

MITCHELDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th March 2013 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, AFTER DUE NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN.

Present

Parish Councillors: Mr D M Scott (Chairman)
Mrs S F Henschley (Vice-Chairwoman)
Mrs K A Baker
Mr A Maliphant (arrived 7.30pm)
Mrs J A Fraser
Ms K A Wozencroft
Mr A Edwards
Mr Huw Baker

District Councillors: Mr I R Whitburn
Mrs J A Fraser-as above

County/District Councillor
Mr B R Robinson (arrived 7.15)

Clerk: Mrs Sandra Schwanethal

[Mr B Waddell & Mrs M Smith attended the meeting as Electors.]

Newly appointed Community Police Officer Dave Birch introduced himself to the Members. He said he is a resident of Mitcheldean and already knows the area and people well. He stated he has no set times to visit Mitcheldean and that his time during the week 11th – 15th March would be taken up patrolling at Cheltenham Race Course. He let the Members know he has the power to ticket motorists parked unlawfully.

Cllr Edwards asked if anything could be done about vehicles parking at the exit of the Recreational grounds.

The clerk was asked to email a list of meeting dates to CPO Birch.

Agenda Item 1 Apologies for absence: Cllr. S Gates

Agenda Item 2 Members of the Public Issues: *-Mrs Smith asked if the council had received a reply to the letter sent to Mr Yip. Mrs Smith presented a letter she had received from Nick Bainton, Forest of Dean District Council, advising her there was little they could do to force Mr Yip to tidy up the piece of land in question. Mrs Smith thought she had been unfairly treated by the District Council over a tree bough she had removed.*

Mr Waddell had written a letter, that was read by the chairman, concerning the possible closure of the post office. As all the Members were already aware of this no further discussion took place.

Agenda Item 3 Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests:

None

Agenda Item 4 Planning

Luke Freeman's Gloucester Road Developments had proposed three street names. The Members felt these names had no association with the village and would think of some more relevant names to submit.

Agenda Item 5 Minutes of the Parish Council Monthly Meeting

The Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 February 2013, having been circulated to all Members were taken as read and signed by the Chairman. (Proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Henchley and approved by all Members who were present in February).

Agenda Item 6 Matters arising from the Minutes

The clerk had investigated the complaint made by Mr Robert of Glebe Close concerning the excessive amount of water running off the field adjacent to his property. Sandra had contacted a geologist who confirmed that there are seven natural springs in this area and with the excessive rainfall during 2012 it was not surprising that the residents of Glebe Close were left with waterlogged gardens. It was unlikely that the ditch at the bottom of the field was making matters worse. The clerk, however, would ask the caretaker to ensure both ends of the ditch are clear. A suggestion to plant trees to soak up any additional water was refused by the residents at an earlier meeting.

Agenda Item 7 Business relating to the Playing Field

An update was received from the street wardens running the Paws on Patrol scheme and was read out by the chairman. Street Warden Damion Collins stated that over 100 members had been recruited so far and that all members receive a discount to micro chip their dogs. No offenders had been caught to date.

It was agreed by the majority of the Members that more signs need to be erected in the Sheep Field. The clerk to get quotes for ten A3 size signs for the next monthly meeting.

Agenda Item 8 Sub Committees

Communications: Cllr Baker had met with Kate Pritchard about forming a Youth Forum. This would comprise ten members between 14 to 20 years of age, plus two adults. Cllr Baker asked for the Members views about setting up the Forum.

County Cllr B. Robinson thought it would bring in more revenue to the village. Cllr Henchley asked if the Council would be expected to make contributions towards the project, but Cllr Baker did not think that would be necessary. The Members agreed that they would like to see a document setting out the aims and objectives of the Youth Forum.

Playing Fields:

The Minutes of a meeting held at the Town Hall on the 25th February 2013 at 10 am between the Sport Club and the Parish were read out by the chairman. The details were discussed in committee.

The chairman informed the Members of a meeting held at the Community Centre on the 5th March at 6.30pm. The Parish council were represented by Douglas Scott, Katherine Baker & Huw Baker. The Football was represented by Ian Cruickshank, Martin Scrivens and Karl. The Community Centre was represented by Stephen Parslow. The meeting was chaired by Kate Baugh

The Parish Clerk took notes.

Minutes of this meeting are available for viewing.

The chairman informed the Members of a Meeting held on the 4th March at the Severn Trent Water Treatment works in Wigpool. Douglas Scott was accompanied by Cllrs Baker and Fraser and the Parish Clerk. On arrival we were met by site manager Don Elt and requested to view a safety DVD. We were escorted to a meeting room where representatives from FODDC emergency contingency committee and Jessica Howell, Civil Protection Officer, Civil Protection Team, Gloucestershire County Council, Tri-Service Centre (Fire & Rescue), Quedgeley were present. The Councillors were given assurances about the sites safety record and their procedures should an accident occur. The Councillors were informed that it is hoped by July or August of 2013 that Chlorine will no longer be used in the treatment of the water and therefore, the storage of such a dangerous chemical would be removed. Alternative, less toxic chemicals are being introduced. The testing of the warning siren would also cease when all the chlorine had been removed.

Don Elt explained that the road works currently taking place along the Stenders hill were to install another water main pipe that would enable the pumping station to pump water back up the hill. The Site was currently very busy with contractors MorganSiddal carrying out the necessary works. We were then kitted out in protective hats, gloves and footwear, and given a very brief tour of the water clarification building.

We left the site at 11.45am

Planning:

The Clerk updated the Members of a meeting held on the 28th February at the Town Hall with Martin Hutchins, Leena Maller and the clerk discussing the amendments to the additional questions the Council had requested were added to the Housing Survey. A copy of the amended Survey was passed to all Members. Cllr Maliphant queried the wording of question 4 part D, and asked for a further amendment. The clerk was asked to refer the document back to Martin.

The Clerk updated the Members of a meeting on the 27th February at the Playing Fields with Hygiene Services who had been asked to attend to the blocked drains in the Pavilion, again. Cllr Edwards was in attendance.

The Clerk also met with Guy Calderwood, on the 27th February, the grass cutting contractor who had cut the Sheep field during the 2012 season, to establish which areas should be cut and those areas that should be left for wild flowers to grow.

Agenda Item 9 County/District Councillor Reports

Dstrc. Cllr Fraser informed the Council she had attended a meeting of the Forest of Dean Forestry Forum and was concerned to hear about the possibility that the Forest may be infected by a disease affecting the Larch, Chestnut & Rhododendrons, but fortunately, no Ash die back had been found. Oak trees were found to be in decline as a disease had been found that can kill a tree within five years. Further test are being carried out.

The Landscape Partnership bid had been successful in securing £3 million from the lottery. This was being used to highlight the issues surrounding Free Mining, grazing rights and the historical mining for Iron in the area all of which are dying out without an accurate archaeological trail being recorded for residents and tourists.

Dstrc. Cllr Whitburn had also been at the Forest Forum meeting and commented on the use of the lottery money in the regeneration of Forest towns and villages.

County Cllr. Robinson said that an additional £3 million pounds had been allocated for road repairs over the next thirty years. £1 million pounds had been allocated to adoption services in the area.

BT were meeting with Stakeholders at the Vantage Point Business Park to roll out the details of the faster broadband connection for the Forest.

There was to be a further meeting to discuss the proposed Javelin Park incinerator.

Agenda Item 10 Parish Councillors –‘Information Sharing’

Cllr Baker asked the clerk to query with the Highways authority why double yellow lines had not been laid in front of Tuffley Court as she thought this was part of the planning agreement.
Clerk to Email Brian Watkins.

Dstrc. Cllr Fraser asked why Abenhall had no litter picker. Residents had complained to Cllr Fraser about the litter problem. C. Cllr Robinson said he would investigate this issue at District level.

Cllr. Wozencroft said there was a pothole problem around Abenhall. The light in Platts Row still only worked intermittently and she had been approached by a resident of Old Dean’s Road about a water problem.

Cllr Maliphant informed the Members that dogs were being ‘chipped’ at the Library. New computer classes had now started again and an outdoor market was being organised for the 23 March.

Cllr Edwards had been approached by the lady who runs a children’s group called Munchkins, at the Community Centre. She is struggling to cover her costs and thought the group would have to close unless she could find additional funding. Cllr Edwards asked if the Members would consider a donation. The Chairman asked for this lady to write directly to the council.

The Chairman told the Members about a road traffic accident that occurred near the Wilderness quarry site, possibly due to water freezing on the road following a burst pipe. The Chairman thanked C. Cllr Robinson for getting the pavement resurfaced.

THE CHAIRMAN INTERRUPTED THE MEETING AT 9.25 TO ASK IF ALL PRESENT WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL 10PM. ALL RELUCTANTLY AGREED.

Agenda Item 11 Clerk's report

Correspondence & enquiries

Letter of thanks received from Friendship Club

Tree surgeon Jim Unwin visit 14th Feb+ report-**clerk to get quotes for remedial work**

Email from GRCC Police & Crime commission Traffic speed-**forwarded on 13th Feb**

Email received from 2Rivers asking the Council to advertise National Housing Federation' Shared Ownership Week (18-24 March)

Contacted Melinda Lewis Scientist at the British Geology Survey re Springs

Email from Richard Inman SPARSE re Call for evidence survey re the provision of rural services by non-statutory organisations replies by 14 March.-**forwarded 27th Feb**

Email GLOSVAIN re incinerator **forwarded 27th Feb**

Email from Football club re meeting dates

Email from Paul Jones re son cutting finger on gate at Basketball court-**Lew investigated.**

Email Kate B re community Centre meeting and Agenda.

Email sent to Cartwright Ironmongery re panic hardware for Pavilion-no reply rec'd.

Grass cutting tenders needed amending. Area behind Library to be done by library volunteers. Sheep field defer decision.

Wrote to P. Leslie & S Christopher re meeting with Peter White Bathurst Building re Scout Hut. Follow up email from P White asking if meeting arranged!! Ms Leslie came in for meeting Thurs 7th March.

Another meeting with Martin GRCC & Lena re questions on Housing Survey

Part of May Meadow Lane cleared by BIFFA-**Adrian + Lew to clear behind Co-Op**

More concerned residents have come in and rung about grit bins not being refilled-
Highways have a priority list.

Online banking -Sue, Katherine & Douglas registered to authorise online payments.

The clerk asked if she could submit an Expression of Interest for a community building improvement grant for the Town Hall.-**All agreed**

BUSINESS CONDUCTED 'IN COMMITTEE'

The Clerk asked if the Councillors would consider a summer recess. It was agreed there would be no meeting in August 2013 as a trial. An extra ordinary meeting would be called if needed. (Proposed Cllr Maliphant seconded Cllr Fraser all agreed)

The replies from the grass cutting tenders were considered and awarded:

P J & P D Adams to cut Abenhall churchyard, the residential areas of Mitcheldean, the children's play area at the recreational field, the open space at Glebe Close, the area around the George Read Bench, the bank adjacent to the football pitch and partial cuts to the sheep field.

Glebe Contractors to cut the football pitch and the Gloucester Road & Carisbrook Road verges.

It was agreed that the MPC caretaker-Adrian Gargan would cut Mitcheldean Churchyard.

(Proposed by Cllr Baker seconded Cllr Edwards, all agreed)

Agenda Item 13 Accounts

FODDC	Waste Licence	26.00
Hygiene Services	Drain clearance	165.00
Jim Unwin	Tree Survey	180.00
B.Gas	Gas	1314.96
B.Gas	Gas-Pavilion	51.12
GAPTC	Annual Subs	588.64
Various	Administration	2051.56
Gardening Club	Plants	70.15
Plus net	Broadband+ phone	48.59

Bank reconciliation for February 2013, was given to each Councillor.

(Proposed by Cllr. Baker Seconded by Cllr. Maliphant. All approved)

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting ended at 22.45.

Dated this day 8th of April 2013

Signed

CHAIRMAN-Douglas Scott