - Arlette Lane is no longer leaving the Village and is going to retain the NHW post.

7.10 Provision of further dog waste bins – Consider request: Suggested one at the top of School Alley and one by Deep Furrow Bungalow. Cost will be £350 per bin and it was agreed to have one sited at the top of School Alley to start with. BC Smith to arrange.

8 PLANNING

8.1 Applications:

20/00936/OUT Land to the rear of Minsterworth Village Hall: Outline application for the erection of up to 16 dwellings (all matters reserved except for access)

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council has no objections to this application.

8.2 TBC Decisions: 20/00929/FUL Wellsprings, Main Road, Minsterworth: Erection of a two-storey side & rear extension and single storey rear extension - **Granted**

8.3 Appeal: None Appeal Decisions: None Site Inspections: None

8.4 Enforcement Matters: Charlton, Main Road, Minsterworth: Clerk reported that despite several chasing emails still no response.

The Chairman reported:

- Drainage tanker going in every 3-weeks having to pump out the klargester tank which cannot be correct
- Mini digger in there now and the neighbour is unsure whether they are connecting to his tank
- Parking - most Friday's 8 cars parked there, possibly due to a meeting. Absolute madness that the Company can continue to use it as a care home for this length of time without planning permission
- He is very keen to speak at the planning meeting when this is discussed. BC Smith would chase this up.

Councillor Thomas will report to CQC.

8.5 Proposed Development at Churcham: The Chairman reported:

- That he had the first draft of the response to the Churcham houses.
- Identifying a new settlement between the A40 and A48 at Churcham does not support the local economy within the Forest as it would draw potential investment away from the existing Forest towns, it could have an adverse effect on the local community and not address climate change by putting more cars on the road. The same would be true of building any new town in the district wherever it is sited
- Would circulate the document to the Councillors for their comments. Comments will need to be submitted by the 24 January
- Transport hub - not enough houses to justify the provision of a new rail station
- A Park and Ride takes up a vast space.
- Many the proposed 4,000 houses come into Tewkesbury Borough

Points raised: Would it help TBC with their 5-year supply of houses? TBC would welcome the houses however the infrastructure is not adequate

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Sadly, no Donkey walk due to Covid.

10 DATE FOR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING: Monday, 11 January 2021 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.52pm.