

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held at The Council Chamber, Cinderford on Tuesday, 8th November 2016 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS; Mrs L.I. Sterry (Chair), A. Knight (Deputy Chair), M.M. Coborn (Mayor) Mrs K. Brown, T.R. Holder, Mrs J. Johnson, Mrs E.D. Martin, G.L. Morgan, R. Sterry, M. Turner, C. Witham, Ms K. Wynn, L.S. Wilce.

APOLOGIES for absence - Cllr. R. Pritchard.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST - Cllr. G.L. Morgan declared an interest in Minute 125 - FoD Road Safety Liaison Group.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Matt Caldwell to the meeting.

Matt was a member of the Boar Solutions group, which consisted of both anti and pro boar local individuals, and he hoped that the Town Council would appoint a representative to join the group to consider how the boar population could be sustained and controlled. As the Forestry Commission were culling deep in the woodland, the boar were coming closer to populated areas, sourcing food. DEFRA were also now involved in discussions with the FC and FODDC and had released a statement that there would always be a sustainable population of boar in the Forest. West Dean PC were considering the implications of introducing a Bye-law to prevent the public feeding the boar, with possible fines being introduced but there were concerns as to how this would be 'policed'. Matt himself had been studying the boar since 2007, and considered a lot of information be given out was not factual, especially with regard to the numbers of boar. The University of Worcester had been commissioned by the Forestry Commission to do a Report on the boar, but this had never been published.

Matt was thanked for his informative presentation and he then left the meeting at 7.45. Members agreed the Town Council should support the initiative and Cllr Turner confirmed he would be happy to represent the Town Council at these meetings. The Clerk commented that she could contact the FC to ask for a copy of the Report, which could be circulated to Members.

RESOLVED accordingly.

115. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th October 2016, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

116. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

(a) F.o.D. Dementia Alliance. (Minute 98 a)

Cllrs. Mrs Johnson, Mrs Martin, Mrs L.I. Sterry and C. Witham confirmed they would like to attend the dementia game session with Lena Maller on the 10th November 2016.

(b) Members Report. (Minute 98 b).

FODDC had responded they had no responsibility for the behaviour of wild animals whether on their land or not, and they would continue to cut the footpath on the St. John's Bank, but had no plans to carry out further works. Noted.

(c) BT - Removal of Payphones. (Minute 105).

Cllr. Tuner had visited the listed pay phones, and suggested that the three old red ones be retained - Valley Road (GL14 3HF), Steam Mills (GL14 3JD) and Edge Hills Road (GL14 2QR). He also understood that BT would provide a free refurbishment kit to repair the phone boxes, but would make further enquiries.

RESOLVED the Council request to keep the three phone boxes, as listed above.

(d) Fusion - New 'Welcome' Signage Designs. (minute 106).

Members discussed the final design for the 'Welcome' signs and they commented they would like to see the word 'Cinderford' written in gold lettering instead of the green.

RESOLVED accordingly.

117. EVENTS MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th October 2016, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

118. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

(a) Christmas parade 2016. (Minute 3).

Cllr. Holder asked if a stage could be erected for the fire eating act that was planned prior to the Christmas Parade, and the Clerk confirmed she would discuss it with the Handymen to find a safe place. Noted.

119. BELLE VUE CENTRE MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th October 2016, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

120. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

Nothing was raised.

121. PLAYING FIELDS MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th October 2016, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

122. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

Nothing was raised.

123. ADOPTION OF RECREATION AREAS POLICY.

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Playing Fields Policy to Members, as recommended for approval from the Playing Fields Committee and it was

RESOLVED the Policy be adopted.

124. WI-FI - PROVISION - BELLE VUE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL.

As was evident from the Minutes, the Committee had fully approved the work/quotes carried out by Cllr Witham, but he had now obtained a much cheaper way of providing the wi-fi by purchasing equipment, which the Clerk had confirmed. He had also drawn up the necessary Policies and Conditions in connection with the wi-fi. Members thanked Cllr Witham for his assistance in getting the project organised and doing so much more cheaply than anticipated.

RESOLVED the Policies be adopted by the Town Council and the expenditure duly approved.

125. FoD ROAD SAFETY LIAISON GROUP - PLEDGE FOR DONATION REQUEST.

The Group had been formed in 2015 by County Councillors to try and improve road safety in the Forest. A project sub group had secured funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner, but was conditional on securing a contribution of £2000. from the 40 Town/Parish Councils in the Forest. Their aim was to get every driver to sign up to driving more considerately, and using social media they would distribute tips on safer driving in the Forest, and encouraging drivers to display 'I care' stickers on their vehicle. The Group had therefore written to all Town/Parish Councils to ask them to pledge a sum towards the campaign, and once they have received sufficient pledges, they would write again to detail how the campaign would develop.

RESOLVED to pledge £100.
towards the campaign.

126. FoD CHILDRENS OPPORTUNITY CENTRE - REQUEST FOR A DONATION.

The FoD Children's Opportunity Centre had written requesting financial assistance towards the running costs of the Centre.

RESOLVED a donation of £100.00 be forwarded
under section 137.

127. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME - DOCUMENT CIRCULATED BY EMAIL.

After discussing the Local Award Scheme, Members agreed a working group be set up to go through the scheme requirements. Cllrs Cllr. Mrs Brown, Mrs Martin, Mrs Sterry and Ms Wynn agreed to form the working group.

RESOLVED accordingly.

128. MEMBERS REPORTS.

Cllr Witham asked if the Town Council would donate the use of a room for the Groundswell Rising Event, (Owen Adams) to run a drop-in session for feedback to the draft Mineral Plan. He circulated some information booklets to Members for reference, and confirmed that the drop-in sessions had apparently been well attended in other areas. Members agreed to provide a room, and the Clerk asked that Owen contact the office to arrange a convenient date.

RESOLVED accordingly.

Cllr Witham had tweeted HSBC regarding the proposed closure in January 2017, and had arranged a meeting with the Head Regional Service Manager on Friday at 9.30 am. Cllrs Turner, Holder and Mrs Martin confirmed they would attend with Cllr Witham.

Cllr Mrs Martin reported that FoD Health Forum had been informed that the NHS would be making £224 million in cuts over 5 years in Gloucestershire, which meant that the future of all local Community Hospitals was now on hold. Noted.

129. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

As Members of the Development Control Committee, Cllrs Mrs L.I. Sterry, R. Sterry and Mrs E.D. Martin, did not take part in the vote on any of the following applications.

- (a) Bituchem Holdings Ltd. Brookside Road - Proposed single storey office extension. P1090/16/FUL.

RESOLVED the above application be supported.

- (b) 53 High Street - Single storey and two storey rear extension to rear of properties and internal alterations to create one dwelling and three flats. Change of use of part of building from office to residential. P1527/16/FUL.

RESOLVED objections be made to the above application due to the loss of prime High Street retail space. All the shops opposite were fully occupied.

(c) 1 Victoria Street - Conversion of garage to a one bedroomed flat. P1519/16/FUL.

RESOLVED strong objections be made to the above application due to its sub-standard living accommodation with poor natural light.

130. 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 - £11,633.02.
BVC - £1,470.85.
CTC - £3,601.34.

131. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

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

132. FoD AGE CONCERN.

The Trustees had sent an invitation for all Members to attend their AGM on Friday 18th November at 3 p.m. at The Belle Vue Centre, followed by tea and cakes. Noted.

133. ARTSPACE.

An invitation had been received from Artspace to attend their AGM on Friday 25th November at 6.45 - 9.0 p.m. Noted.

134. CLOSURE.

The meeting closed at 9.10p.m.