

MITCHELDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th January 2016 at 7pm in Mitcheldean Town Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors: Sara Gates (Chair), Jackie Fraser (Vice-Chair), Sue Henchley, Andre Edwards, Kay Wozencroft, Deb Blackmore, Adrian James

Also present: County Councillor Brian Robinson
Mrs J Shirley (Locum Clerk)
One member of public

1. To note Apologies for absence

Cllr Bill Waddell, District Councillor Douglas Scott

2. Members of the Public Issues (15 minutes Standing Orders suspended)

Mrs Martin addressed the Council to request that the award of her BEM be carried out at the Mitcheldean Fete which would be presented by the Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire Dame Janet Trotter DBE. The Council supported the request and offered congratulations to Mrs Martin on the award. Mrs Martin will make further enquiries of Dame Trotter to see if the date was suitable. The Council expressed an interest in assisting with the Fete and will discuss the matter at the February meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wozencroft declared an interest in Planning Application P1495/15/OUT Land South of the Lawns, Silver Street and took no part in discussions on the matter.

4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th December 2015

It was resolved to accept the Minutes of 14th December 2015 as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Committees – Planning

The Council received recommendations from the Planning Committee on the following applications:

P1495/15/OUT – Land South of The Lawns, Silver Street

Outline application for the erection of one single storey dwelling and alterations to vehicular access. The Parish Council objects to this application as the proposed site is outside the village boundary and designated exception site only for affordable housing.

An update was received concerning the MF Freemans development following the revised application to build 3 x 3 bedroom houses instead of 2 x 4 bed houses. The Parish Council had previously objected and Mr Bluff had called into the Council before the meeting to discuss Council's concerns.

The Council agreed to bring forward agenda item 7 to receive the County Councillor's report.

6. County & District Councillor Reports

Cllr Robinson reported from GCC with an update on devolution which is still progressing. The six district councils, one county council, health authority, and police authority are all working together on the details. There is a current consultation looking at Forest of Dean Health and Care Services Review which considers how to deliver health in the future; the consultation is online and there are also consultation forms available in the library. Cllr Gates will promote the consultation on the parish Facebook page. There is also a consultation from GCC on the budget for 2016/17 with an increase

on council tax of 1.99% and an additional 2% on adult care. The settlement from Government has been quite harsh on county councils and there is a “hole” of £5m. Highways have put a camera down the drains to look at flooding issues just along the High Street, no report yet but it is in hand. Cllr Robinson is also looking at concerns at Baynham Road to Walwyn Close where lots of blossom falls onto the footway in the spring causing concerns with slippery surface.

Cllr Gates reported that someone has fallen at the Bull Ring where there is a hole at the bottom of the footpath and the side of the path is very slippery. Cllr Robinson will follow-up action. The problem of an uneven surface at Platts Row has been reported twice however the view from Highways is that whilst the surface isn't ideal it may not be a breach of safety levels. Cllr Robinson will look at this again.

GCC has an Environment scrutiny meeting on Wednesday 13th January where they are considering a motion to not allow fracking. GCC would be the planning authority for any permits to do exploratory fracking.

It was also reported to Cllr Robinson that there are a couple of road drains breaking up on Old Dean Road at the top.

Cllr Robinson was thanked for his report, and he left the meeting.

7. Items for Discussion and Approval

- a) Council considered the quote from the Contractor for the full cut of sheeps field. The contractor is aware that this is for the whole field. It is possible that the Council's staff will be able to manage maintenance of the field after the initial full cut. Cllr Blackmore proposed to appoint the contractor for the full cut of sheeps field at a cost of £1000 plus VAT if applicable, seconded by Cllr Fraser and agreed by all. **Action: Chairman** to inform the contractor.
- b) Council considered the quote regarding the re-opening of the Town Hall downstairs windows and doors; Council noted that requests had been made for further quotes however only one quote received. Cllr James proposed to instruct the contractor to re-open two doors and the window by the car park plus boxing in the gas meter at a total cost of £2385. This was agreed by all. **Action: Chairman** to instruct the contractor.
- c) The Council approved a maximum of £1000 for a deep clean of the pavilion. Once the clean has been carried out then Council can consider future usage and cleaning. **Action: Locum Clerk** instructed to get quotes to bring back to Council for approval by February meeting.
- d) Council approved the set-up fees for outsourcing the payroll with PATA (UK) Payroll at a cost of £25 per employee. **Action: Locum Clerk** to make arrangements.
- e) The Council received an update on the damaged bus shelter damage. On 18th December 2015 a car ran into the bus shelter on top of Plump Hill. Vehicle details have been provided to Council by the Police. **Action: Locum Clerk** to contact the insurance company. It was noted that a fence was also damaged which belongs to GCC.
- f) Cllr Gates have an update on The Goat and has already received approximately 8 articles ready for next issue. It was suggested to use the Council's Facebook page to let people know that Council is accepting letters to The Goat. Cllr Gates will ask Cllr Waddell for an

article. The sports teams are also approached for news. The deadline for receipt of articles for the next edition is mid-February.

- g) The Christmas lights are currently with Steve Oakey; Council confirmed it would like a quote for repairing the broken lights. Storage needs to be arranged so that the lights can be stored in an upright position to prevent further damage; there may be space at the pavilion. Cllr Fraser will email Cinderford Town Council to enquire if they have any spare lights Mitcheldean could have.
- h) The Council discussed the CCTV; there has been no update from Coleford. It is likely that Mitcheldean PC will need to pay Highways to install the CCTV on street lighting posts. Cllr Gates will email the Clerk at Coleford TC for further information. There are two standalone units to be installed by the maintenance staff, one at the pavilion and one in the park. There was a discussion about the ongoing issue of anti-social behaviour in Mitcheldean particularly on Friday nights. It was suggested that the Council writes officially to the manager of local Co-op and Head Office explaining the problem of youths gathering outside the shop and asking for their assistance with either CCTV or a mosquito system to discourage people hanging about. The Council is still awaiting confirmation that the de-fib unit can be installed on the Co-op wall. Cllr Gates will raise the anti-social behaviour issue at the next SARA meeting and report back.
- i) The Council has previously approved up to £7,000 to be spent on a van for the maintenance staff. However, there has been a request for a variation on the type of vehicle and instead a ride-on mower has been suggested which can have a snow-cat attachment and trailer. After discussion, Councillors agreed to invite the maintenance staff to the next councillor workshop to discuss the matter further.
- j) Council approved the dates for the Mitcheldean Sports Club 2016 Tournaments to be held on the playing fields: 18, 19 and 25 June. **Action: Chairman** will let them know. **Action: Locum Clerk** will investigate setting up a Google Calendar for field use.
- k) Cllr Fraser updated the Council on fracking, and circulated an information leaflet. Exploratory work for fracking has already been permitted through licence for up to five years. Cllr Fraser proposed that the Parish Council make a statement against fracking with a full social media campaign and to support a public event. It was agreed to make the statement "Mitcheldean Parish Council opposes fracking and coal-bed methane exploration in the Forest of Dean." It was further agreed by all that the Parish Council will hire the community centre for a public information event and to print additional copies of the fracking leaflet on the parish office printer. Cllr Gates proposed that Cllr James become an administrator on the Facebook page, seconded by Cllr Blackmore and agreed by all.

8. District Councillor Reports

Councillor Fraser has nothing to add to the previous report by Cllr Robinson.

9. Report from the Clerk (Cllr Gates)

The Chairman gave a report in the Clerk's absence.

A cheque has been received from Western Power Distribution for wayleaves.

A thank you letter received from Mitcheldean Old Folks Committee for the Council's donation.

Letter received from GRCC with details of eight potential exception sites; GRCC will contact the owners to see who would be willing to release land for affordable housing.

It was agreed to make the following payments:

Payee	Details	Amount
S.Oakley	Christmas Lights	£2736.00
Squeaky Clean	Cleaning the town hall	£27.00
Toolite	Materials for maintenance	£35.94
Hale & Co Drybrook Ltd	Materials for maintenance	£220.64
Magenta	Photocopier charges	£18.00
	Total	£3037.58

10. SEPARATE BUSINESS

Pursuant to 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during the consideration of:

The Council considered a request from Mitcheldean Endowed Primary School for the Council's maintenance team to carry out the upkeep of the spiritual garden. After discussing the matter at length the Council were advised they did not have a specific power to spend money maintaining an area not publically accessible and the cost of the upkeep would be treated as a grant. The School will be invited to approach the maintenance staff and pay privately if they wish.

The Council received an update on staffing matters and noted that the Clerk's absence has been extended for a further month to 8th February. Council agreed a list of work tasks for the Locum Clerk and remote access will be provided for emails and files.

There being no further business the meeting closed 9.35pm.