

## **CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held at The Council Chamber, Cinderford on Tuesday, 10th November 2015 commencing at 6.45 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

COUNCILLORS; Mrs E. D. Martin, (Chair), M.M. Coborn (Mayor), T.R. Holder, A. Knight (7.10p.m), R. Pritchard (7.p.m.), M.D. Turner, L.S. Wilce, C. Witham, Ms K. Wynn.

APOLOGIES for Absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs J. Johnson, Mrs K. Brown, G.L. Morgan, Mrs L.I. Sterry, R. Sterry.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None declared.

### **119. MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th October 2015, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **120. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.**

#### **(a) Christmas Lights. (Minute 100 a).**

The Clerk confirmed the contractors had commenced work on erecting the new Christmas lights. Noted.

#### **(b) Christmas Parade. (Minute 100 b).**

FODDC had confirmed that car parking charges would be suspended from 12 noon on day of the Christmas Parade, until 8 am, the following day. Cllr. Witham informed Members that St. Stephen's Church had arranged a Christmas Sheep Trail, for children to find in various premises throughout the Town, and that currently 25 had agreed to take part, including the Town Council. Noted.

#### **(c) Web page. (Minute 102 b).**

The Town Council web page address was [www.cinderfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.cinderfordtowncouncil.gov.uk) and not abbreviated as shown in the previous Minutes. Noted.

#### **(d) County Highways. (Minute 102 c).**

Both Cllr Morgan and the Clerk had raised the centre white lining request again with Highways, but they were adamant that the lines would not be re-instated, due to safety. Noted.

On a positive note, the new l.e.d lighting had at long last been fitted around the beacons on the pedestrian crossing. Noted.

#### **(e) Collingwood Skatepark. (Minute 104 b).**

The new kissing gate had now been fitted at the entrance to the Skate park, but the Clerk reported that two silver birch trees, on the boundary of the field, with Springfield Drive, had been cut down and the incident reported to the Police. Noted.

#### **(f) Church Road Resident - Request for double yellow lines. (Minute 106).**

Highways had confirmed that re-surfacing had been programmed for the following year, commencing April 2016, and they were currently looking at options to create pull-in bays, to address the parking issues. FODDC had confirmed that traffic enforcement was carried out every other Saturday, but could be adjusted if required. Cllr Holder thought traffic enforcement should be random, and not done by any routine. Noted.

(g) British Legion - Remembrance parade 8/11/15. (Minute 107).

Members commented on how nice it was to see that the Armistice Parade had once again attracted such a large attendance, and especially with the number of youth organisations taking part.

(h) FODDC - Naming of new development at Former St. Johns Hall. (Minute 108).

As FODDC had received an objection to the name of Protheroe Place, the District Ward Members had been contacted; Cllr Morgan objected, but as Cllrs Mrs Sterry and R. Sterry both agreed, the development would now be called St. Johns Mews.

The Clerk was asked to enquire why the suggestion of the Town Council, had been turned down, when only one objection had been received, as the Council wished for the historical connection to remain.

RESOLVED accordingly.

(i) Social Media - The Way Forward. (Minute 113).

Some Members were concerned about too much negativity being published on facebook and suggested that it should be used to promote more positive issues/events. Cllr Witham agreed it was good to promote positive events, but Members need to contact him or Mark, with content, as well as contacting the press, to allow them to publicise it too.

(j) Planning applications. (Minute 115).

The planning application for 5 Steam Mills Road, had been withdrawn. Noted.

**121. MEMBERS REPORTS.**

**Forest Health Forum** - Cllr. Mrs Martin had attended the Forest Health Forum Meeting, which were always the first Tuesday of each month (except January and August), and found them to be very informative with speakers from various services connected with Health. The Forum had become a recognised 'Forest Voice', giving everyone the chance to listen, learn, ask questions and importantly to be an influence for change and direction. Their meetings were open to all members of the public, and Cllr Martin encouraged people to attend as all views were always welcomed. A full copy of her Report is attached to the Minutes.

**GMTF** - Cllr Coborn reported he had attend the meeting in Tetbury, which had been very informative regarding partnership working with Traders, and he asked that this be an agenda item for the next meeting, to set up a working group, to encourage the Traders in Cinderford.

**Highways** - As Cllr Morgan had attended Ruspidge & Soudley PC, he had asked the Clerk to present his report. Following the meeting with Brian Watkins, the Clerk had now received a plan of the draft proposal for the Bridge junction, which she circulated to Members for perusal, which showed the widening of the junction. She reminded everyone that the scheme had been reduced as there was no longer any contributory funding from the proposed Trilogy (supermarket) development. Brian had also confirmed that if vehicle speed can be reduced to an average of 35mph, then the Police would consider supporting the aim to reduce speed to 30 mph. Kate Thorne had also contacted the Clerk regarding this, and had asked if the Council would purchase the bin stickers which had been priced at £224. Brian had also confirmed that Highways would do some marking through the Steam Mills area, which he thought would help to slow traffic down.

RESOLVED the Town Council pay  
for the wheelie bin stickers.

**122. G.C.C - GLOS. DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (2015-2031) CONSULTATION.**

Gloucestershire's draft Local Transport Plan (2015-2031) Consultation would run between 20th November 2015 and 5th February 2016, which would look at the County Council's long term approach to managing transport demand across the County.

Members agreed it was important to publicise the consultation and agreed it should be put on the web page and the Council facebook page to encourage people to look at it.

RESOLVED accordingly.

**123. FRACKING - FODDC - HYDRAULIC FRACKING STATEMENT - CTC TO ISSUE STATEMENT.**

Following the press release made by FODDC with their Hydraulic Fracturing Statement, the Town Council had been asked what their view was. The Clerk thought it important that the Town Council should issue a Statement, and had produced a draft which she read out for Members, against fracking. Members unanimously agreed the Clerk issue the Statement (copy attached to Minutes), but they also recognised the need for power, and that maybe solar or wind solutions should be considered as alternative energies.

RESOLVED accordingly.

**124. PRICES FOR METAL BINS/BENCHES FOR RECREATION AREAS.**

Following suggestion previously made that metal benches/bins should be placed in the recreation areas, the Clerk had obtained prices, bins were £195. and benches £256. Members agreed to purchase 2 seats (1 for Skatepark and 1 for MWPF) and 1 bin for the skatepark.

RESOLVED accordingly.

**125. COMMEMORATION SERVICE FOR THE MINING, MINES & MINERS OF THE FoD.**

Rev. Nick Bromfield had suggested that the Service now take place at the Forest Church, on Sunday, 22nd November 2015 at 3 pm to commemorate the closure of Northern, on 24th December 1965. The Clerk suggested that refreshments be served at CRFC, with tea/coffee and cake, and that an open invitation to the service be placed in the Forest Review and The Forester. Members agreed, but also suggested a wreath be laid on the Northern Memorial following the Service.

There had been an article in the press regarding a sexual abuse case against Dave Harvey, who had modeled for the sculptor who had created the bronze statue of the miner in the Town Centre. The Clerk suggested that she put out a press release (attached), confirming the statue was of a forest miner and not of Dave Harvey, as had been stated in the press article.

RESOLVED accordingly.

**126. CINDERFORD TRIANGLE LEASE.**

Despite previous meetings with the District Council, when it had been agreed that the current Lease terms were not acceptable, and that new terms should be negotiated, or even the freehold of the Triangle be passed to the Town Council, the District Council had now issued a schedule of works to be completed by the end of November, or alternatively, that the Town Council consider terminating the Lease.

The Clerk had therefore written to the Solicitor at FODDC, stating the Town Council would be unable to make a decision, pending receipt of the new Lease terms, but the reply had been that the current Lease would continue under the same terms.

As the Cinderford Triangle project had been completed with the Single Regeneration Budget, the grant funded asset was for the benefit of the community of Cinderford, not the Forest of Dean District Council. Also the land on which the Tower stood, had been in the ownership of the County Council. The manner in which the District Council was now acting was completely unacceptable and certainly not for the benefit of Cinderford. The Clerk confirmed she was continuing to gain information regarding the initial set up of the project and the funding terms, which the District Council appeared to be ignoring.

Members agreed that the Cinderford Ward Members should submit a Motion to FODDC to open negotiations regarding the future management plans for the Triangle, and that the Clerk invite Cllr Richard Boyles to the next meeting of the Town Council.

RESOLVED accordingly.

#### **127. FOREST FITNESS CENTRE.**

Following on from previous meetings, both the Clerk and Chair attended a meeting at the FFC, with the volunteers to discuss the issue of Trustees for the FFC. It had become a protracted issue, partly due to the tender going out from the District Council regarding their Leisure Centres. Freedom Leisure had now been appointed by the District Council, and the current Trustees were comfortable with the aims of Freedom Leisure and running the FFC.

The volunteers had been assured that the Town Council would be honored to become the Trustees of the FFC, to ensure it remained such a valuable community asset for the Town. However, the legal side of things seemed to be taking quite a time to finalise, and the Clerk had spoken with their Solicitors to try and get the paper work completed as soon as possible. The Clerk would hopefully be able to update Members at the next meeting. Noted.

#### **128. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

As a Member of the Development Control Committee, Cllr Mrs E.D. Martin did not take part in the vote on any of the following applications.

- (a) 10 College Road (Land At) - Variation of condition (02) approved plans to revise first floor layout to two bedrooms and develop the loft space to provide the third bedroom including the installation of a dormer and associated windows relating to planning permission P1391/13/FUL P1455/15/FUL..
- (b) 21 Office Road - Two storey side extension and rear extension to form family accommodation. P1525/15/FUL.

RESOLVED No Objections be raised to the above planning applications.

**GCC - Planning Permission Granted** - West Oils Environmental Ltd. - application no: 15/0041/FDMAJW (District Reference P1201/15/CPC - Proposed use of a former transport yard and trailer storage as a waste transfer station for garage and industrial waste oils and motor parts with associated parking of company HGV. Installation of three bunded storage tanks, oil interceptor, associated hard standing, vehicle access road (sui generis) - Land Off Speculation Road.

#### **129. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.**

Members were circulated with the figures for accounts requiring payment and it was;

RESOLVED the accounts and wages totalling the following amounts be paid;  
BVC/CTC - £13,241.87.  
BVC - £1,201.05.  
CTC - £4,947.62.

#### **130. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

RESOLVED the next Meeting be held on Tuesday, 8th December 2014 at 7p.m

#### **131. CLOSURE.**

The meeting closed at 8.35p.m.