

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held at The Council Chamber, Cinderford on Tuesday, 8th December 2015 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

AN APOLOGY for Absence was received from Cllr Ms K. Wynn.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

The Chair welcomed Cllrs Richard Boyles and Brian Robinson to the Meeting. (It was noted Claire Hughes (Legal) and Chris Johns had also attended the meeting), to discuss the Lease on the Triangle.

The Town Council had been very disappointed to receive what they considered to be an ultimatum from the District, to either carry out 'repairs' or to terminate the Lease. When the Clerk had raised the question of the lease terms, she had been informed it would be the same as the existing Lease, although it had already been agreed, that the terms were not acceptable.

Cllr Boyles confirmed that the rent reviews as required under the Lease had not happened, and that following discussions with Members, FODDC was required to manage its funds, and to consider if the Lease required changing/varying. Although meetings had been held in the past, they considered no progress had been made, and thought the Town Council to be unresponsive, which was denied by the Town Council. The Clerk confirmed that all queries raised had been replied to. As the Triangle had been a project of the SRB, it was an asset for the Town but ownership vested in the District Council, as they had been the accountable body for the project.

In order to progress the issue, Cllr Robinson suggested the way forward was for the Town Council to put forward proposals for future management, which FODDC would need to agree, whether it be a variation on the existing Lease, or to sell the freehold to the Town Council.

Whilst discussions were taking place, Cllr Witham took the opportunity to peruse the Lease and asked that the District Council produce copies of all documentation required under the Lease, to include the notice of any rent reviews and copies of the audited accounts showing the Town Council to be a debtor with the accruing debt.

RESOLVED that FODDC research and provide documentation as required under the terms of the Lease in order to allow the Town Council to discuss the issue early in the New Year, to allow proposals to be put forward to FODDC prior to the February meeting of Council.

The District Council representatives then left the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

132. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th November 2015, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

133. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

(a) Christmas Lights. (Minute 120a).

Following the erection of the additional lights, the Clerk confirmed that many positive comments were being received, on how good the Town was looking. Noted.

(b) Christmas Parade. (Minute 120b).

There had been a good turn out for the Parade, even though the weather had been bad, with 320 chocolate bars being given out, and 100 being given to the Hearts of the Forest School, for the pupils attending there. This left 30 bars remaining, and the Members agreed these should be donated to St. Stephen's Church, which could be used as prizes for the sheep trail.

RESOLVED accordingly.

(c) County Highways. (Minute 120d).

Cllr Sterry had received further queries regarding the reinstatement of the centre white line in the High Street, but the Clerk and Cllr Morgan both confirmed that it had been raised again at their meeting, and Highways would not reinstate the lining, due to Health and Safety. Noted.

(d) Naming of former St. Johns Hall. (Minute 120(h)).

FODDC had confirmed that as a purchaser of one of the properties had objected, due to the historical connection being printed in the newspapers (ie reference to Slave Trading), it meant that a decision would be made by the Ward Members, and that as 2 out of the 3 had agreed to St. Johns Mews, then that name would be used. Noted.

(e) Forest Health Forum. (Minute 121).

Cllr Mrs Martin urged Members to look at the Health Web site with regard to Clinical Commissioning and forthcoming changes (she would send the link when available), but a presentation was also being held at FODDC on Wednesday, 16th December, which the Clerk had already forwarded by email. Noted.

(f) Commemoration Service. (Minute 125).

The Clerk commented on what a lovely Service it had been on the 22nd November, with approximately 70 people at the Forest Church, and she had brought back a copy of the Order of Service should anyone wish to have a look at it. The photograph display had also been well received, and Cllr Turner had set up a display in the Foyer, for people to come and view. Cllr Turner also confirmed that the original Hooter from Northern would be blown at 2 pm on Christmas Eve at the Northern Memorial Site, to mark the anniversary of the closure of the Pit. Noted.

134. MEMBERS REPORTS.

Website - Cllr Witham gave Members an update on the website, in that it had received 22 new likes, with the facebook page receiving 604 new likes. The most popular had been the posts on the Christmas lights, and the motion regarding the Triangle, which Cllr Coborn had put forward at FODDC. Noted.

135. FODDC - 2020 VISION PROGRAMME.

The Clerk had circulated the statement released by FODDC regarding the 20220 vision programme, which gave an outline of how the four council partnership, consisting of Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold, Forest of Dean and West Oxfordshire District Councils, would work together to provide services locally. Noted.

136. ROYAL FoD ANGLING CLUB - REQUEST FOR DONATION.

The Club, a not for profit organisation, founded in 1958, rented 6 waters from the Forestry Commission. They now had a serious problem, with a leak at the Lightmoor pond, and also the need for the replacement of the disabled fishing pegs. They had obtained quotes for the work required and these totaled £13,826.88. and had asked if the Town Council could assist them with a financial contribution.

Members were aware of the Club and how well supported it was locally, and agreed a donation should be forwarded.

be given, under Section 137.

137. GCC - STWA SEWER REPAIR WORKS.

The Clerk had received notification from County Highways that they had given STWA permission to carry out urgent sewer repair works, at the junction of Heywood Road and the High Street, which would require traffic lights, from the 15th-17th December. If they were unable to complete the works in that time, they would still finish on the 17th, and if required, go back to it after the Christmas break, to keep any disruption to a minimum, over the Christmas shopping period. Noted.

138. WORKING GROUP TO WORK WITH TRADERS.

After attending the last GMTF meeting, Cllr Coborn had suggested setting up a working group to work/co-ordinate with the Traders Association in the Town. Members agreed it was worth trying to build a positive relationship and Cllrs Coborn, Holder, Knight and Turner volunteered to form the working group.

RESOLVED accordingly.

139. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

As Members of the Development Control Committee, Cllrs Mrs Martin and Mrs Sterry took no part in the vote on any of the following applications.

- (a) Land to the east of 2 Meendhurst Road - Erection of a dwelling including alterations to access. P1680/15/FUL.
- (b) 5 Steam Mills Road - Sub-division of house to create two separate dwellings and erection of a 1.8m close boarded fence. P1695/15/FUL.
- (c) 16 Steam Mills Road - First floor extension over existing single storey extension. P1767/15/FUL.
- (d) 24 St. Johns Square - Change of use from garage to holiday let including associated alterations. P.1793/15/FUL.

RESOLVED that 'No Objections' be raised to any of the above applications.

- (e) Colliers Court, Latimer Road - Retention of temporary access onto Latimer Road and conversion into entrance point for staff only. P1807/15/FUL.
- (f) The Northern Quarter - Discharge of Condition (23), Bat Monitoring Strategy relating to planning permission P0663/14/OUT. P0110/15/Discon.
- (g) Beechenhurst Lodge, Speech House Road - Dormer to north elevation, two external canopies to picnic benches, link between two retail areas and removal of glazing bars to cafe area. P1593/15/FUL.

RESOLVED the above three applications be Supported.

36.

140. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

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

RESOLVED the accounts and wages
relating to the following accounts be paid.

BVC/CTC - £12,936.75
BVC - £1,057.38
CTC - £3,091.94

141. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

RESOLVED the next Meeting be held on
Tuesday, 12th January 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

142. CLOSURE.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 8.40 p.m, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.