

MITCHELDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th September 2013 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
Mrs K A Baker
Mr A Edwards
Mr A Maliphant
Ms K A Wozencroft
Mr Huw Baker
Mrs S Gates

District Councillors:

Mr B. Robinson (arrived 7.10)
Mrs J Fraser (as above-left at 9.30pm)

County Councillor: Mr N Stephens (arrived 8pm)

Clerk: Mrs Sandra Schwanethal

[Mrs Beddis, M Jones, S Jones & Mr Adams attended until 7.30pm. Mr B Waddell attended the meeting as an Elector]

Agenda Item 1 Apologies for absence:

Agenda Item 2 Members of the Public issues

Mr Waddell raised an issue about the uneven pavements and in particular a large hole in the pavement outside the Chinese take away shop. The clerk replied that she had been informed of this pothole and had already reported it to the Highways authority.

Mr Adams spoke about the proposed positioning of the Skate Park indicating that other sites may be more suitable. Mr Adams and the other electors present, felt there had been a lack of consultation and communication from the Parish Council. The Chairman and Cllr Baker replied using a TimeLine of events and reference points to explain how long the discussions about the park had been going on. No new information or evidence was available and the Chairman concluded that sufficient time had been given to this topic, no consultation was necessary as the skate park is to be within the designated play area and the decision of the Council had not changed during the two year period, therefore the ground works for the park would go ahead.

Agenda Item 3 **Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests:** None

Agenda Item 4 **Minutes of the Parish Council Monthly Meeting**

The Minutes from the 8th July and the 5th August meetings were deemed to be an accurate and true reflection of the Meetings and were duly signed by the Chairman.

(Proposed by Cllr Henchley, seconded by Cllr Baker and approved by all Members who were present in July and August).

Agenda Item 5. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

Agenda Item 6 **Sub Committees**

Communications: The Clerk read out a letter from Shirley Jones who was asking for a donation to the Mitcheldean Old Folk's Club for the cost of transport for a Christmas lunch outing. The Council agreed in principle, but asked the Clerk to find out how much the transport would cost.

Planning

P1231/13/FUL

65 The Crescent, Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire, GL17 0SB.

Extension to the front elevation-NO OBJECTIONS

P1194/13/FUL Alteration and lowering of existing kerbstones to improve existing vehicular access-Hillrise House, Plump Hill- NO OBJECTIONS

P1242/13/FUL 27 Eastern Ave-First Floor alteration and extension-

NO OBJECTIONS-The Clerk had been informed earlier that the plan submitted with this application was incorrect and had forwarded this information to the planning officer

Findings from Housing Needs Survey-need for Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Robinson said that a Neighbourhood Plan would sit below the Allocations Plan Process and thought it would be a good idea to have local residents actively involved in finding and agreeing suitable building/development sites around the village. A need for over 100 homes has been identified over a 15 year period. Possible suitable sites have already been identified such as the south side of Gloucester Road, the land opposite Dene Magna School and Cotterells yard.

Cllr Edwards said that the infrastructure was not in place to support any more large scale housing developments within the village. DC Robinson replied that until the education authority and Doctors reached their maximum capacity nothing would be done to expand these services. Cllr Maliphant said there was an urgent need for s106 monies to fund these projects and said the George site should be included. Cllr Maliphant expressed his concerns over the County Council's policy on the allocation of homes stating that any new homes would be allocated to those people at the top of the waiting list rather than Mitcheldean people wanting affordable housing, but this would not be the case if Exception sites were deemed necessary. Two Rivers have different criteria for the allocation of their properties. Cllr Maliphant asked if now would be an appropriate time to contact those people that expressed an interest in getting involved when completing the recent Housing Needs Survey Questionnaire.

Playing Fields:

The Skate Park issue had been addressed within the public session

Agenda Item 7 Parish Councillors –‘Information Sharing’

Cllr Edwards asked C.Cllr Stephens what action the County were taking to get the Drybrook Road repaired and reopened. Additional heavy traffic was using the cut through from the Lee causing damage to the roads around the village. The problem is believed to be due to gas mains works.

Cllr Edwards also reminded the Council of its responsibility to repair the footpath from the Community Centre to Glebe Close.

Cllr Henchley asked if and when further cutting back of overgrowth was to take place along Plump Hill.

Cllr Wozencroft was still getting complaints from residents about dog foul being left on the pavements. A biker had been seen riding an ‘off road’ bike in the village and there was now a large pot hole in St Michaels Close.

Cllr Maliphant asked if a schedule of costs for the proposed new play equipment could be brought to the October meeting.

It is proposed to hold a Folk Festival in the village on the third weekend in July next year. Venues to be included are the White Horse Public House, The Mews and The Library.

Cllr Gates had had cause to complain to the District Council over Biffa employees swearing while emptying the bins in the village.

Cllr K Baker informed the members that the LAG funding applied for recently had all but dried up and the sums previously mentioned would not now be available.

Cllr Fraser had been contacted by a local resident who had had eggs thrown at their property along Silver Street. The matter had been reported to the police.

Mr Verity from Church Farm had contacted Cllr Fraser as he was concerned over possible shop closures. Mr Verity would like a strategy group organised. The Clerk has been asked to write to Mr Verity.

The Chairman had been sent pictures of litter in an area of the woods behind The Crescent and asked if the Caretaker would collect this rubbish.

Agenda Item 8 County/District Councillors Reports

District Councillor Robinson informed the Members that the A48 would be closed for resurfacing works in October for about 5 weeks.

D.C Robinson also informed the Council about the remains of a pig that were left at St. Anthony’s Well following a music festival. The pig’s head, trotters and skin had been laid out in public view and were now rotting. The Chairman suggested contacting the press.

County Councillor Stephens stated he would follow up on the Parish Council’s concerns over the Drybrook Road closure.

C.C. Stephens thought the work on the A48 would be done in stages and signs would be going up soon to inform motorists of the possible delays and diversions. Mitcheldean residents would be affected if going to Chepstow.

C.C. Stephens went on to inform the members that each County Councillor has a budget of £50,000 to use on grass root sports projects. This fund is to be shared between C.C. Stephen’s eleven parishes.

Agenda Item 9: Discussion

Cllr Huw Baker reported to the Members the discussions that he had had with the Sports Club. Unfortunately, the Sports Club did not feel they were in a financial position to be able to take on any of the three proposals put to them by Cllr Baker. They felt they could only cope with agreeing to a rolling renewal, 25 year lease on similar terms to the expired lease.

It was agreed by the Members that the Sports Club should be asked to reimburse and contribute a more significant sum than the previous 'donation' arrangement. A figure that reflected the actual costs incurred by the Council to keep the Pavilion in use would be sought. This would be a charge rather than a donation and could be paid in instalments. It was noted that the voluntary donation from the 2012 season had still not been received. The club had also failed to reimburse the Council for the water used.

The Clerk asked the Councillors if an additional £5000 could be allocated to the Christmas decoration budget as the £2000 initial budget had been spent.

The County Council has still not confirmed that the decorations bought will be allowed to be mounted on the street lamp posts, but the clerk is hopeful this problem can be solved shortly. Ten identified lamp posts will need to be rewired to feed the decorations at a cost of £290 per post.

The funding can be vired from the Town Hall restoration project budget as a business case is not in place in order to apply for funding for the Town Hall.

(Resolution proposed by Cllr K Baker, seconded by Cllr Maliphant)

Requests for donations had been received from Artspace, Cinderford, Forest Sensory Services, Mitcheldean Old Folk Club and GL17-The Hub.

Cllr K Baker proposed giving £250 each to Artspace and Forest Sensory and £100 to GL17. Cllr Edwards seconded.

Any donation to Mitcheldean Old Folk's Club had been discussed earlier, under Agenda Item 6.

It was agreed further donations would be considered if received.

Agenda Item 10: Clerk's report -Correspondence & enquiries

Time did not permit the Clerk to give a full report, but correspondence received and actions taken are listed below.

Several concerned residents rang asking about the Councillors decision on the UPLANDS-site visit by planning committee on 10 September. **Application withdrawn 19 Aug**
Mark Rodway copied PC in on an email sent the Mark Harper MP re concerns over Uplands Email rec'd from Malcolm Law asking if decision on Uplands could be taken by District Committee & the deadline for comments to be extended. **Doug requested this matter be referred back to committee for a decision.**

Residents called in wanting further meeting about Upland 's application. **Suggested they get together with other residents-form group. PC need more than two people to request this.**

Locked myself out-keypad wouldn't work-rang Ashley again

Email from Martin Scrivens Sports Club stating the Pavilion doors are not fit for purpose.

Door left open on Thurs/Frid 12th Jul Need key register.

Full skip left on site-asked SC to remove.

Sports club meeting 29th July with Huw

GAPTC-AGM 17 July-AM attending

Meeting with Steve Jones Forestgate Church re Christmas lunch-15 July-**Very varied ideas-Monthly lunches-outings etc**

Reply from Steve Parslow re Christmas/ lunch Club-**willing to get involved**

Vulnerable people Policy docs amended to include Katherine as social services contact.

Garage clearance-hire of skip

Acquired new board

Fwd email from Planning re site meeting Dean Meadows 16 July -Planning Committe met 13

Aug-new style of house proposed.

Phone call Phil Warren-Drainage expert-site visit 16 Aug-informed Ieuan Roberts! See report

Christmas Decs meeting with County Surveyor -25th July-**County lighting technician George Sturman-wants more information about surface area of decorations to work out stress tests on lamp posts**

Mrs Baker The Fuchsias-light out since November-**spoken with Street technician following meeting for Xmas Decs.-problem with external cables covered in ivy. Rang again 19 Aug. Work to be done on the 24th Sept.**

Clerk Delivered 30 flyers asking for support for the Magazine to Vantage Point Businesses-**not one reply received.**

Flyers placed in the Co-Op

Three Correx Boards for Heritage Open Days 12-15th September Thurs Fri 10.-13 Sat Sun 11-14-**volunteers needed-CANCEL**

Email fm Poland still using 813 copier & has offered spares should we wish to repair our machine.

Have received Annual Play Equipment Inspection-asked for quotes for repairs, but Table & balance beams should be fixed by contractor. **Contacted Yurtviva-**

Ian Graves replied he would do the maintenance if PC supplied materials. Agreed

Complaint about bins being left on pavement between collections outside Chinese takeaway-**passed to FODDC**

Mrs Davis Court Farm Lane-tree issue with Vantage Point-**spoken with John Lewis maintenance VP.**

Also issue with the turning area.-have emailed Rachel Capon at District council.-**Adrian to clear DC to collect-DC litter bin collection each 2 weeks**

Grass bordering Vantage Point- cut one off goodwill gesture. **Highways not responsible (Email to Derek 2011)Reply from BW 9/9**

Doug enquired about planning permission on Rock Cottage-Hawkers Hill-**Yes**

Ieuan Roberts called in about the adoption of the drains by Severn Trent & to ask if survey of field had been done.

PCSO Birch called in to look at a map to locate Dean Common Farm & Laines Farm-report of Badgers being disturbed

Mr & Mrs Owens came in to discuss the road surface noise problem they have at Norse Place-Highways have been informed-**Reply BW 9/9**

Sarah French has asked if I would update the Website more often and commented on home - made signs being erected at Lining Wood re Uplands planning application

New bins arrived & fixed in Dirt Jump Areas

Submitted a survey on Highways service on the 2 Aug.-All good
Fwd email 2 Aug Cinderford Northern Quarter Biodiversity Strategy Technical guidance
Email rec'd from Nihon Kohden UK Ltd. -Tori Treherne- interest in considering the purchase for a community based defibrillator? **Shouldn't Doctor's surgery have one?**
Email fwd 9 Aug re Local council Tax Support costs fm Derek Broom FODDC
Email from Rural Fair Share Campaign-petition-precept difference grant
Adrian-ongoing bench repairs
Adrian will be doing maintenance to play equipment.-Quote from Greenfields
Requested District Council to clear drains & gullies-**done twice**
Emailed Sue Whittal-post office for an update on the 5th Aug& again on 28th Aug-Post Office to remain open till Co Op take over.
Received letter from PO services about consultation period re CO-OP-Petition against been started.
Spoken to Clare Downs from the CO OP-hopeful
Carnival items from Christopher's garage now in front room- wood items has wood worm. Clerk taken some away to recycling centre.
Re COMBI grant -Contacted architect-Paul Thornton, in July, re quote for repair works to Town Hall-**too busy**
Also Graham Frecknall too busy for Sept. deadline-Need to pay architect to complete drawings-Allocate £500???
*Adrian & Peter cleaned inside Town Hall-
?? Removal of curtains and blinds??? **And disposing of electrical cable-SCRAP value**
Windows outside cleaned Window Warriors £35
Torro leaf/ street vacuum serviced £85 + spares-Hale & co
Mower-cable broke-Dean Mowers repaired
Hayley Clayton PhD student-questionnaire on Forest Wild Boar, put on Website
Boar foraging May Meadow Lane
Email fwd 14 Aug fm FODDC-Planning -Greater Flexibility for Change of Use
Email rec'd from FODDC-Seminar 24 Sept-Standards in Local Govt. Douglas to go
Rec'd letter from FODDC re Wilderness Centre-Community Right to Bid-meeting 5 Sept at 2pm-Jackie, Ian & Brian going
Douglas received enquiry about a hollow tree. **Spoken to Paul East-Could put notice on tree!!**
Need to get the Gas boiler serviced-
Need to buy a vacuum cleaner
Gardening Club memorial trees-in tender doc.-Bill Waddell raised concern.
Contacted Jonathan Harrison re community garden seat.
Email fwd from Gloss CC 30 Aug about Local developer guide.
Had a meeting today 9th Sept with David Beddis-Health & Safety Consultant
Meeting with Shirley Jones-Xmas Lunch 3 Sept
Email from Liz Lewitt re LAG funding and purchasing new equipment.
Remind Councillors that they should be considering new projects to take on & get costings ready for December.
Grant Thornton-external Auditors have returned our Statement of Accounts-will be available for public inspection from 1st October by appointment.
Another black bank/bin to arrive later this week
Bin to be placed by Old Smithy Stores
Bee Green Solar Park proposal poster
Community Centre AGM 16 Sept 7.30-**Sara should be there!!**
Glos CC scheme for residents about switching utility suppliers
Emailed Don Elt 9/9 re Chlorine storage & siren
Chased up Gloss CC over uneven pavement outside Chinese Take Away in High Street

The Clerk asked if a uniform could be purchased for the maintenance team. – Possibly 3 polo shirts and a fleece each in Royal blue with the Town Hall logo. Cllr K Baker thought a high viz waistcoat was sufficient and Cllr Maliphant asked for costings for next month.

Clerk on Holiday-Fri 20 Sept to Mon 30th

IN COMMITTEE

Receipt from Two Rivers Housing £1800 towards grass cutting

Receipt from FODDC £1346 towards Street cleaning

Clerk would like to attend the SLCC National Conference in Leicester on Oct 17th -19th. Course fee, travel, Dinner, bed & Breakfast-anticipated course approx £300-350 for one day .No decision made

Agenda Item 11 Accounts

A bank reconciliation and Income and Expenditure summary had also been prepared, but time did not permit for the Council to consider the figures.

(Proposed by Cllr.Henchley Seconded by Cllr.Wozencroft. All approved)

Time did not permit the discussion about adopting the NALC contract, pay scales and T&C's for the Clerk.

The Chairman proposed another Extraordinary Meeting for Monday 23rd September. The Clerk reminded the Chairman that she would be on holiday, but the Chairman decided to go ahead with arranging the meeting. Cllr K Baker would have preferred to stay and complete the discussions even though she was very tired.

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The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting ended at 22.15.

Dated this day 14th October 2013

Signed

D.Scott

CHAIRMAN-Douglas Scott

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