

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 8 February 2021, via Zoom

PRESENT:

Councillors - R Blowey
N Garbutt
S Ingham
S King
C Thomas
R Thomas
N Powell
BC J Smith
BC P Mclain
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, 11 January 2021 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:

CC Awford: Highways and flooding were discussed, including an open letter regarding alleviating the flooding on the A417 from Maismore to Over

BC Smith reported:

- Unfortunately, the Ward has experienced a lot more flooding. In Highnam it seems to have remained in Two Mile Lane. Tirley, Haw Bridge, Forthampton and Chaceley have not been so lucky.
- The Planning Department is understaffed and is one Enforcement Officer short. Staff have been re deployed to help with Covid related issues. There is also no control over the number of Planning Applications the Council receive, so dealing with these may be slower than would be liked.
- Next year's budget for the Borough has been approved. It is well balanced and there will be no redundancies. This puts the Borough in a good place to meet future challenges. Council tax has gone up £5 a year on a Band D property.
- Both Consultations on the New Forest of Dean Hospital and Fit for the Future, addressing the current Hospitals Trust, have produced some good papers that can be read on the GCC website. Worth a read if anyone is interested.

BC McLain reported:

- Scrutiny meeting and full council when the budget will be signed off probably with a few amendments.
- Talking 3-5 years capital programme for flood alleviation measures for the long term rather than short term measures
- Collection rates surplus 80,000 no surplus this year however no deficit
- Speaking with Colleagues from other wards associated with the JCS and an e-petition is being put together to assess what has happened in the last 5-6 years from developments from the JCS based on the water courses. Big issue for Minsterworth.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT: None

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank –

Salary 1-28 February 2021		398.07	Via Bank Transfer
Parish Magazine Printing: February Edition		107.03	Via Bank Transfer
Streetmaster			
1 x Hawthorn Seat	384.00		
Delivery	68.00		
	<u>VAT 90.40</u>	542.40	Via Bank Transfer
GAPTC: Chairmanship Skills Course		25.00	Via Bank Transfer
The Play Company: Carrying out ROSPA. Inspection	100.00		
	<u>VAT 20.00</u>	120.00	Via Bank Transfer
Total Payments		£1192.50	

Receipts:

Mrs F J Wallbank – overpayment of tax For January		73.50
Church Charities: Cheque in respect of overpayment		1000.00
Total Receipts		£1073.50

6.2 Financial Statement: For the month ended January 2021 was circulated via email and signed by the Clerk as agreed.

7 MATTERS ARISING:

7.1 Report from Village Hall Representative: The Chairman reported:

- There have been a few NHS bookings.
- The VH is eligible for the second round of grants of £6,000 to cover loss of revenue during the next few months.

7.2 Minsterworth Park: Councillor Ingham reported:

- The annual ROSPA inspection has been carried out and no major problems/works have been flagged up.
- The seat for the Park has been ordered.
- The Play Company also looked at all the perimeter fencing and was critical of the entrance to the Park.
- To get it resolved Councillor Ingham suggested contacting Louise Gifford if there were any grants the PC could apply for. Speak to Lindsey Reade at GCC who we lease the Park from and GCC Highways who is responsible for the roadside, maybe digging out and hardcore and road planings.

Councillor Ingham and the chairman plus Malcolm Ball can do work themselves. Two new rails, a support for the bottom of the slide, sealant over exposed bolt heads. Approximately £100-150 for the necessary works. This expenditure was agreed.

Entrance verge to the edge of the road belongs to Highways perhaps contact Craig – CC Awford suggested copying him on his email to GCC Highways. Certainly, an accessibility issue at the moment.

7.3 The Harvey Centre: Farzana Aldridge's update email has been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

7.4 Highway Matters:

Signs: The missing 30mph signs have been repaired plus a few others. However, Minsterworth sign on the west end of the village remains missing.

Pound Lane: GCC Highways looked at this, Highways are saying that the development does not have permission to run the water into the Brook at the bottom. Highways accepts that the manhole cover in the road does not continue anywhere.

Councillor C Thomas said TBC need to take some responsibility for this problem as they were informed when the application was first submitted that there was a pond there which is no longer. The occupiers of November Cottage would agree for a pipe to be connected to his ditch which is

inside his garden however the owners of Pound Cottage would need to pay for the connection costs and compensate for the land they take with the pipe.

Did Severn Trent check to see if there was a burst main? Chairman to report.

Footway: Encroachment of the soil especially at Downs Bridge. Any chance of these footways could be sided back. CC Awford will see if there is any money in his Highways Local budget.

Otherwise perhaps a working party with some shovels would help. Brambles are starting to extend over the pathway again. The Chairman said he would go and see the landowner again.

A40 Opposite over Farm Market: the one carriageway is very pitted. CC Awford said works were commencing this week and was hoping this would be attended to.

Watery lane Landowner was visited by GCC Highways who then did dig out the drain along Watery Lane. However, there is a blockage of the drain that runs under Hampton Farm Drive and made matters are considerably worse. Chris Hawkins has been out and had another go at clearing it. Identify of obstruction unknown and GCC Highways intend to use CCTV to investigate in the next financial year.

Flooding: Councillor C Thomas is still gathering information following the recent flooding events and how the lanes are impacted. She wanted to wait until the beginning of March after the spring tides and then will circulate her findings to other PC members before the PC submit her findings to TBC.

Councillor Garbutt reported that 2 or 3 residents were very concerned when they received full flood warnings from the EA Lumped Minsterworth with Gloucester. The lower end Minsterworth is affected more by high tides and the top end of Minsterworth is affected by fluvial floods. Councillor Garbutt has taken this up with the EA.

7.5 PROW: Councillor Ingham reported:

- Still awaiting to hear about the second grant application.
- Suzanne Hopes has been replaced by Jeff Wheeler as the Footpaths Officer for Minsterworth
- Resident at The Naight is concerned that the footpath by the riverbank is very messy.
- Regarding the stiles from Mike Preston's property to Orchard End – who is responsible? CC Awford still waiting to hear back from the EA.

People have to appreciate that some footpaths are not walkable in bad weather however CC Awford said he would speak with his contact at the EA.

7.6 Anti-Social Behaviour Minsterworth: Events have calmed down slightly however numerous gas canisters are being left in Wild Goose Layby. The police are keeping this area under surveillance. Quad bike has been stolen in the village and the Police know where it is but are not pursuing its return. Police are hoping to join the March meeting.

7.7 Appointment of new Clerk following Clerk's resignation: The Chairman said that the Clerk had tendered her resignation due to personal reasons and he would be sorry to see her go. CC Awford expressed his thanks to the Clerk for all her assistance he had worked with many Clerks of a good few years and Fiona is the best Clerk he has every worked with - Councillor C Thomas reiterated his comments.

The Clerk confirmed the post has been advertised with GAPTC, TBC which feeds into the Job Centre. Nalc would charge £100 to place an advertisement on their website and in consultation with the Chairman it was felt not to at this stage. FODDC could not help. Clerk to place advertisements with Gloucestershire County Council.

8 PLANNING

8.1 Applications:

20/01281/PIP Part Parcel 0003 Church Lane, Minsterworth: PIP for the erection of 8 dwellings and associated vehicular accesses.

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council supports this application.

19/00465/FUL Charlton, Main Road, Minsterworth: Change of use of dwelling & adjacent detached dwelling from C3 (dwelling house) to C2 (Children's Care Home). Erection of a replacement single storey rear extension (amended dormers removed)

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council strongly objects to this planning application for the following reasons:

1. We do not feel that a Care Home is appropriate in a semi-detached house for noise reasons.
2. There is inadequate parking for the likely number of cars.
3. There are no facilities of interest in the area for young people.
4. The applicant has been running a Care Home at the premises for the past year or more, despite having no planning permission to do so. We feel that this totally undermines the planning system and shows the contempt that the applicant has for the same.
5. We are very concerned about the proposed drainage system. The heavy clay soils present in Minsterworth are not suitable for soak away systems, and many existing systems have had problems in the recent wet weather. Having just one soak away area for two houses that could well be heavily populated will increase the risk. The current drainage system has never been signed off by Building Control in Cheltenham, and we have seen no expert report to support the current proposals. We are aware of an expert report by Simon Jones-Parry that has been submitted to TBC Planning, but which has failed to appear on the planning portal. One part of this report states This issue is that two 35 m lengths of perforated pipe, plus one 25 m length with, say, a further 4 m length allowed for perpendicular linking pipes to form a loop, constructed on a 600 mm wide bed as is proposed, would yield a drainage field area of 60 square metres. This area is only 70% of the 86.4 square metre minimum drainage field area calculated by Wye Environmental in accordance with BS 6297 2008 using a Vp rate of 72 seconds per millimetre. The 102 square metre quoted by the notes reflects the Wye Environmental recommendation to allow an extra area for "extended wet periods". The drainage field area proposed falls short by 40% of that recommendation. The root of the issue seems to be that the original Wye Environmental specification for the drainage field has been restated by the new drawing, but that specification was not consistent with the 102 square metre area recommended. We therefore recommend that this application is rejected until a more detailed assessment has been produced and verified.

21/00138/FUL The Crest, Main Road, Minsterworth: Erection of a two storey side and rear extension and single storey rear extension.

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council has no objections in principle providing the drainage system is adequate for the extra numbers in the house.

8.2 TBC Decisions: None

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

8.4 Enforcement Matters: Charlton, Main Road, Minsterworth: The Chairman reported that he had contacted the occupiers of the property regarding the rubbish outside the property and was pleased to see that it had disappeared very quickly. CC Awford said he would speak with Councillor Boyles about the change of use issue and Councillor Cathy Thomas would contact the CQC. BC Smith suggested that the PC contact Paul Skelton.

8.5 Proposed Development at Churcham: The Chairman reported that John Francis has said he would like to continue being pro-active in suggesting the correct location for any additional housing. The Clerk thanked the Chairman for the amount of time he had committed to attending the 6 parish meetings to formulate an excellent response.

9 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Bench Seats: The Clerk reported the EA has refused permission for the seats to be placed along the riverbank at the designated locations. The Chairman said he wanted to wait and see if the PC obtained a grant for the seats and if so, other locations would be considered.

Ash Dieback: The PC has placed a request for trees under the Ash Dieback scheme - the Harvey Centre have requested the trees to landscape the surrounding area.) and Minsterworth Village hall, the Minsterworth Parish Council play area, and requests from 14 private households in Minsterworth. The type of trees has not yet been confirmed.

10 DATE FOR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING: Monday, 8 March 2021 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.