



Minutes from Miserden Parish Council Meeting
held 26th March, 2024 7:30pm in Miserden Village Hall

Present: Chairman Cllr Martin Ractliffe, Vice-Chairman Cllr Kevin Allin, Cllr Laura Cobb.

In attendance: Cotswold Voluntary Warden Nick Mann, Gwen Durland (Clerk), two members of the public.

Apologies: County Cllr Sue Williams, District Cllr Julie Job

The meeting was quorate. *Note: Meeting was chaired by Vice-Chair Cllr Allin at the request of Chairman Cllr Ractliffe.*

01.03.24 Vice-Chairman Allin opened the meeting with the sad news of Major Tom Wills passing on 20th March 2024. Major Tom was a former chairman of Miserden Parish Council, and a continued friend in the many years since. The Council and attendees observed a minute of silence in honour of the much beloved Major.

A funeral for family and residents of the village of Miserden will be held per the Major's wishes at St Andrew's Church, Miserden, on 10th April at 2pm. A public memorial service will be held at Cirencester Parish Church, Cirencester, on 15th May at 2pm

02.03.24 **Minutes** from February 2024 were **approved** as written.

03.03.24 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made known. The Council found this a source of **assurance**.

04.03.24 **Matters Arising**

Cllr Gideon Duberley resigned his seat on the parish council. As a token of thanks, the Council presented Gideon with a silver inscribed tankard for his faithful service to the parish for nearly 9 years.

As per the six-month rule, the Council will not co-opt another councillor but will wait for the results of the May 2 local election.

05.03.24 **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Cllr Ractliffe gave a brief report. PCSO Nicky Wood held a meeting in Whiteway Colony Hall regarding the recent spate of thefts, give it advice and tips to residents on safeguarding their belongings and property. She stressed the advice to be aware and vigilant of anyone who does not seem familiar to the Colony, and stated to make the suspected person aware that they have been seen by asking them if they are lost or perhaps offering them help if they are lost. A delivery person will be alone in the van, those casing properties will generally be in pairs.

Finally, PCSO Wood instructed the public to ring the non-emergency police line **101** with ANYTHING suspicious.

The Camp phone box – a member of the community has come forward with an offer of financial help to restore the red phone box at The Camp. The Council has confirmed with the painter previously commissioned to restore the phone box that will begin work after the Easter break. Painter to be consulted as to sand blasting metal portions of box.

The Council received the report as a source of **information** and **assurance**.

Action: Cllr Allin to liaise with painter regarding sand blasting.

06.03.24 **Clerk's Report**

Clerk Gwen Durland gave the Clerk's report as follows:

Bank balances as of last	Current Account £9,103.90
statement:	Savings Account £5,100.73

Cheques:

500743 £712.00 Staff costs	500745 £336.00 Local Authority Technology CIC (web
500746 £10.59 Clerk's expenses	host annual cost)
	500744 £328.32 Scribe Accounts annual cost

Expenditures for approval:

Portable flagpole £269.80 – Not approved. Alternative to be sourced.

5'x3' D-day 80 flag £24 - approved

High-vis vests for use by Council and public £2.29ea. x 15 vests - approved

Banking Migration – The Council decided to pause migration to another bank until the new council has taken office in May.

May 2nd local election reminder– Key dates/deadlines:

Deadline to submit nomination packs to SDC April 5, 4pm

Deadline to register to vote, Tuesday April 16, midnight

Deadline to apply for a postal vote Wednesday April 17 5pm

Deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate Wednesday 24th April 5pm

Polling Day Thursday, May 2nd 7am-10pm

D-Day 80th anniversary, 6th June.

The Council discussed plans for D-day 80 commemorations, and it was decided that the D-Day 80 commemorative flag be flown on St Andrew's church raised at 9am on 6th June.

National Fish and Chips Day has been moved to the 6th May in conjunction with D-Day 80 celebrations. Cllr Allin to organise a fish and chips van to set up outside the Carpenter's Arms on the 6th, times to be confirmed.

Road Safety

The Council decided to put off any large purchases of roadside safety and/or traffic calming items such as vehicle activated speed (VAS) signs until after the election. Clerk to arrange online and paper consultation survey for residents of the parish in order to:

- obtain the opinions and assess the needs of as many parishioners as possible
- guide the Council in deciding where to spend funds that will be most effective
- or to see if an in-person consultation of the public is warranted to help parishioners be better informed of options available, costs and funding.

Digital storage space for the Parish Post will now be held on MPC secured cloud storage at no additional cost to the Council.

The Council received the report as a source of **information** and **approved** selected expenditures.

Actions: Clerk to contact St Andrew's church warden to obtain permission to fly D-Day 80 flag. Cllr Allin to arrange fish and chip van. Clerk to send out online and paper version of road safety survey.

07.03.24 Digital Archiving

Cllr Allin gave a report on Gloucestershire Archive Heritage Hub. This free service funded by the government can store all documents of interest to the public such as vital records, parish council minutes, and copies of the Parish Post. Those wishing to access archived documents can do so via the online catalogue. Photocopies of documents can be requested at a nominal charge. See <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/researching/getting-started/>
The Council found this a valuable source of **information**.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Parish Post editor regarding archiving old editions of Parish Post.

08.03.24 Stroud District and Gloucestershire County Council Reports

Cllr Job relayed nothing to report before giving apologies, Cllr Williams report will be given via e-mail.

The Council received this as a source of **information**.

09.03.24

Cotswolds NL Voluntary Warden Report

Warden Nick Mann informed the Council of the various grants available from Cotswolds National Landscape. Grants can be used for conservation education, disabled countryside access, tree planting schemes, biodiversity and other projects which improve the countryside. The Council found this to be a source of **information**.

10.03.24

Any other business

No other business was brought forward.

The Chair adjourned meeting at 20:35.

Next meeting to be held 30th April 2024 at 7:30pm in Miserden Village Hall.

Signed by Chairman as a true and accurate account of the meeting: