

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held at The Council Chamber, Cinderford on Tuesday, 11th April 2017 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS; Mrs L.I. Sterry (Chair), M.M. Coborn (Mayor), Mrs L. Bent, T.R. Holder, Mrs E.D. Martin, G.L. Morgan, R. Sterry, M. Turner, Ms. K. Wynn.

Town Clerk; Mrs L.L. Thomas

APOLOGIES for Absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs K. Brown, Mrs J. Johnson, R. Pritchard, L.S. Wilce, C. Witham.

Declarations of Interest - None.

205. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2017, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

206. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

(a) GAPTC/NALC Lobby Day (Minute 187)

Mark Harper MP had confirmed he would be happy to visit Cinderford Town Council to meet with Councillors, and asked that his office be contacted to arrange the meeting. Noted.

(b) Highways - Road Closures - (Minute 188, 189, 190)

Brian Watkins had confirmed that although some of the Church Road drainage works had been completed prior to the resurfacing being carried out, the remainder of the works had to be carried out with a road closure in place due to Health and Safety of the workforce. The other two closures were for Severn Trent to carry out works, Highways do inform all utility companies of resurfacing works, and they have no powers to prevent them carrying out these works. It would appear therefore that Severn Trent had no plans to carry out any works at these locations. Noted.

(c) Old Town Clock - (Minute 194)

Cinderford St. John's CC had accepted the offer of £750. for the clock, and the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements for the collection of the same. Noted.

(d) Forest Fitness Centre - (Minute 197)

Cllr R. Sterry commented on the presentation at the Gym, and what a wonderful facility it was for Cinderford, and that the Town certainly should appreciate what Alan Elliott had achieved. Noted.

207. 1st CINDERFORD SCOUT GROUP - REQUEST FOR DONATION.

The Chairman of the Scout Group had written that the District Commissioner had banned them from using the Scout Hut until it had been refurbished to an acceptable standard. Despite raising funds of £3,000. by their own means, they still needed to find a further £11,000. and asked if the Town Council could assist them with a donation.

Members were very keen to support the Scouts and agreed to give a donation of £1,000. and would consider further funding requests from the Scouts.

RESOLVED that a donation of £1,000.
be given under Section 137.

208. CCTV - UPGRADING OF CURRENT SYSTEM.

Following a meeting with Redhand, the Clerk had ascertained that technology had evolved considerably since the original CCTV system had been installed, and the Clerk asked them to forward costs for upgrading the current system. The cost for upgrading all 12 cameras would be £4,500. plus the cost of a 32 channel Network Video recorder for £988. For the installation of an ANPR which would be of great benefit to the Police, would cost approximately £700. The Clerk had emailed the PCC regarding any grant funding available towards the cost, and the Members confirmed that if funding was available, she should progress this. The Members also asked the Clerk to contact FODDC to enquire if funding would be available from them, for a further camera in the Heywood Car Park.

RESOLVED accordingly.

209. GCC - WOODSIDE STREET CAR PARK.

The Clerk had received confirmation from GCC that due to long term onerous maintenance issues, they had now agreed to sell the top area of the car park to the adjoining householder, and had adjusted the purchase price to £8,500. The Clerk had discussed the issue with the Chair and thought the value of the land had dropped dramatically, but it was a decision for Council to take. Members agreed the asset value of the land had dropped, but in order to continue to provide car parking in the area, instructed the Clerk to offer the sum of £1.

RESOLVED accordingly.

210. DOG WASTE BINS/SERVICE COSTS.

On the advice of the contractor, the Clerk had priced up steel waste bins, which would be approximately £180. plus fittings, plus £10. installation, then the cost of the weekly collection of £3.39 per bin, which would be £176.28 per annum. It was suggested that maybe FODDC could be asked to supply more litter bins, if the issue was also litter, and the Clerk suggested deferring the matter until the Town Working Group had met to discuss the issues being raised in various areas.

RESOLVED accordingly.

211. ON-LINE BANKING/CREDIT CARD USE.

The Clerk suggested to Members that they now consider changing to on-line banking, which would be easier to make payments, in accordance with Financial Regulations, and less time consuming than writing individual cheques. She also suggested the Council hold a credit card to be able to purchase items on line, again in accordance with Financial Regulations. Members agreed this was certainly the way for Council to progress and agreed the Clerk proceed.

RESOLVED accordingly.

212. MEMBERS REPORTS.

- Cllr Mrs Martin confirmed that the FoD Health Forum were meeting with the new Chief Executive of the Health Trust, which should be informative.
- Cllr Coborn commented that he was looking at ideas to get the black wheelie bins (left on the pavements at the bottom of Town) decorated, but would bring this back to Council at a later date.

213. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

As Members of the Development Control Committee, Cllrs G.L. Morgan, R.A. Sterry and Mrs L.I. Sterry took no part in the vote on any of the following applications.

- (a) 9 Pembroke Street - Single storey rear extension (General Permitted Development Extension) - P0450/17/GPDE

- (b) 12 Bilson - Construction of a two storey rear extension - P0419/17/FUL
- (c) 13 Steam Mills - Retrospective application for a double gated access leading to a hardstanding for motorcycle access - P0402/17/FUL
- (d) 2 Stockwell Green - Demolition of rear single storey lean-to - P0467/17/DEM

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

- (e) 21-23 Market Street - Creation of 5 residential units and refurbishment of existing residential unit with associated alterations. Refurbishment of two existing retail units - P0480/17/FUL

RESOLVED the above applications be Supported with the two retail plus storage units to remain in perpetuity, protected as important Town Centre frontage.

214. 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 - £12,326.15
BVC - £4,115.18.
CTC - £14,241.42

215. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

RESOLVED the next Meeting being the Annual Meeting of the Council, be held on Tuesday, 9th May 2017 at 7 p.m.

216. COUNCILLOR TRAINING.

Cllr Mrs Martin reported that Mitcheldean PC were considering Councillor Training, and suggested that a joint training session could be arranged for Mitcheldean and Cinderford, thereby reducing the costs for each Council, and asked that the Clerk contact Mitcheldean Clerk accordingly.

217. FORMER ENGLEHARD FACTORY.

Cllr Mrs Bent raised concerns that youngsters were now gaining access and throwing canisters out through the windows. Cllrs Coborn and Morgan confirmed they would look to meet with Mr. L. Jones to discuss the problem with him.

218. INTERACTIVE SIGNS.

The Chair understood that the PCC had set aside funding for the provision of interactive signs, which she considered would be useful in the High Street. She and Cllr R. Sterry confirmed they would get further information, to allow the item to be discussed as an Agenda item.

219. CLOSURE.

The meeting closed at 8.50p.m.