

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held at The Council Chamber, Cinderford on Tuesday, 13th December 2016 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS; Mrs L.I. Sterry, (Chair), A. Knight (Deputy Chair), Mrs K. Brown, T.R. Holder, Mrs E.D. Martin, G.L. Morgan(8.10 p.m) R. Pritchard, R. Sterry, M. Turner, L.S. Wilce.

AN APOLOGY for Absence was received from Cllr M. Coborn (Mayor), Mrs J. Johnson, C. Witham, Ms K. Wynn.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST- Cllr. Mrs E.D. Martin declared an interest in Minute 140 - Royal British Legion - Poppy Sponsorship.

The Chair welcomed Mrs Louise John to the meeting to give an update on Cinderford Regeneration.

TRILOGY DEVELOPMENTS – SUPERMARKET DEVELOPMENT:

The planning application was considered at the October planning committee. Members voted to approve the application. The decision notice was issued last week; legal challenges can be made within 6 weeks from the date of issuing the notice.

CINDERFORD NORTHERN QUARTER ACTIVITY:

SPINE ROAD:

Phase 1 of the spine road was progressing well. The high voltage line diversion, top soil strip, temporary bridge crossing construction and major earthworks were all underway and nearing completion. The site would be ready to allow access to the College from March 2017, with the road being completed in Summer 2017.

LAND ASSEMBLY:

The wider land exchange documentation between the Forestry Commission, Forest of Dean District Council and Gloucestershire County Council is nearing completion. The exchange would legally complete on the day the College choose to take vacant possession of their site. The Hamblett land transferred to the District Council on 30 October 2016. The Northern United site will be transferred to the District Council in 2017 to facilitate site clearance in preparation for the final phase of the road.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE:

The College have submitted all their pre-commencement conditions. They have one pre-commencement condition awaiting determination which relates to land contamination; the College are currently preparing information to allow discharge of the condition.

The College have indicated that they will require access to the College plot towards the end of March 2017 – the contractor will continue to work to this date to allow access.

The College are awaiting the details of the Growth Fund allocation for Gloucestershire following the Autumn Statement. There was no news yet regarding the allocation, although further information from the LEP should be expected imminently, and circulated as soon as received.

SITE PREPARATION WORK:

The District Council have submitted a £1.93m bid to the Growth Fund for site preparation works at the Northern Quarter. The bid, if successful, will allow site preparation works to be undertaken for the Cinderford Northern Quarter development plots, this would allow for the plots to become investment ready for developers.

The District Council will be working with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC), who are a critical friend to the Cinderford Regeneration Board. BGCBC have worked on a similar mixed use regeneration project in Ebbw Vale, and will be using their in-house engineering team to complete the work.

STEAM MILLS VILLAGE WEST:

The Homes & Communities Agency recently purchased Steam Mill and the land to the south of the Mill (Plot G2 on the plan - attached to Minutes). They have appointed consultants Amec Foster Wheeler (AFW) to take the site through the master-planning and planning application process. The HCA also agreed to include Plot G1 in the work. Both areas are now known as Steam Mills Village West. An initial officer level workshop has taken place to establish constraints and opportunities on the site. AFW are currently working on gathering all information available for the sites, and are working on initial designs. Plans are for wider community consultation in January 2017. HCA were positive regarding the possibility of the old Town Clock being fitted on the old Steam Mill.

CINDERFORD BRIDGE JUNCTION:

Gloucestershire County Council was currently undertaking additional work to assess the junction and the general traffic situation in the wider Cinderford area. The results are expected before the end of the financial year.

RETAIL PATHFINDER TOWN CENTRE REPORT:

The data collection had taken place for this year town centre reports. Key headlines were as follows:

- Footfall is marginally down on last year.
- Vacancy is down and now stands at 11.3%

The reports would be finalised early next year and will be circulated to all Town Councils.

The Chair thanked Louise for attending, and she then left at 7.17 pm.

135. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2016, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

136. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

- (a) F.o.D. Dementia Alliance. (Minute 116 a.

Unfortunately the Dementia gaming session had been cancelled and the Clerk was waiting to hear from Lena Maller to re-arrange another date. Noted.

- (b) Christmas Parade. (Minute 118 c).

There were about 75/80 selection boxes left from the parade and the Clerk suggested these be donated to the food bank, which Members agreed to. Cllr. R. Sterry commented on how good the Christmas lights were and thought they were the best in the Forest.

RESOLVED accordingly.

- (c) Local Council Award Scheme - document circulated by email. (Minute 127)

The working group had not found an opportunity to meet, but would do so in the New Year. Noted.

137. FODDC - PUBLIC CONVENIENCES, HEYWOOD ROAD CAR PARK.

FODDC had written asking if the Town Council would like to take ownership of the toilet block, from April 2018, as recent budget announcements meant the Town Council would receive rate relief. The Clerk had asked for a breakdown of the current costs for running the facility, if the Town Council decided to take ownership.

RESOLVED to wait for the requested information, prior to make a decision.

138. SMITH & DERBY LTD. - TOWN CENTRE CLOCK - NEW AUTO RESTART QUOTE.

Following the early alteration of the clock in October, the Clerk had received a quote of £520. from Smith & Derby Ltd. for a new auto restart unit to be fitted at the same time as the next annual service due in September 2017.

RESOLVED the clerk accept the quote from Smith & Derby.

139. PITMAN BLACKSTOCK WHITE - CINDERFORD TRIANGLE COMPLETION.

The Clerk confirmed that the sale had been completed, and the first payment of £18,000. as agreed, had been transferred to FODDC. Noted.

140. POPPY SPONSORSHIP.

Following a discussion in the office, regarding the Remembrance Service in 2017, the Clerk had commented it would be nice to make a display of knitted/crocheted poppies and a Council Employee, Ms Lesley Fennell, said she would like to attempt a sponsored 3,000 crocheted poppies, with all proceeds to go to Cinderford RBL. The Clerk asked if Members would agree for the Town Council to 'head' the sponsorship. Members thought it was a brilliant idea and unanimously agreed to do this.

RESOLVED accordingly.

141. MEMBERS REPORTS.

Cllr. Mrs E.D. Martin presented a Report from the Chair of F.o.D Health Forum regarding the development and implementation of the Gloucestershire Sustainability Plan, and the emerging models of urgent care. The full report would be emailed to Members for information.

She also informed Members that FODDC had now made the declaration that the Forest of Dean be a Frack Free Zone so it was now just waiting to see if GCC also made the declaration.

Cllr Turner had attended a meeting with the Boar Solutions group, who were very frustrated that FODDC/Forestry Commission would not communicate with them. It was suggested that perhaps the group should be properly constituted (contact FVAF), to open up lines of communication.

He also confirmed that the new signs would be erected within the next 2 weeks, and he asked that Council re-affirm that the 'Frack Free Zone' still be added on to the new signs. Members agreed that he should confirm this to Fusion Design.

RESOLVED accordingly.

Cllr. Morgan confirmed that GCC were facing a £30 million shortfall, which would mean an increase in council tax.

With regard to Highways, the £30k budget to Ward Members for repairs/improvements, was likely to be cut to £20k or even £10k. and the newly introduced Lengthsman scheme was likely to be abolished. He then explained the proposals for further road improvements (from Maisemore) on the roundabout at Over, and asked the Clerk to email the report to all Member.

142. 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) 6 & 8 Upper Bilson Road - Forst Floor rear extension to 6 & 8 Upper Bilson, including a two storey side extension to 6 Upper Bilson. P1605/16/FUL.

RESOLVED no objections be made to the above application.

- (b) Land at Crump Meadow Inclosure - Discharge of condition (13) details of two Lesser Horseshoe night roosts of planning permission P0663/14/OUT.

RESOLVED no objections be made to the above application providing FODDC was satisfied the condition had been met.

- (c) Cinderford Town AFC, The Causeway Ground - Erection of two covered stands for terrace and seating. P1575/16/FUL.

RESOLVED the above application be supported.

- (d) 24A (Altea) Meendhurst Road - Application under Section 191 to establish if the erected squash court is lawful. P1564/16/LD1.
- (e) Wildens Sports Complex, 24B Meendhurst Road - Application under Section 191 to establish if a leisure building for a squash court, ten pin bowling, gym and sports hall use is lawful. P1655/16/LD1.

RESOLVED the Town Council had great concerns regarding the size of the overall development and how this adversely affected neighbouring properties.

Changes had been made to the Planning Constitution, in that Ward Members would not be allowed to vote on any planning application sited in their Ward. Noted.

143. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

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

RESOLVED the accounts and wages totaling the following amounts be paid;
BVC/CTC - £14,087.92
BVC - £2,421.01
CTC - £1,268.06

144. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

RESOLVED the next Meeting be held on Tuesday, 10th January 2017 at 7 p.m.

145. FOREST FITNESS CENTRE.

The Clerk informed Members that Mr Alan Elliott had now resigned from the Forest Fitness Centre. Noted.

146. CAROL CONCERT.

Members were invited to attend the Carols by Candlelight Service at St. Stephen's on Sunday, 18th December at 6pm. Noted..

147. CLOSURE.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. with the Chairman wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New year.