MINCHINHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 27th March, 2017
at 7pm at the Trap House

45/17: Present: Cllrs N. Hurst (chair) M. Beard, P. Callaghan-Wright, G. Ford, S. Hemmings, J. Merrison, J. Molyneux, R. Nicholas, A. Nicholls, C. Morriss (from 7.50pm), P. Schwartz, S. Waddington, one member of the public, the clerk.

46/17: Apologies: Cllrs A. Mylechreest, J. Williams.

47/17: Public questions/participation: There were none.

48/17: Declarations of interest: There were none.

49/17: Minutes: The minutes of the council meeting held on 27th February, 2017, were proposed by Cllr Hemmings, seconded by Cllr Ford, and approved with one addition at minute 35/17 to read “belonging to the National Trust who would take up the issue”. The minutes of the council planning meeting held on 13th March, 2017, were proposed by Cllr Merrison, seconded by Cllr Schwartz and approved.

50/17: Neighbourhood Development Plan update: Feedback from the roadshows was very positive. Overall 200 attended across the two weekends, although only 17 attended at Brimscombe which was also visited by local MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown. Two sub-committees were now working on the two next key areas of traffic issues and the draft plan and would report back to the next steering committee on April 3rd, 2017. It was thought the draft plan would translate into “planning speak” the information presented at the roadshows, while an independent company might provide the traffic report, using data gathered locally as well as carrying out its own research. This would probably be funded by the available grant.

51/17: County and district councillors’ reports: Gloucestershire County Cllr Waddington reported that election purdah had begun. He was also shortly to join his last Highways Advisory Group.

Stroud District Cllr Hurst reported an imminent planning review panel and a Brimscombe Port project meeting. In answer to a question he assured the meeting that the SDC had purchased the Ship Inn at Brimscombe. Cllr Waddington was concerned over the future of the SDC’s Stroud Subscription Rooms but was assured the current SDC intention was to retain ownership.

52/17: Finance Committee report: Negotiations to renew the Vestry Cottage lease remained ongoing. Any money allocated for The Park car park extension that remained unspent at year end 2016-17 would be transferred (a formal virement) to the 2017-18 budget. Minchinhampton Gardening Club was granted £300 to continue planting flowers in The Cross troughs for at least the next five years. Further grant requests were received from both Stroud Valleys Project and Allsorts but after discussion the committee had felt unable to support either of them. It was agreed to pay both staff for holidays that remained untaken by March 31st, 2017. The bank reconciliation showed a forward balance at 31st January, 2017, of £77,352.86 including the £13,953.85 Vosper legacy.

53/17: Vestry Room contents’ audit: Cllrs Hurst and Nicholls had visited the room and had compiled an inventory list of its contents which had been circulated. Discussion of the value or otherwise of the items followed, with suggestions including that broken chairs and similar could be disposed of or Freecycled, It was
agreed the Local History Society should be invited to inspect before auctioneers from both Stroud and Wotton-under-Edge be invited to offer their opinions.

54/17: Logo Working Party: During a series of meetings at the end of last year and this new year the working party had circulated a specification and invited ideas for the council’s new logo from six all locally based firms/individuals. A favoured design from Qwertyop was further refined, was proposed to the council, and was accepted. Further work on incorporating the design into its various uses both on-line and on paper was also agreed.

55/17: Updates on: a) Box Community Wood – Cllr Hemmings confirmed the woods purchase was now completed and was already being managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. A wildlife survey was enabling plans for future maintenance, a bio-blitz was planned on May 13th and 14th, 2017, and there would be an appeal for knowledgeable people to assist. Cllr Hemmings thanked everybody, including the parish council, for their financial support; b) Vosper Field/doctor’s surgery – A letter from the field tenants’ agent had been forwarded by the council’s agricultural surveyor. The tenants stated that they did not accept the notice to quit served by the council and claimed occupation under the 1986 act. Cllr Hurst had replied to the council’s surveyors doubting the tenants’ continuity for two reasons. It was agreed the council’s surveyor would be asked to reply to the tenants entirely refuting their claims; c) Market House Management Committee requests – Council agreed to support the cost of seeking counsel’s opinion about the ownership of the Market House; d) Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons Advisory Committee and Cows on the Commons – Cllr Schwartz reported the last MRCAC had been a successful public meeting. A public celebration of Marking Day, to include National Trust and road safety presentations, was also planned at Old Lodge. The latest Cows on the Commons had discussed summer plans including signage and a further meeting was planned before Easter. Difficulties had arisen in providing the council with the right mobile signs, which might now be battery rather than solar or wind powered, but would still hopefully be funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Highways were repainting the cow warning triangles on the commons’ roads; e) Amberley phone box library – Cllr Molyneux reported that BT had agreed to let the council adopt the kiosk and a volunteer involved believed funding for renovation of the kiosk might be available from the Amberley Allotment Trust; f) Bell Lane car park – Work had started, was on schedule with no notable archaeological discoveries, and was expected to be finished by the next council meeting; g) Allotments – Cllr Morriss had not yet carried out his survey for the start of the season but at general observation the majority of plots were being tilled and were in good order; h) Minchinhampton and Rodborough Youth Partnership – A second meeting had been attended by Cllr Merrison. Attendance had been significantly lower than at the first session. No real problems had been reported in managing young people in Minchinhampton although attention was drawn to a derelict and empty property in the town. Cllr Merrison felt there was a lot of good youth work organised in the area that was perhaps not adequately publicised and suggested it be signposted via the SDC website.

56/17: Traffic matters: A road closure in Friday Street, Minchinhampton, on April 6th, 2017 for BT Openreach works had been cancelled. The council was re-consulted about proposals for a 30mph speed limit and 40mph zone along various roads in Minchinhampton, Nailsworth and Rodborough with an extended deadline of March 29th, 2017 for comments. The renewed consultation was because of administrative errors in the original Road Traffic Orders. Council however found the re-consultation contained inaccuracies and instructed the clerk to obtain an accurate document upon which members would then comment.
The re-launch of the Traffic and Parking Working Group was requested by Cllr Ford was agreed. Previous members Cllrs Ford, Waddington, Hurst, Mylechreest, and Williams would be contacted and the matter taken forward.

Cllr Morriss requested that the previously promised laying of rumble strips on the approach from Nailsworth to the Tom Long’s Post junction be carried out as a matter of urgency, following a recent road traffic crash there. He also asked for the renewal of the rumble strips on the other Tom Long’s Post approaches. His requests were supported and would be passed to the area highways manager.

A site meeting/discussion had been held in Minchinhampton High Street about the street lamp which had been missing since sometime during 2001. Residents, some MPC members and GCC lighting compliance engineer George Surman were present. Mr Surman’s summary of the agreed solution – a heritage wall bracket part funded by MPC – was explained but was considered too costly by some councillors.

57/17: Clerk’s report/correspondence: Cllr Morriss reported that BT were still at least four months away from provision of fibre optic broadband in the Burleigh area.

A letter was received from the Minchinhampton RBL Branch after a UKIP wreath was placed at The Cross during the last Remembrance Day parade. The letter pointed out that RBL members believed it was inappropriate for wreaths to be laid at The Cross by political parties, but that since The Cross was owned and maintained by the council the RBL felt unable to police what happened there. Council agreed a formal policy should be drafted for approval at the next meeting.

A letter was received from the proprietor of the Amberley Inn asking for the ivy engulfing the bus shelter there to be removed and for the broken guttering on the rear of the shelter to be repaired. Council would undertake the necessary works.

The assistant clerk would be attending two Clerks the Knowledge training courses on April 6th and May 18th, 2017, respectively.

Quotations for repairs to the Tom Long’s Post seat had been forwarded to a motorist’s insurers.

The Vosper legacy had been re-invested for a further year with Bank of Scotland at 0.8 per cent

Forwarded previously via e-mail:

SDC CIL information session
GRCC community buildings network event
GAPTC re: Police crime plan launch
GPFA Playing Field newsletter
Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust Your Opinion
Tesco grant scheme
GAPTC Housing White Paper
Councils Connected February edition
Cotswold Conservation Board newsletter
Invitation to PCC Surl’s Police and Crime Plan launch 2017-2021
Health Gap seminar – cancelled
GAPTC Call for AGM resolutions
SDC March e-news

58/17: Payments: The below payments by the council were proposed by Cllr Morriss, seconded by Cllr Hemmings, and approved:

RJ and V Clarke Agri Services £12,000.00
SDC £186.61
MDL Kelex Ltd. £200.00
PATA £45.00
Staffing £1,871.87
Minchinhampton Market House Trust £24.00
James and Owen £92.77
Amberley Parish Rooms £50.00
Gloucestershire Rural Community Council £1,079.87
CDC £218.75
GAPTC £1,426.31

Direct debits:
BT (phone) £184.33
BT (broadband) £142.01
Utility Warehouse £330.01

59/17: Councillors’ items for future discussion: Cllr Ford requested an audit of the condition of street nameplates should be placed on the next agenda. Cllr Morriss would make an allotment report at the April meeting at which the not-for-profit Pub is the Hub initiative would also be presented by Cllr Waddington.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed: ……………………………………………………………………… Date: ……………………………..