

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held online in a secure Zoom video conference on Tuesday, 9th June 2020 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS; C. Witham (Chairman), G.L. Morgan (Deputy), Max Coborn (Mayor), C. Brown, Mason Coborn, J. Charlton-Wright, Mrs E.D. Martin, Ms S. Reader, Mrs L.I. Sterry, R.A. Sterry, M. Turner.

Town Clerk - Mrs L.L. Thomas.

APOLOGIES for Absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs L. Bent, T.R. Holder, Ms R. Lewis, R. Pritchard.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

173. DISCUSSION OF VOTING METHOD.

As Members joined into the zoom meeting, the Chairman briefed everyone on the hand raising, yes and no icons on the zoom, to allow for clear voting.

174. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS.

Nothing to discuss.

175. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2020, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

176. STAFFING UPDATE and H & S considerations for the re-opening of the offices.

The Clerk confirmed that both Maintenance men were back at work, and had been provided with masks, gloves and hand sanitiser and she was keeping contact with them throughout. There had been no guidance on the re-opening of the offices, but she was keeping up to date, with information through NALC and GAPTC. She had also had discussions with FODDC regarding the re-opening of the High Street, with the provision of hand sanitisers, posters and footpath arrows.

177. MWPF Update, CCTV and SKATEPARK.

The new park at the MWPF had been completed and looked amazing, with local residents very pleased with it. The skatepark plans still needed to be looked at, prior to planning permission being applied for, and also the running track still required planning. All had been held up due to the COVID lockdown.

178. GCC - VARIOUS ROAD NOTICES.

Only bulletin updates received which had been forwarded to Members, and were available to the public by following the link <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roadworks>. Noted.

179. CORRESPONDENCE.

- The Matron from the Dilke Hospital had written a thank you letter to the Town Council for the donation of fruit and chocolates, for the staff.
- GCC had sent a Notice of Adoption of the Minerals Local Plan for Glos. (2018-2032).
- Highways had written asking if Cllr Roger Sterry would remain as Snow Warden for the forthcoming winter, which he confirmed he would continue.

- A query had been received through social media, from the Dog House regarding re-opening and to being able to put tables and chairs outside – the Members agreed in principle, working within Govt guidelines, and to be aware of disabled users. Suggested the Clerk, Chair and Cllr Turner look at the proposal with those being considered by FODDC

180. MEMBERS REPORTS.

- Cllr Witham reported that NHS Trust were awaiting planning permission for the new hospital, but that everything had been disrupted due to lockdown. They were now keen to progress the supporting projects – Skatepark, MUGA resurfacing etc.
- Cllr Brown reporting on the Future High Street Fund, confirmed the consultation would end on 12th June and so far the feedback had been good. A sheet of FAQ's had been prepared and circulated. CTC would discuss the full proposals at the July meeting, for submission at the end of July.
- Cllr Turner reporting on the community hub, confirmed that Lynda, Anne, himself and Karen and also Rachel Witham had all been responding with various asks, such as collecting prescriptions, shopping, dog walking etc. Things were starting to slow down a little, but there had been a really strong community support. Cllr Martin thanked everyone involved, including the FODDC team, and the local shops for making deliveries. Hopefully the community support and caring would continue. Cllr Morgan as County Councillor also thanked everyone, and especially Cllr Turner for all they had done. District Members had also been ringing Parishioners to ensure every was alright. Cllr Brown commented that the Foodbank and Salvation Army had seen a massive spike in demand, and concern was expressed about the financial impact now hitting people, and the ramifications of employment and health in the near future.
- County Cllr Morgan confirmed that the Oak Quarry had now re-opened from 27th May, with people having to book online. Two posts had now been fitted for the new VAS for Cinderford Bridge and he had commented to FODDC Planning regarding the road widening at Buckshaft Road regarding the St. Whites School development. He had also looked at funding some murals to be painted by Tom Cousins, on the Forest High School, to improve the look of the building. As County Councillor he had also commented on the planning application for the former Englehard site supporting the application.
- Cllr Mrs Martin spoke on her Report which had already been circulated to Members, and attached to these Minutes. She was currently working on the Recovery and Regeneration of the Forest, and also working on making Town Centres safe due to COVID. Grants had been given out, and accommodation found for homeless. It was hoped to have a virtual Full Council and AGM at the end of June and the planning committee meetings had already started.

181. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

Applications dealt with during lockdown;

- (a) 2 Commercial Street – GPD Prior approval for conversion of ground floor retail space to residential – P0484/20/PM3PA.
- (b) 25Victoria Street – Erection of a wooden lodge with associated works. Demolition of 2 existing brick sheds – P0402/20/FUL.
- (c) 50A Flaxley Street – Creation of off road parking bay including dropped kerb and pathway, removal of boundary wall and creation of a gentle sloped bay - P0556/20/FUL.

No Objections

- (d) Land off Forest Vale Road – Erection of 5 units (mixed use) with associated parking, landscaping and works – P0307/20/FUL

Support

(e) 24A Church Road - Erection of new studio/workshop in rear garden – P0495/20/FUL

Objections – over development of garden,
with detrimental effect and over looking
of neighbours

(f) 115 High Street – Outline Application for the erection of two semi-detached dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and works (some matters reserved) - P0492/20/OUT

Objections – over development of land,
leaving insufficient amenity areas for the
two existing large properties facing the High Street.
Also overbearing for the existing properties in Mountjoy's
Land End, which would give access to the proposed
development.

Applications for consideration;

(g) 115 High Street - Change of use from veterinary practice to dwelling – P0493/20/FUL.

RESOLVED No objections to the change
of use but as there is insufficient amenity and
storage area for 115 and 115a, that part of
the land to the rear of the site should be
utilised and allocated to this site.

(h) Englehard Complex – Outline Application for proposed mixed use development and site clearance (some matters reserved) – P0577/20/OUT

RESOLVED Support for the development.
However concern expressed with Valley Road
which urgently needs widening or some form of
traffic control, to cope with the increased traffic,

(i) 26 Barleycorn Square – Erection of a two storey side extension and first floor extension over existing utility – P0715/20/FUL

RESOLVED No Objections.

182. 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 - £199,016.69
BVC - £7,915.51
CTC - £19,498.72

183. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

RESOLVED the next Full Meeting be
held on Tuesday, 14th July 2020
at 7 p.m.

184. CLOSURE.

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.