

MINSTERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 9 May 22 in the Minsterworth Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors - R Blowey
N Garbutt
S King
C Thomas
R Thomas
CC P Awford
P Bell - Clerk

Parishioners: 13

1. **APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Cllrs Ingham and Powell, and Borough Cllrs Smith and Mclain.
2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING.** The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly (APA) held on 10 May 21 (via Zoom) were reviewed and agreed.
3. **MATTERS ARISING.** All matters raised at the previous APA had either been overtaken by events, or were under consideration as on-going business.
4. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.** CCllr Awford's written report is at Enclosure 1 to these minutes.
5. **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT.** BCllrs Mclain and Smith has each provided a written report, which are at Enclosure 2 to these minutes.
6. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.** The Chairman had produced a written report which was circulated before the meeting. The report has been published on the Parish Council Website, and will be reproduced in *The Villager* magazine. The text of the report is at Enclosure 3 to these minutes.
7. **MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS.** No matters had been raised in advance of the meeting. The following matters were raised at the meeting:
 - Mrs Garbutt proposed a vote of thanks for Mr Roger Blowey in recognition of all the work that he does for the village. This was supported by all present.
 - Mr Selwyn raised the subject of mains drainage into the village, and asked if there was any progress with this issue. It was confirmed that this had been raised with STW, and consideration was ongoing. However, it was likely that the introduction of mains drainage would need to be funded by individual residents, and the estimated cost when it was last considered was between £12,000 - £15,000 per household. In addition, as most existing houses had their septic tanks at the rear of the property, and the mains drainage would be at the front of the properties, a considerable amount of internal re-engineering would be required in each house to connect to the mains.
 - Ms Stait raised concerns that Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) appeared to be allowing planning permission before a drainage solution was in place. Mrs Holder further raised that the sale of land for development should not be completed until

the drainage solution was agreed. The Parish Council Chair agreed with these concerns, and stated that the Parish Council would continue to raise these issues when considering planning applications, but that the deciding authority remained TBC. CCllr Awford also agreed to raise these concerns as part of his work with the regional flood prevention group.

- Mrs Alford highlighted that the introduction of mains sewerage would still not resolve the issue of storm water drainage. This was agreed, and it was confirmed that new developments still had to be able to provide storm water run-off to a constantly flowing body of water.
- Mrs Holder asked if a decision had been made on the planning application for a second row of houses behind Ellis Bank. The Chair confirmed that the outline planning application had been approved, but the full planning application had not yet been submitted to TBC.

There were no other matters raised and the meeting closed at 7.38pm.

Signed:

Date:

Enclosures:

1. County Councillor's Report 2022.
2. Borough Councillor's Report 2022
3. Minsterworth Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2022.

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County Councillor's Report

My report as always will focus on the main issues that impact on residents and in Minsterworth they relate to Highways and Flooding.

That said, given the pressures on all services budgets GCC again added an extra element to help fund the ever increasing costs of Adult Social Care.

Gloucestershire is playing its part in welcoming and providing accommodation for those fleeing the Ukraine.

Whilst the major resurfacing of the A48 has been completed there remain concerns around speeding and safety and I remain committed to supporting those options identified by the Parish Council.

We will have a new Local Highways Manager in June given Craig Freeman leaves his role to take up a position with the Gloucestershire Highways Project Team.

The February flooding predicted on the 18th fortunately did not reach predicted levels but my thanks go to Minsterworth for being prepared had the levels increased with the anticipated tidal surge.

The following storm flooding that impacted upstream again did not cause any problems in Minsterworth.

I had been asked by the EA to report on Gloucestershire impacts and on submitting that spoke on it at the RFDC debrief to explain my concerns around data , warnings , gauges and road closures.

I was invited to attend the most recent meeting with the flood wardens administered by GRCC.

Many raised concerns around sewerage issues and discharges, GRCC are collating all the data in order that Severn Trent are aware of just how widespread those concerns are. There is no doubt that the drainage network in any areas is under capacity , not helped by all the new developments under construction.

I have found some funding for the Harvey Centre and trust it enables the facility to deliver on its projects for the community

I continue to work closely with both the Parish Council and the District Councillors and as always thank all residents for their support.

Cllr Phil Awford.

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Borough Councillor’s Report – BCllr Mclain

At Council on 12 April, the Leader presented his annual 'State of the Borough' presentation. This highlighted some of the achievements over the last year. These have been captured in a 'State of the Borough' newsletter which we can email to the Clerk/parishioners if required.

It covers:

Finance and resources budget set 2022/23, despite challenges it includes the addition of £450,050 of ongoing growth in services and £392,548 of one-off growth to support ambitions.

Economic growth: despite covid restrictions the growth hub held 53 events/ working with GCC re J10.

Housing and communities new housing and homeless strategy in place and supported delivery 150 affordable homes.

Customer first new digital platform 'Liberty Create'/bulky waste service completely reformed.

Garden communities the garden town initiative continues to progress close to the M5 J10. This will address a considerable amount of the pressure on required housing numbers.

Sustainable environment Small electricals waste collection now in place/ Car park solar canopy initiative will meet the vast majority of the council's energy needs.

Covid 19 5,477 individual business grants awarded - £31.6m. £425k to support residents with test and trace. 130k for small community grants. £170k for "Welcome Back" shops support.

The budget book for the forthcoming year is available under 'Budgets and Finance' on the Website.

The council are obviously continuing to support the Homes for Ukraine scheme. We can send the most recent update if required.

Cllr Paul Mclain.

Borough Councillor's Report – BCllr Smith

Minsterworth has seen a lot of growth in the last year. Most of it has not involved the Borough Councillors, however several planning applications have seen a lot of time and support.

Several Road signs have been mended or amended.

Discussions re the A48 and speed reduction strategies have been discussed with County Highways to find the best most cost effective solution for the village.

Meetings have also taken place to highlight the issues of anti-social behaviour with in the Parish.

Communication from the Borough Councillors and the Parish Council, has been good with important issues and updates regularly passed on. This can be a quick communication/E mail or in the Monthly Borough Councillor update at the PC meeting.

Minsterworth is a Parish, building on its strengths, and working together has been welcomed.

Cllr Jill Smith

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Minsterworth Parish Council - Chairman's Report May 2022

It was good to be back! Although COVID case numbers remain high, our vaccine protection meant that we were able to return to physical Parish Council meetings at the Village hall from June 2021 onwards. We managed with Zoom, but physical meetings are undoubtedly much better. This is especially the case as the new AV system in the renovated Village Hall means that we can display the agenda and other documents on the screen for all to see, making the meetings much more inclusive. We are grateful to the loyal band of residents who support Parish Council meetings.

Residential developments continue in the village, with relatively few planning applications being refused. This is because Tewkesbury Borough Council does not have an adequate 'reserve land supply' for future housing, and consequently applicants can use this as a reason for an appeal against any planning refusal. The proposed 4000 house development extending across Churcham and Highnam has gone quiet. Through our recently established inter-parish group meetings, we are aware that the Forest of Dean are now favouring 'dispersed development', i.e. the adding the additional houses to existing villages, rather than building a whole new community. The lack of mains drainage in Minsterworth remains an issue, with some of the recent developments having to spend significant sums on drainage systems. It is good to see new arrivals in our village however, and we are especially grateful to those who get themselves involved with village activities.

The largest project currently being undertaken by the Parish Council is the formulation of a request for improving road safety measures. We have undertaken road traffic surveys, and used this information as a basis for improvements. The document is available to Minsterworth residents on the Parish Council website. When we have your comments from a public meeting on Monday May 9th (6-00pm in the Village Hall) we intend to formally submit our requests to Highways. Please do attend this meeting and give us your opinion.

Traffic flow over the past 6 months has been disrupted by the Severn Trent roadworks, replacing the water main. There had been several emergency repairs over the previous 5 years, so the work did need doing. The traffic lights were annoying, especially when the management team appeared to be unable to adjust the timings of the lights to account for peak flow. The Village WhatsApp group was invaluable in reporting issues of excessive delays! Severn Trent did respond quite quickly to requests however, and I think that the contractors were generally respectful of properties when working at their entrances.

Minsterworth remains at risk of flooding, and the Parish Council submitted a detailed document outlining their concerns to Highnam PC with regard to the potential effect that the proposed new Highnam development might have on increased flow of water across our parish. There were also concerns about potential tidal flooding in March, when a combination of high winds and a high tide posed a risk of the Severn over-topping. Fortunately, this did not happen.

Paul Bell, our new clerk, replaced Fiona in April 2021. His good nature and high level of competence has provided the Parish Council with an excellent service, so we are especially disappointed that for personal reasons he has recently submitted his resignation. I hope we will be equally as lucky with his replacement.

Things do not happen in our village without a good deal of effort, so I would once again like to thank all of you who keep verges and hedges outside of their properties trimmed and tidy, to those who collect litter and plant flowers outside of their houses, and to those who keep our village greens clean and tidy. The playground at Minsterworth Park continues to be well used, so thanks to all who have done hedge trimming, tree planting, equipment repair and all the other things that are needed to maintain its use. If we can get a longer lease we would apply for more play equipment.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors, Tewkesbury Borough and County Councillors for their input into the running of the Parish Council. It is a huge commitment, and we hope that residents are satisfied with the work done. It is your village, so please do send us suggestions for improvements.

Roger Blowey
May 2022