

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held at The Council Chamber, Cinderford on Tuesday, 9th August 2016 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS; M.M. Coborn (Mayor), Mrs K. Brown, T. R. Holder, Mrs E.D. Martin, G.L. Morgan, M.D. Turner, L.S. Wilce, Ms K. Wynn.

APOLOGIES for Absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs L. Bent, A. Knight, Mrs J. Johnson, R. Pritchard, Mrs L.I. Sterry, R.A. Sterry, C. Witham.

As the Chair and Deputy had both submitted apologies, the Clerk asked for someone to Chair the meeting for the evening and it was agreed that Cllr. T. Holder take the Chair.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

61. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th July 2016, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

62. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

- (a) Ursells - Additional Plaque on War Memorial. (Min. 47b).

The Clerk confirmed that the plaque had now been fitted but she was still awaiting confirmation from Cinderford RBL regarding the dedication service. Noted.

- (b) Northern Quarter. (Min. 47 c).

Cllr Morgan had attended the Planning meeting in the afternoon and reported that the application for reserved matters for the Northern Quarter (called in by Cllr Gardiner ref toxic waste), had been discharged and gone through. The proposed College site was actually over previous opencast working, with no toxic waste. Noted.

- (c) Cinderford Music Festival - Road Closure. (Min. 53).

The Clerk informed Members of the updated legislation regarding any future road closures not consisting of a Parade, which would need to be applied for through GCC, for a fee of £115. If the same road was closed on more than one occasion, then GCC would have to apply to the Secretary of State for approval, so it would be easier to apply for all such road closures at the same time. Also you would not be able to erect anything IE bouncy castle on highway ground. Noted.

63. CINDERFORD TOWN AFC - ADVERTISING.

Cinderford Town AFC had contacted the Clerk to see if the Town Council would like to advertise for the forthcoming season. In addition to programme advertising, they were now offering pitch-side advertising boards. Members agreed to support the Club with one pitch-side advertising board at the cost of £300. The Clerk asked for confirmation that she could also agree for the usual advertising in the match programme for Cinderford RFC, which would be £250. plus VAT.

RESOLVED accordingly.

64. FUSION SIGNAGE & DISPLAYS - NEW 'WELCOME TO CINDERFORD' SIGNS.

A local signage company had contacted the Town Council asking if they would be interested in modernising the 'Welcome to Cinderford' signs.

RESOLVED the Clerk obtain some quotes from Fusion signage for Council to consider.

65. GCC - PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS.

GCC had forwarded information on new restrictions being applied for;

- Double yellow lines along part of Latimer Road, with the junction of York Road.
- Single yellow lines on parts of Latimer Road, at the vehicular access to Forest View School.
- School Keep Clear markings to be retained on Latimer Road, and altered where appropriate to follow regulations for the mandatory enforce of the restriction at school times.
- Installation of limited waiting bays 30 minutes no return 1 hour in Market Street, Monday to Saturday 8am - 5.30 pm.
- Double yellow lines close to junction of Woodville Road/Belle Vue Road.

Noted.

66. WEST DEAN PC - AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE FOREST OF DEAN.

West Dean P.C. had written raising their concerns with the lack of housing that is both available and affordable to the local communities with a housing need within the Forest of Dean. Following work carried out on their NDP, they believed the current housing situation within the Forest was unsustainable, which would result in a collapse of local communities, with the Forest becoming a dormitory zone. They believed the Governments position in only offering grant funding for new starter homes, and to remove the offer of funding for new homes for social or affordable rent, penalises communities, where the average wage is so much lower than the national average. They had therefore written to the Minister in charge of housing expressing these views and inviting him to the Forest to see for himself the needs of such rural areas. Whilst awaiting a reply, the letter had also been emailed to Mark Harper MP. They had now contacted all Parish/Town Councils for their support and to allow their names to be included in the correspondence.

Members completely agreed with the sentiments expressed by West Dean PC, and agreed it was an issue.

RESOLVED CTC fully support West Dean P.C.

67. TOUR OF BRITAIN - DECORATED BIKE.

The Tour of Britain bike race would be coming through, past Speech House, past the Dilke, up St. Whites Road, over the roundabout, then down into Littledean, on Thursday 8th September. Cllr Witham had been talking to a member of the FoD Cycling Club who said they would be happy to assist with anything. It had been suggested that maybe some banners could be put up in St. Whites Road, or on the top roundabout and maybe a display (history of cycling), in the Belle Vue Centre.

Members agreed that something should be done to acknowledge the tour coming through Cinderford, and asked the Clerk if she could speak with Fusion regarding banners etc, with a budget of £400.

RESOLVED accordingly.

68. NHS - FoD COMMUNITY SERVICES REVIEW.

Over the last nine months the NHS had been seeking the views from patients, carers, staff and key stakeholders regarding the health and care services available to residents in the Forest of Dean. The engagement report had now been produced (clerk emailed to Members), with the hard copy available in the office. This could be viewed on the following link www.gloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/forest-health-yoursay/. Noted.

69. TRIANGLE WI-FI.

Cllrs Turner and Witham had asked if they could now pursue looking at the costs for Wi-fi provision in the Town Centre. Members agreed that CTC should now consider this.

RESOLVED accordingly.

70. MEMBERS REPORT.

Cllr. Witham - had produced a report for the Clerk to read out regarding the website and social media. Over the past two months traffic to the website had declined by over 20%; there had been good growth in May 2016 but this had now subsided. The likes on Facebook had grown slowly and engagement on our page continued to grow. The most popular posts over the past few months had been the update of the recycling service, Woodside Street Car Park purchase and the Tour of Britain. Putting information together and writing articles could be difficult when not involved in the event initially.

In order to continue to engage with the public through our website and promote both the Town and our work effectively, we have to get better at collecting and passing on information. As part of this, it would be great to organise some press release writing training for staff/Cllrs.

It had been disheartening recently to find stories in the press before we could even publish it on our website. Cllr. Witham would like to propose a motion that any Cllr. talking to the press must inform the Clerk as soon as possible (within 24 hours) so that we could make an appropriate release or response in a timely manner.

Members discussed the report and asked the Clerk her view on the training - the Clerk explained she did not think she would have time to do this in addition to her other work, but she thought everyone had perhaps been on a bit of a learning curve with social media and that everyone was becoming more aware of the issues raised by Cllr Witham, and to try and ensure that Chris and Mark were informed asap of anything happening. Members agreed and thanked Chris in his absence and would try to improve the spread of information.

Cllr. Morgan - the Clerk circulated the report, which listed the meetings Graham had attended at the County Council looking at Highway satisfaction, Environment Scrutiny (which included Registration services), draft Local Minerals Plan. He had also attended the Forestry Commission Summer Forum meeting, the report of which had been copied and circulated to Members.

Cllr. Mrs Martin - she was concerned that the Sheep Scrutiny Committee at FODDC had been mis-reported Nationally to the effect that FODDC was stopping the rights of the Commoners to run sheep - this was totally incorrect, as a small part of Bream badly affected by sheep was applying for a Small Area Protection Order.

71. PLANING 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 Office Road - Erection of a single storey side extension. P1063/16/FUL.
- (b) 31 Steam Mills - Erection of a two storey extension to the rear and porch to the front. P0965/16/FUL.
- (c) Forest of Dean Community Church, Station Street - Change of use from garden to car parking for a place of worship and the installation of two mobile classrooms. P0923/16/FUL.

RESOLVED no objections be made to any of the above applications.

- (d) The Northern Quarter - Discharge of condition (38) - Temporary Bridge Details attached to planning permission P0663/14/OUT.

RESOLVED no objections, providing FODDC is satisfied that all conditions had been met.

- (e) White Hart Inn, St. Whites Road - Erection of ground floor and first floor extensions to create additional bar area and letting accommodation and refurbishment to create a two bed detached letting unit. P0970/16/FUL.

RESOLVED the above application be supported.

72. 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 - £1,660.14.
BVC - £2,446.33.
CTC - £1,550.54.

73. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

RESOLVED the next Meeting be held on Tuesday, 13th September 2016 at 7 p.m.

74. TOWN IMPROVEMENT GROUP.

Cllr Coborn raised concern that the Town Improvement Group had not yet met, and suggested a meeting be held on Monday 15th August at 6 pm. The Clerk confirmed she would email Members informing them of the meeting. Noted.

75. BOAR IN TOWN CENTRE.

Complaints had been received about the boar getting closer to the Town Centre and the Clerk confirmed she had raised this with the Forestry Commission. It was suggested that something be put on the web page and facebook, advising people to keep their gates closed, not to leave food out, and to ensure their bins were securely closed. Noted.

76. CLOSURE.

The meeting closed at 8.20p.m.