

MITCHELDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th January 2013 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, AFTER DUE NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN.

Present

Parish Councillors: Mr D M Scott (Chairman)
Mrs S F Henchley (Vice-Chairwoman)
Mrs K A Baker
Mr A Maliphant (arrived 8pm)
Mrs J A Fraser
Ms K A Wozencroft
Mr A Edwards
Mr Huw Baker
Ms S Gates

District Councillors: Mr I R Whitburn
Mrs J A Fraser

County/District Councillor
Mr B R Robinson (arrived 8.15)

Clerk: Mrs Sandra Schwanethal

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

Agenda Item 1 Apologies for absence: None

The Chairman informed the Members of the resignation of Andrew Tooze (by email) The vacant post to be advertised in the proper format.

Agenda Item 2 Members of the Public Issues:

Mr Dickenson representing the Short mat indoor bowling club presented the Council with the financial breakdown for the purchase of a new mat that had been asked for by Vice Chairperson Henchley at the December meeting. No further comments were added.

Strachen Alexander from DataServ Recycling gave a short presentation to the Council about an electronics recycling event they are planning in March. Mr Alexander handed out several presentation folders containing information about DataServ, including the Company's history, its aims and objectives, business associations etc. and some details of the businesses/clubs/associations that will be represented at the event. Advertising would be done throughout the Forest and on Radio Hart.

Mrs Smith asked if the area next to the Chinese takeaway shop could be tidied up as it is an eyesore in the centre of the village. The clerk was asked to write to Mr Yip in the first instance.

Agenda Item 3 Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests:

Forms were given to Cllr Huw Baker and Cllr. Sara Gates for completion.

Agenda Item 4 Planning

For information only: Discharge of Condition.

P1866/10/FUL Expiry of archaeological dig notice General Stores, Millend-No comments made. Proposed Cllr Henchley Seconded Cllr Maliphant. All agreed.

Housing Needs Survey

A meeting had been held on 13 December 2012 with Keith Chaplin from FODDC and Martin Hutchins from GRCC. The Minutes had been circulated on the 4th January 2013 by email.

Councillors were asked to let the clerk know as soon as possible, what, if any, additional questions they would like asked on the questionnaire.

Cllr Maliphant told the Members that 'Exception Sites' could be built on green field sites and that the Council should now possibly look to doing a Neighbourhood Plan to identify suitable sites.

District Cllr Whitburn said it was always better to be involved rather than leave the decision making to others.

Chairman Scott said he had raised the point about using existing properties/sites with Keith & Martin and this would be looked into at the appropriate time.

Chairman Scott explained that the Council had been asked to pay towards the cost of printing the questionnaires and the postage costs associated with their return, of approximately £300. This was proposed by Cllr Henchley, Seconded by Cllr Maliphant and approved.

The FODDC Draft Housing Strategy & Housing Questionnaire had been forwarded to all Councillors on the 17 December 2012. No comments were made.

Agenda Item 5 Minutes of the Parish Council Monthly Meeting

The Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 December 2012, having been circulated to all Members were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

(Proposed by Cllr Henchley, seconded by Cllr Wozencroft and approved by all Members who were present in December).

Agenda Item 6 Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Maliphant asked for clarification about the budget for maintenance on the Town Hall. It was agreed that this was a topping up fund - £1500 to be allocated for general repairs, as the repairs were completed and paid for the fund would be topped up again to £1500. The clerk is currently seeking funding from English Heritage towards moving the Museum to another location and getting several broken windows repaired.

Steve Jones from Forestgate Church will be actively seeking funding for Christmas lights for 2013. The clerk was asked to liaise with the Church before purchasing Christmas lights.

Agenda Item 7 Business relating to the Playing Field

Cllr Baker said she had emailed Marcus, her contact at Two Rivers about when the resurfacing work would start, but had not received a reply. District Cllr Whitburn said he would contact Gary King to see if he knew. The Chairman asked Cllr Baker to clarify where the balance of £2500 would be coming from. Cllr. Baker said this was to come from the Dirt Jump grant.

The Chairman had read in the local paper that the Co-Op was offering to fund local projects. Cllr Baker would look on the Co-Op website for further details.

Mitcheldean Sports Club

No progress had been made on matters pertaining to the lease. In view of Andrew Tooze's resignation, Cllr Maliphant asked if the clerk could proceed with the lease negotiations with Lydney Town council, the Sports Club and Francis Law and report back to the members with recommendations for them to consider as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 8 Sub Committees	None
Agenda Item 9 Discussion	None

Agenda Item 10 Community Garden

An invoice for insurance of the members of the Gardening Club had been received. The clerk asked for clarification as to why the Parish was paying this. The Chairman said it had been agreed last year when the Gardening Club took on doing the work at Cross Gardens.

Agenda Item 11 County/District Councillor Reports

District Cllr Whitburn had previously emailed the Councillors informing them of the outcome of a motion placed by District Cllr Fraser and himself contesting car parking charges in Mitcheldean to a full council meeting held in Coleford. The matter was on the Agenda for a further meeting on Thursday 17th January. District Cllr Fraser said she had seconded Cllr Whitburn's motion at the full District Council's meeting and it had the full support of the Labour Party.

D. Cllr Fraser also spoke about the general state of the roads and pavements in the area. Several specific problems had been highlighted by Cllr Edward's survey in December and these matters had been reported.

County Cllr Robinson spoke about the County Council's need to find suitable building land sufficient for the next five years. Newent were appealing against a decision that 120 houses are to be built there.

Cllr Maliphant asked C. Cllr. Robinson about the costing attributed to enforcement of charges in individual car parks. C. Cllr Robinson replied that the figures were not broken down sufficiently for him to be able to answer that question. Cllr Maliphant expressed a view that the Parish Council may be willing to take over control/running of the Car Park, but all the financial details were not available for any decision to be made. Cllr Edwards asked C. Cllr Robinson why two Traffic Wardens (together on the same day) had been sent to patrol Mitcheldean and why they parked up in the lay-by for over an hour. Cllr Robinson had nothing to do with this and did not know the answer.

Mrs Smith (asked through the Chair) why Littledean's car park was free. Cllr Robinson replied that it was due to its size.

Agenda Item 12 Parish Councillors –‘Information Sharing’

Cllr Edwards stated that a ditch by the playing fields needed clearing as it is inclined to flood. Sandra to ask Adrian (Caretaker) to investigate.

Cllr Edwards stated that the Football Club had paid for new kit out of reserves which has left the club short of funds.

Cllr Edwards asked when the cheque from the Parish Council would be raised to fund the new bowls mat. The Chairman would have liked to fund the whole amount needed, but Cllr Henchley felt the Council should not set a precedent to completely fund a project and that match funding was the Council's own policy. Proposed by Cllr. Baker. Seconded by Cllr Maliphant. Approved.

Cllr Maliphant stated that another 'volunteers' event had been organised for the Library and reminded everyone the new computer classes were starting on the 15th January. New books had been received for the Library-some 300 books were waiting processing. The Christmas period had been very successful at the Hub. Cllr Maliphant replied to the clerk's comments on the 'contingency' wording in the Parish Plan and agreed specific objectives should be addressed-the Plan should then be updated accordingly. He would like to see more transparency when funding of new projects is discussed and funding distributed.

Cllr Maliphant then asked the clerk if she felt the contracted twenty one hours work a week were sufficient. Sandra replied that it was not and that thirty one hours a week were needed. Cllr Maliphant asked if there were sufficient funds to cover this cost.

Cllr Gates spoke about the new Women's Institute group that had recently been formed and the organising of a dog show in July to be held on the playing fields. Chairman Scott said that Carol Stanford had approach him about the event and that he asked for the details to be presented to the Members for their consideration. However, unfortunately, this information had been prematurely, released on Facebook.

Cllr Wozencroft reported that a light was out at Glebe Close. The Clerk to report the issue to Glos. C. C. Also the problems of dog fouling are still evident around the village. A problem in the churchyard of a memorial being damaged was also raised. The issue of who should cut the grass in the churchyards is currently being reviewed.

Cllr Baker had been informed that the BCR clothing bin was full again and asked when arrangements could be made to move the bin in order to accommodate another plastics bank. The clerk to ring BCR. The electricity meters had been monitored at the Pavilion, but it was agreed that not all the usage was down to lighting.

The Chairman asked for a list of tools required in the job, to be compiled by the Caretaker. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact Chris Hawkins (Highways) to top up the salt/grit bin at Old Dean Road. Chrmn. Scott asked that the new valuation of the Chain of Office be noted with the insurance company.

Agenda Item 13 Clerk's report

Adrian & Lew put up pictures & cabinet in the meeting room.

The door between the Museum and the interview room downstairs is now open as the large aerial picture of Mitcheldean has been removed.

Letter received from Bill Waddell concerning uneven pavements around the village-several matters had already been reported when the pavement survey was carried out.

Squatter in The George reported to Glos police-given an incident number. CPO Pearce is away until 14 December. Police attended The George-did not go in-found no one. The CPO has been asked to keep watch for youngsters entering the building.

Training courses GAPTC/SLCC-March £85

Highways informed us that an emergency road closure was in operation on Hawthorns Rd, Drybrook The current Christmas tree lights were not acceptable for another year.

The Clerk has sourced panic hardware for Pavilion fire exits, but requires specialist knowledge for fitting. Cartwright ironmongery is to be consulted about suitable handles.

Web site Stats 106 visits from 1-12 Dec.

The issue of a large pothole in the road by the Estate Agents has been reported to Glos. Highways & another pothole on the pavement was identified and reported following the Pavement Survey.

Minutes from the meeting with DataServe on the 19 Dec. were distributed by email on the 4 January. A site visit to Severn Trent Water Treatment Works has been planned for the 21 January 2013.

Glos. Archivists have contacted Dean Heritage re housing photocopiers-unfortunately they do not have sufficient space. The Archivist has sent information about storing photos.

Wyedean Forest Rally will take place on Saturday 9th February-Sallow Valets, Serridge, Mailscot & Speech House

There is a Town Team Initiative workshop in Coleford on the 31 Jan 2013.

The Annual report from the Citizens Advice Bureau has been received-A donation was asked for, but unfortunately the PC budget has been allocated-The clerk may offer the CAB use of a room at Town Hall to hold information surgeries.

Letter received from Newent Assc. for the Disabled asking for a donation (declined).

Letter received from Iain Selkirk-internal auditor-fee for this year to be £120 (accepted).

Complaint from Phil Potter about parking in Townsend received via email (no comments).
Contact received from Steve Parslow, by email, at the Community Centre re offer of having the aerial picture from the Museum and having drains inspected by Hygiene Services.
The clerk has arranged for Hygiene services to put a camera down drain at Pavilion to establish where the problem/blockage is located (approx £50).
Ian Cruickshank asked, via email, about FC lease negotiations.
Meeting with Lydney TC scheduled for 15th January re FC lease.

BUSINESS CONDUCTED 'IN COMMITTEE'
Agenda Item 14 Accounts

(Proposed by Cllr. Baker Seconded
by Cllr. Henchley)

3777

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting ended at 10 pm.

Dated this day 11th of February 2013

Signed



.....

CHAIRMAN

3778