

Reference Chairman's report

Minsterworth Parish Council - April 2025

This has been the first year for myself as chair and Kate as our clerk, how fast this has passed.

As both of us are new in these positions it has only been made possible with the help of the other Parish councillors. We have almost managed to achieve some of the tasks during these 12 months that have been ongoing for the parish Council for several years.

The first task being on the 19th July when I was asked to attend the A48 Safety group meeting with the GCC representatives.

They asked what the Parish Council's view was on the speed of the A48, and my reply was that we needed 40 MPH speed limit on the A48 with 20 MPH limit on the lower lane sections.

It was clear this was not a straightforward request, but it was explained that reducing to 50 MPH on the A48 would be the way to start as once the road has a regular speed throughout it could then be reduced again. This required a new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) at a cost of some £25,000 so the question was asked of GCC to include the lower lanes. After a lot of toing and froing it looks like we are about to achieve both these goals. Some funding is required to help our £2000 contribution, so we have applied for a grant which is called 'build back for the sum of £1200.00' and 'match funding via Ringway which is 100% of what we contribute so approximately another £3200.00'. You will also have seen the initial work for the speed reduction taking place on the A48 in the form of the new road markings between the dual carriageway and Denny layby in preparation for the reduced speed limited.

Whilst this was going on the PC funded more speed camera signs to try and slow the traffic on the A48.

Next task is the Park.

We were offered by GCC a price to purchase a lease which seemed extortionate, so we went on with counter offers which eventually resulted in us agreeing to paying only our legal costs for the lease. This legal action is in progress now and should soon complete. When we have the park in the name of Minsterworth Parish Council we can look at new swings etc. as grants will be available to us allowing us to make use of any CIL money.

Continuing with the grass cutting to all on the greens and verges we also had new bins fitted in the village at Wild Goose layby and Hygrove Lane Bus Stop. We may have rubbish bins, but we need to thank all our litters pickers as they are doing a perfect job. You may also have noticed our coronation daffodils have made a bit more of a show at the Village gateways this year.

Web Site

During this year we encouraged people to use our web site to contact the clerk using the clerk's email to raise any questions for the Parish Council. This is helpful as it maintains a record on the Parish Councils email address. On that note we have found we have problems with our Minsterworth .gov emails along with a not so good web site. As a result, this is in the process of being replaced and upgraded along with new PC emails. The old site will run for a further year and will then act as a redirection point. We have also replaced both the Parish Council notice board and post box at the village hall.

Ash Die Back Scheme

This has been another success story with many whips being supplied by GCC and planted by residents. Also, this year as part of the Severn Treescapes project some 20 assorted trees have been planted at Ham Green which helps with the new Parish Council bio-diversity policy.

Finance

We have tried to keep a watch full eye over our spending which, with so many things happening, can run away with itself. The PC along with the Villager steering group have been involved in making the 'The Villager' more cost effective to run and secured its production for the year ahead.

Watery Lane

The PC met with highways road maintenance supervisor who has agreed to insert a new culvert in Watery Lane to stop the constant overtopping. This will happen when funds become available.

Village Design Group

We were approached by the Village Design Group for support and recognition. On the advice of our local councillor, it was suggested they open their group to all in the village to gauge support before we the Parish Council can formally support this as a sub-group and take it for recognition to Tewkesbury Borough Council. The parish council recognize and support their efforts in trying to achieve their goal.

Planning

We are it would seem inundated with planning application, and we all see building work taking place to date we have received some £6066.00 of new CIL money.

PC Vacancy

Finally, we are delighted to have a new Parish Councillor in Mr Gordon Taylor, he now makes us up to a full parish council.

Conclusion

It only leaves me to thank my fellow Parish Councillors, and TBC Borough and County Councillors for their input and help in the smooth operation of the Parish Council.

Nick Powell 8th April 2025