

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held at The Council Chamber, Cinderford on Tuesday, 13th June 2017 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS; Mrs L.I. Sterry (Chairman), R.A. Sterry (Mayor), A. Knight (Deputy Chair/Mayor), Mrs K. Brown, M.M. Coborn, T. R. Holder, Mrs E.D. Martin, G.L. Morgan (8.10 pm), R. Pritchard, M. Turner, C. Witham.

Town Clerk - Mrs L.L. Thomas

APOLOGIES for Absence were received from Cllr. Mrs L. Bent, Mrs J. Johnson, Ms. K. Wynn.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

21. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No Members of the Public in attendance.

22. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2017, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

23. RENEWAL OF INSURANCE PREMIUM/PROPERTY VALUATION.

Following a meeting with the Account Executive, to ensure all properties were properly insured, the Clerk had received the insurance renewal, together with a property valuation offer, if the business was extended for a further three year period. The Clerk advised the contract be extended to take advantage of the property valuation.

RESOLVED the Clerk confirm a further three year extension to the contract.

24. FOREST SENSORY SERVICES - DONATION REQUEST.

Following a donation request from FSS it was agreed a donation of £250. be given, and that this would become an annual donation to the organisation.

RESOLVED £250. be given under Section 137.

25. HOPE FOR TOMORROW - DONATION REQUEST.

A funding request had been received to support the mobile chemotherapy unit, and it was agreed the sum of £500. be given, and to consider making an annual donation to them.

RESOLVED £500. be given under Section 137.

26. FODDC - RISK OF FLOODING.

As the Environment Agency had identified Cinderford Brook to be a possible cause for flash flooding, a Community Plan had been prepared, with letters going out to all residents living in potentially affected areas providing action information if needed with plans showing places of safety. A gauge had been fitted in the Brook, which would send out alerts of any flooding threat. It was suggested that some Councillors should also receive the alerts in order to assist with any situation arising, with several Councillors confirming they would do this, being Mrs Sterry, R. Sterry, K. Brown, A. Knight, Mrs Martin, M. Turner and C. Witham.

RESOLVED accordingly.

27. GCC - APPOINTMENT OF FLOOD WARDEN.

Although Cllr Morgan was not in attendance, he had confirmed his willingness to stand as the Flood Warden for Cinderford.

RESOLVED Cllr Morgan be duly appointed Flood Warden.

28. FODDC - RIPARIAN MAINTENANCE.

Due to limited resources, the District Council had written asking the Town Council to undertake the initial correspondence with landowners, in non-urgent solutions. Members agreed they could not take on this responsibility and would not be able to assist at this time.

RESOLVED accordingly.

29. FODDC - CNQ LAND EXCHANGE COMPLETION.

The land exchange between Forestry Commission, Gloucestershire CC and FODDC had been completed, which included the simultaneous onward disposal of the site allocated for the new college campus. Northern United currently remained in the ownership of HCA but should be transferred later in the year. Noted.

30. FODDC - COMMUNITY LED HOUSING.

The Government Housing White Paper 'Fixing Our Broken Housing Market', identified the government's intention to help empower local communities to take the lead in building their own homes in their areas. FODDC had written asking if the Town Council would like a presentation from Wiltshire & Gloucestershire Community Land Trust to explain the benefits this could bring to the area.

RESOLVED that Council receive the suggested presentation.

31. GCC - ROAD CLOSURE ORDER.

Stockwell Green would be closed for a 20 metre section from Oak Meadow Lane, to outside 'Threeways' from 29th - 31st August for new water connections. Noted.

32. BARREL PLANTERS IN ABBEY STREET.

As the barrels had become very dilapidated, the Clerk suggested the four barrels on the corner of Abbey Street/Woodside Street, be removed.

RESOLVED accordingly.

33. CAP HERITAGE PROJECT.

Heritage Open Days was a national initiative, running for over twenty years, which this year would be taking place from 7th - 10th September. The co-ordinator from Coleford Area Partnership had asked if the Town Council would consider running its annual Memorabilia Day, on that weekend, in co-ordination with the programme. All Members agreed it was a good idea, and Cllr Witham confirmed St. Stephens Church would also be doing something and suggested combining both venues for the Open Day/s.

RESOLVED accordingly.

34. SEAFARERS UK - FLYING THE RED ENSIGN.

The Red Ensign was the official flag of the British Merchant Navy, with Merchant Navy Day taking place on 3rd September and Seafarers UK were asking for the flag to be flown to show awareness of the ongoing reliance on seafarers and shipping.

RESOLVED the Clerk purchase a Red Ensign flag to be flown on the weekend of 1st - 4th September.

35. Cllr COBORN - WEEDS IN TRIANGLE.

Cllr Coborn asked for something to be done to control the weeds in the Town Centre. The Clerk explained that in addition to Biffa carrying out weed clearance, the men also sprayed, but unfortunately with bird seed being thrown down regularly it encouraged weed growth, and the excess water from the planters, also didn't help this. She would however, ask the maintenance men if they could spray more regularly.

RESOLVED accordingly.

36. Cllr COBORN - BIN IN DOUBLE VIEW.

Cllr Coborn asked if a bin could be placed in the Muga area, as it had been heavily littered when he and Cllr Morgan had walked around it. The Clerk had removed the bin from the area, as the maintenance men had complained that the bin was only used for the depositing of dog faeces, and in fact, this had also caused other issues around the field. Members agreed the area be monitored. It was also acknowledged that the maintenance men did have a heavy work programme throughout the Summer and perhaps Council should look at staffing levels overall.

RESOLVED accordingly.

Cllr. Morgan arrived.

37. Cllr COBORN - VALLEY ROAD/ENGLEHARD SITE.

The Clerk confirmed she had written to Mr. Jones at Rothdean regarding security, but had not yet received a reply and had also spoken with the Police. She had been informed that it had been much quieter. Cllr Coborn confirmed this, but people were very concerned that youths were still gaining access to the properties and felt that there would be a serious injury or even death if no action was taken to prevent access to the buildings.

RESOLVED the Clerk write to Mr. Jones again.

38. Cllr COBORN - FORMAT OF AGENDA.

Following changes to the format of the Agenda, Cllr Coborn was concerned that Members had lost the ability to raise urgent items. The Clerk confirmed that the Agenda was in the same format as other large Councils, but suggested, that perhaps 'Urgent Business at the discretion of the Chairman' be included on the Agenda.

RESOLVED accordingly.

39. CORRESPONDENCE.

- CPRE - Notice of AGM at Hopewell Colliery - 13th July 2017 at 7 pm.
- Forestry Commission - Workshop for CTC Reps - 23rd June 2017 10 am - 4 pm.
- Steam Mills School - have purchased bin, benches also arrived - Clerk would arrange for fitting as soon as possible. School had also asked for permission to use field for their Sports Day.

40. MEMBERS REPORTS.

Cllr Mrs Martin gave a report from the FoD Health Forum, copy attached to the Minutes. There ensued a discussion regarding the reporting of the closure of the local hospitals and the resulting comments on social media, which insinuated that Councillors had knowledge of the reported proposals.

41. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

As Members of the Development Control Committee, Cllrs G. Morgan, R. Sterry, and Mrs L.I. Sterry, did not take part in the vote on any of the applications discussed.

- (a) 12 Bilson - Erection of a two storey rear extension and remodelled single storey extension - P0912/17/FUL.

RESOLVED no objections be raised.

- (b) 53 High Street - Discharge of condition 03 (foul and surface water drainage) of planning permission P1527/16/FUL.

RESOLVED that objections be raised as there continued to be a discharge of water onto the highway.

GCC - Former Broadmoor Brickworks, FVIE - Change of use - Granted Permission.

42. 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 - £17,104.19.
BVC - £6,440.03.
CTC - £24,641.22.

43. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

RESOLVED the next Meeting be held on Tuesday, 11th July 2017 at 7 p.m.

44. CLOSURE.

The meeting closed at 8.50p.m.