

MITCHELDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13th January 2014 AT 7pm IN THE TOWN HALL,
AFTER DUE NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN.

Present

Parish Councillors:

Mr D M Scott (Chairman)
Mrs J. Fraser
Mrs S F Henschley
Mr A Edwards
Mr A Maliphant
Ms K A Wozencroft

District Councillors:

Mrs J Fraser
Ian Whitburn

County councillor

Norman Stephens

Clerk:

Mrs Sandra Schwanethal

[Mr B Waddell and Mr Motford attended the meeting as electors]

Agenda Item 1 To Note Apologies for absence: Mrs K A Baker, H Baker, S Gates

Agenda Item 2 Members of the Public issues:

Mr Motford asked the council to comment on the proposed wind turbine planning application. As the council had not yet discussed this topic no reply could be given. Mr Motford is objecting to the proposal on the grounds of it being inappropriate for a village setting. Allowing one turbine to be built would set a precedent for further installations. He asked the council to note his objections.

Mr Waddell asked if his request for repairs to the pavements had been actioned. It was agreed that the clerk would arrange a visit between Brian Watkins, Area Manager for Gloucestershire Highways and Mr Waddell.

The clerk spoke on behalf of Mr. Fishburne who had written to the council complaining about the camber of the pavements and difficulty motor scooter users have negotiating the pavements around Mitcheldean.

Agenda Item 3 Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests:

All Councillors declared a pecuniary Interest in the Precept

Agenda Item 4 To Confirm the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Mitcheldean Parish Council held on the 9th December 2013.

The minutes were deemed to be an accurate and true reflection of the Meeting, approved by Council and duly signed by the Chairman.

Agenda Item 5. Sub Committees:

Communications:-

To Approve Sara Gates being added as a Facebook administrator

Approved

Planning:

The following applications were considered;

P1882/13/FUL-The Cottage, Court Farm Lane-Replacement porch, improvement to front boundary wall. Erection of a single storey extension to rear above existing garage.

NO OBJECTIONS

P0109/13/DISCON-Merrin, Merrin Street-Discharge of conditions of Planning & Listed Building Consents

NO OBJECTIONS

P1768/13/FUL-Bilbut Farm, Bradley Court Road-Installation of a single farm scale wind turbine, associated infrastructure and access track.

Council requested that the decision be referred to the District planning committee by D. Cllr Fraser and that a copy of the application be forwarded to Longhope parish. A further parish planning committee meeting was scheduled for the 27th January (time & Place to follow).

P1891/FUL/13-Lilac Cottage, Glencoe Lane Plump Hill-Erection of raised decking (retrospective)

NO OBJECTIONS

The council had been informed that the applications for the Solar Park at Vantage Point Business park and the revised scheme to the Freemans Dean Meadows development would be considered by the FODDC Planning committee on the 21 January 2014.

Playing Fields-

Cllr Scott spoke briefly about the new play equipment.

Agenda Item 6 County/District Councillors Reports

Report from - District Councillor Brian Robinson (emailed)

I am committed this month to helping establish the Mitcheldean Computer Club, so I am unable to attend the Parish Council meeting, that is on at the same time. If there is anything urgent I can attend later in the evening. The Mitcheldean Computer Club was launched on 6/1/2014 by the GL17 Community Hub that run the Library. We are meeting weekly at 7pm on Monday's with the aim to provide a place where local people can meet and improve their knowledge of computers and mobile devices. With the imminent roll out of faster broadband there are many people showing an interest.

Consultation on the District Council budget is in progress. Response can be made online via the www.fdean.gov.uk website or hard copies are available at the library.

The district council has lost a legal challenge to the appeal at the Gipsy and Traveller site in Southend Lane Newent. This means that the planning permission granted at appeal will stand.

The Department for Communities and Local Government confirmed that the Council could issue the decision to permit planning on the site of the proposed Asda Store in Cinderford and this has been done. Any legal challenge to this decision will need to be raised within 6 weeks.

End of report

County Councillor Stephens informed the members that at county level he agreed with the draft budget and hoped there would be no rise in council tax.

The Highways scheme spoken about at previous meetings had been extended and a new sports scheme was due to start in May. A further scheme for youth provision would start shortly.

Cllr Edwards asked when the 'cutting' would reopen. C.Cllrs reply was that it was hoped it would reopen in February.

Following the pavement survey completed in December C.Cllr Stephens would be liaising with Brian Watkins at Highways to see that the pavement problems and drainage issues at the Stenders would be looked into at county level.

Following the earlier report from Mr Fishburne C. Cllr Stephens agreed to

Investigate the problem of dropped kerbs from the new Dean Meadows development into the Vantage Point Business Park (Xerox Social Club).

District Cllr. Whitburn spoke about the car parking community impact study currently being drawn up. Cllr Maliphant asked how the parish should proceed with this inquiry.

D. Cllr Whitburn stated Mitcheldean had been recognised as a village not a town-this was a significant step forward in getting the car parking charges dropped.

Agenda Item 7 Councillor resolutions

To approve Cllr Maliphant's resolution that MPC respond to the car parking survey being carried out by FODDC in that it will not properly address the issues in Mitcheldean.

Cllr Maliphant asked D. Cllr Whitburn about the processes that the car parking sub committee would be going through in setting up the community impact assessment questionnaire-Cllr Maliphant was concerned that some people would be disenfranchised if not computer literate.

D. Cllr Whitburn replied that the questions in the survey would be directed to those who are not currently shopping in the village as well as those who are and have been affected by the introduction of charges. He suggested Cllr Maliphant write to both the cabinet and full district council.

To approve Cllr Maliphant's resolution to ask FODDC for formal discussions about taking over the management of Mitcheldean car park. Deferred

Cllr Scott informed the members he had spoken with a stone mason about repairs to the Memorial cross in the churchyard and would be having further meetings including the church council shortly.

Agenda Item 8 Council Management

Standing Orders

Revised Standing orders were **approved** and adopted. (AM, JF all)

A Lone Workers Policy was unanimously, **approved** and adopted. All policies will be monitored by the staffing committee annually.(AM, JF all)

Approval was given to the formation of a Finance Committee and a Properties Committee. Details of the election of a chair for each committee, how often committees would meet etc. to be decided later. Cllr Maliphant had drafted a list of councillor responsibilities that has been distributed with the Agenda. Notes from the staffing committee meeting on the 10.01.2014 are available.

Agenda Item 9: Clerk's report –Matters Arising, Correspondence & Enquiries

(Each councillor had been supplied with a copy of the Clerk's Report at the start of the Meeting. Letters and some Emails received and sent were placed in a folder on the table. Emails sent and received from the councillors themselves are not included.

Only the items requiring a response or decision from the council were read out.)

Information

Don't forget meeting on 15th Jan at 10.30 re new exterior post box.

Closed Box does belong to Nigel who has every right to close it off now he is retired.

PCSO Dave Birch meeting 12 Dec. No longer patrolling Mitcheldean Neil Evans to take over. DB has not attended 'drop in' sessions.

A couple of burglaries in the area.

Willets bus stopping on zig zag lines outside old post office.

Adrian and Peter have cleared leaves again and part of May Meadow Lane-this is in addition to their regular hours.

PC need to be aware that Kompan recommend daily/monthly and annual inspection to their play equipment this may require more time for the caretaker.

Peter identified bins that need replacing or maintenance.

Ditch needs regular maintenance. More works inc. On spreadsheet.

Grill to be replaced.New one being made.

Freedom of information request received re Christmas lights/party/Grit spending

New pavilion door arrived but damaged.Replacement arrived today-fit Wed or Friday

Agreement between MPC & 2nd MSG-now signed.

Mrs Johns asked when the pathway from Community Centre to Glebe Close is going to be repaired. Also drain damaged.

Pole & Tree Decorations taken down. All working.

Spoken to Antony Moverley-he will move rock salt when needed.

Roger Gilson visited the offices on Wed. 8 Jan re footpath (PROW) at Baby Lane.

Email addresses-hoping Ian can set up an new .co.uk address to be consistent with website.

Traffic survey needed before Vantage Point will consider opening Bradley Court Rd gates.

Reg Fishburne visited office to complain about uneven camber on dropped pavements.

Read out/Response required

Grit Bin needed by 44 Baynham Rd-DC Fraser to find out if this can be replaced.

Communications received (190 emails)

(The clerk has been asked by the chairman to only include emails of relevance/interest to the council and to filter out replies.)

Emails.

From Keith Chaplin re Silver Street-**proposed meeting date 10 am Mon 27th Jan**

16 Dec David Sanderson ex Xerox employee asked to visit museum-passed email on to Douglas.

Healthwatch Glos.

Highways-reply about Vantage Point Bradley court Road gates

GAPTC-Autumn Statement

2 Rivers moving 3rd Feb

A thank you from Doris Hornchurch re coach costs

Tony Kimber-Vantage point re Bee Green Q & A session

Neil Batt re monitoring visit re LAG funding

WPD's invitation to stakeholder workshop in February

NHS Glos-Joining up your care-fwd 19.12

GAPTC- Gvt statement re Precept

Communications sent (72)

Emails to

(excludes those sent to all councillors)

Chairman's response to Townsend residents.

Keith Chaplin re Silver Street.fwd DS,AM,JF, SH & Huw

Reported small cover missing on pavement by Lamb Inn

Report sent re road sign at The Crescent.

Report sent re damaged drain footpath Com Centre & Glebe Close

Simon Rugman

Tony Pope

Post office

Vantage Point

AJSteeldoors

PlaySmart

Glebe contractors

Agenda Item 10: Accounts/Finance

IN COMMITTEE

The members listened to a short **presentation from Dale Parker** to support his application to become a parish council member. Mr Parker then left the meeting.

Following a vote it was agreed to invite Mr Parker to join Mitcheldean Parish Council as a co opted member (no election). The Clerk to write to Mr Parker.

The Clerk asked that Iain Selkirk be retained to perform this year's internal audit.

Approved.

Quotes had been received from two companies to provide a safety surface around the newly installed climbing wall. Funding of **£3900** + VAT (exc. any nec. ground works) was **Approved.** Playsmart-ecosmart-SmartPlay 45mm

Cllr Henchley asked if the burden of being responsible for online payment authorisation could be shared between other members. It was agreed that Cllr Fraser would register with Lloyds for online payment authorisation.

Review of Staffing Hours-Approved

The following payment schedule was submitted and **approved.**

Bank reconciliation to the end of December was submitted to each councillor.

Councillors Information Sharing.

Dstrc.Cllr. Fraser raised the issue of potholes generally around the village roads and a small drain/stoptap cover was missing near the Lamb Inn. The clerk would notify Highways. DC Fraser also asked if it could be publicised through the parish newsletter, Facebook and website that Abenhall Church Committee require a Treasurer

Cllr Wozencroft informed the members that a piece of guttering was hanging off the Old George bowling alley above two parish community benches in the Memorial Garden.

Cllr Maliphant informed the members that he was no longer a library board member. He thanked DC Fraser for taking on the role of chair for the Neighbourhood Plan scheme. Cllr Maliphant said he thought the car park charges review would be a waste of time.

Cllr Edwards commented on the Highways earlier reply about the parking of a camper van at the entrance of the playing fields. Cllr Edwards may contact the police to see if they feel it obstructs the view for drivers leaving the playing fields car park.

Dated this day 10th Day of February 2014

Signed

CHAIRMAN-Douglas Scott