

MITCHELDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13th May 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
Mrs K A Baker
Mr A Edwards
Mr A Maliphant (left meeting at 9pm)
Mrs J A Fraser (Vice-Chair)
Ms K A Wozencroft
Ms. S Gates
Mr Huw Baker

District Councillors: Mrs J A Fraser-as above
Mr B R Robinson
Mr Ian Whitburn

County/District Councillor

Mr Norman Stephens

Clerk: Mrs Sandra Schwanethal

[Mr B Waddell attended the meeting as an Elector.]

Agenda Item 1

The PUBLIC Session preceded the council meeting. Fifty to sixty residents came to express their views about the proposed relocation of the post office. The post office services were represented by Sue Whittall and Emma Chilman. Sue explained that the proprietor of the Old Smithy Stores had been vetted and found to be suitable to become the sub post master. She understood some minor alterations were being considered to improve access. The Stores would offer extended opening hours and would offer 95% of the services currently available. Several electors spoke giving their own personal reasons why they felt the post office should not be moved to the Old Smithy Stores.

- a) Distance from the centre of the village for the elderly, infirm and those without transport. The pavements are narrow and steep, and often slippery and dangerous to walk along in the winter.
- b) Dangers and difficulties crossing the main Gloucester Road, especially at peak travelling times, for the young, elderly and infirm,
- c) Lack of parking facilities. This is a designated lorry route and very narrow at the point of the proposed Post Office. Vehicles parking on the road can block the road, making it impossible for lorries to pass.
- d) Taking footfall away from the village centre.

Sue Whittall asked the residents to send their comments to the Post Office Customer Services either by letter or via the website before the end of the consultation period on the 11 June 2013.

At 7.50pm most residents and the post office reps. left.

Agenda Item 2 Apologies for absence: None

Agenda Item 3 Election of Chairman: Cllr Maliphant proposed/nominated Douglas Scott. All agreed. Cllr Scott accepted the office for a further year.

Election of Vice Chair: Cllr Henschley proposed/nominated Jackie Fraser. All agreed. Cllr Fraser accepted the office.

No committees were appointed.

Agenda Item 4 Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests: None

At this point the Chairman introduced the newly elected County Councillor Mr Norman Stephens and asked him to tell the members a little about himself.

Cllr Stephens said he had stood as an Independent candidate and spoke about his other roles and commitments. He thanked the clerk for inviting him to the meeting.

Agenda Item 5 Planning

PO504/13/TCA Removal of Birch Tree-**No objections.**

Proposed Development At, Gloucester Road, Mitcheldean, Glos.
Discharge of Conditions 14 - pedestrian crossing; 17 - footway;
and, 18 – contaminated land of planning permission P1280/12/FUL
NO OBJECTION.

Agenda Item 6 Minutes of the Parish Council Monthly Meeting

The Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th April 2013, having been circulated to all Members were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

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

Agenda Item 7 Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Huw Baker had submitted, by email, a proposal, with three options as to how the Parish Council may proceed with the Sports Club lease. A copy of the options is attached to the printed Minutes and was forwarded to all councillors on the 30 April. It was unanimously, agreed that the Sports Club could have a 25 year lease on the sports Pavilion. Cllr Huw Baker would contact the Sport Club to discuss further details.

Agenda Item 8

Business relating to the playing fields

Dirt Jumps: Rugman Contractors are due to return on the 17th May to sculpt the jumps.

The damage to the path will be addressed after the work has been done.

There was no progress on the Skate Park works. Cllr Henchley had emailed Gary King at Two rivers Housing, but had not received a reply.

Cllr Baker thought there is a need to hold a Community Field meeting to discuss such things as the removal of the wire fencing within the play area.

The clerk read an email from Liz Lewitt received on the 25th April in which Liz asked if the council would pay for an Artist's impression to be drawn showing the plans and aspirations for the playing field area. The clerk was asked to look into the cost of producing these drawings.

Liz also asked if £500 could be set aside for a Community Orchard. The members did not make a decision about this.

Sub Committees

Communications:

Minutes had been taken for the meeting on the 9th April.

Agenda Item 9 County/District Councillor Reports

Cllr Robinson said there were ongoing legal challenges to proposed Traveller Sites in the Forest. There are also ongoing legal challenges to the Core Strategy policy and the planning decision over the building of the ASDA supermarket. Cllr Robinson suggested the Members re-read the Allocations and Development Plan as they may wish to reconsider the Council's position with regard to ALL Housing development sites.

Cllr Whitburn confirmed that the Bedroom Tax does not affect the over 65 year olds.

Cllr Stephens queried the original housing consultation and suggested this matter was put on the Agenda for September.

The clerk had written to Cllr Stephens asking if anything could be done about the withdrawal of Rate Relief on the Town Hall & Pavilion from April 2014. Cllr Stephens didn't think this would cause the Council any financial hardship as 80% of the rateable value relief is mandatory, it is only the 20% charity status relief that is being withdrawn. He would like Caroline Herlick from the District Council to visit the Pavilion.

Cllr Stephens told Members that as part of his election address he spoke about the traffic congestion going into Gloucester and highlighted the state of the roads.

Cllr Fraser had nothing to add to what had already been said.

Agenda Item 10:Community Garden

All members had received, by email, the Gardening Club's proposed Project for the Cross Gardens. The requested budget of £3500 over two years was unanimously agreed. The clerk would be writing up a formal Agreement between the Gardening Club and the Parish Council.

Parish Councillors –'Information Sharing'

Cllr. Edwards asked what progress had been made as to fitting panic hardware on the doors at the Pavilion. The clerk replied that she had asked the Fire Safety Officer to inspect the premises to assess the problem. Cllr Edwards also endorsed Cllr Wozencroft's point about wheelie bins being left on the pavement after collection.

Cllr Fraser said that she had asked the clerk for a Parish boundary map, but one was not available. She had also asked the District Council and they too did not have one. It was suggested that perhaps the clerk could ask if Gloucester Archives have one.

Cllr Wozencroft stated that the light in Platt's Row is still not working. She had received thanks from residents for the clearing of May Meadow Lane. Cllr Wozencroft had received a complaint about wheelie bins been left out on the kerbside long after collection time. Cllr Scott said he would go in and speak with the owners of the business should the problem persist.

Agenda Item 11 Clerk's report

Correspondence & enquiries

Cancelled –by phone & email -ROSPA inspection scheduled for the 15th April (01367 244 600)

Further email to Jackie Gouda re Platts Row light issue. Western Power due to check supply on the 9th April. **I have asked for update on 19th April told it was left working.** Facebook stats at 16 April 31 new likes and 38 weekly reach.

Severn Trent blockage-cleared Sat 13 April -X729837 Re: Eastern Avenue, Mitcheldean.

Letters to Forester & Review re Housing Survey-**not printed in Review**
Fred Bennett complaint about fence at Freemans site: **emailed Luke Freeman-also spoke to Tony Pope planning-the fence is ok & gardens of new houses will go up to the boundary-no gap**

Fire Safety check- need emergency lighting-spoken to Hornchurch electrical for quote.-**£325 The Councillors agreed that this was a matter of staff safety and the clerk should go ahead with the work. (Cllrs KB & AM)**

Play Ranger Katie Spencer – 8 Play sessions Thurs 1.30-4pm-school hols
Ask Lew to do general weed killing around village.

Adrian & Lew clearing May Meadow Lane+ tree roots in Eastern Ave.

Email from Community Engagement team-forwarded 22 April

Lew to retire end July.

Mrs Baker Plump Hill faulty light since Nov 12-**emailed Jackie Gouda again**

Dirt Jumps re dug 22 April-Rugmans-2 complaints

Doug & I visit CC Bowls Club 22 April-**pictures on website**

Katherine Seminar Glos Play fields July

Bought Mower Dean Mowers-18" Rover

Adrian cutting grass in churchyard.

Bought Dog Foul signs. **Erected 13 May**

Prices being sought for printing biannual brochure

Forest Sensory Services asking for Donation.

Munchkins Playgroup had written asking for a donation towards running costs. Cllr Edwards had been approached in April by the lady who runs the group for financial support from the parish. After some discussion it was agreed to support the group this year to the sum of £250. The clerk was asked to write the cheque immediately, it was signed and given to Cllr Edwards to deliver to the group. **This payment will be included on June's payment schedule.**

Adrian repaired tiles in pavilion shower.

Allocations Development Plan Doc. Fwd 19 April

Email: Small community Grants FODDC-fwd 3 May

Complaint about cockerel crowing throughout night-Mary Foylan

Contacted Forestry commission about supplying waste bins in Lining Wood and the Wilderness. -emailed answer 8 May no bins only posters
2Rivers delay on reimbursement of grass cutting funds.
Robin Caulkett has been in to view Doomsday Book.
Grass cutting schedule from Adams is available if required
Rec'd quote from Glebe for Tree maintenance over 3 years. -£520 yr 1 £475 yr 2 £475 yr 3
Complaint from Bob Buffrey re wall at Glencoe Lane -contacted owner & County-site visit scheduled
Contacted the Pest Control Officer re Mole problem
Jackie-Boundary changes-maps
152 postal responses to Housing survey

BUSINESS CONDUCTED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Agenda Item 12 Accounts

(Proposed by Cllr. K Baker Seconded by Cllr. Wozencroft. All approved)

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting ended at 21.45.

Dated this day 10 June 2013

Signed *DScott*

CHAIRMAN-Douglas Scott