

## **CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held online in a secure Zoom video conference on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 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, Ms R. Lewis, Mrs E.D. Martin, Ms S. Reader, Mrs L.I. Sterry, R.A. Sterry, M. Turner.

Town Clerk - Mrs L.L. Thomas.

Chris Jones, Aled Roberts – Future High Street Bid

APOLOGIES for Absence – None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr R. Sterry declared a personal interest in item 13, being the planning application for 133 Victoria Street.

### **185. DISCUSSION OF VOTING METHOD.**

The Chairman reminded everyone on the voting system, as previously agreed.

### **186. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS.**

Nothing to discuss.

### **187. MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2020, having been circulated, were confirmed and agreed to be signed as a correct record.

### **188. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE FINAL SUBMISSION FOR FHS BID.**

The Clerk had already circulated to all Members, a copy of the draft submission document together with supplementary Covid-19 questions and appendices, to ensure all Members were aware and fully informed to receive the presentation. The Chair welcomed Chris and Aled to the meeting and invited them to speak on the submission document.

Since meeting with the Town Council in February, the proposed projects; 1. Methodist Church, 2. GP site, 3. The Triangle/High Street, 4. Former HSBC Bank and 5. Rheola House, had all been worked on, and the following progress had been made;

- Interim Business Case issued to Government for comment
- Proposal development and cost assessment
- Discussions with GCC, highways authority
- Developing economic, commercial and financial cases
- Discussion over the Benefit to Cost Ratio
- Organised and hosted community consultation
- Pre-apps discussion with Local Planning Authority
- Developed the change of use planning package for former HSBC Bank for submission to LPA
- Undertaken final cost assessment
- Created supporting documents eg risk register
- Developed final draft business case document, appendices and Covid-19 response.

Chris and Aled both spoke on the projects and the rationale behind everything, and then answered questions raised by Members.

Following completion of the presentation, the Chairman clarified that Members would need to consider and approve the following;

- (i) Full Business Case and Appendices

RESOLVED formal approval for submission of documents.

- (ii) Submission of two planning applications (GP site and former Bank), as previously discussed

RESOLVED formal approval for submission of both planning apps to LPA.

- (iii) Cinderford Town Council to commit to the proposed Co-ordinator post for the Church and Bank projects.

RESOLVED accordingly.

- (iv) Cinderford Town Council to be Lead Responsible Organisation, if successful with the Bid.

RESOLVED accordingly.

Chris Jones had enjoyed working with such a pro-active Council, who worked with and for its community, and thanked the Town Council for the opportunity and wished them luck with their Bid with the Future High Street Fund.

Cllr Chris Brown thanked Chris and his associates and also the District Council team, for all their work and input, in which had been exceptional circumstances.

#### **189. SAFE RE-OPENING OF THE HIGH STREET.**

Cllr Mrs Martin and the Clerk had both attended a meeting that morning to discuss the safety implementations in the High Streets of all 4 Forest Towns. Following consultation it had been decided to remove the water barriers in all the Towns, although there had been some positive comments received. The five free parking spaces (30 min stay) had now been marked in the Heywood Car Park to hopefully encourage people to shop local. Further hand sanitizer units would be fitted throughout the Town, and following the recent government advice to wear masks, signage would be fixed to lamp posts to remind people of this safety measure.

#### **190. SAFE RE-OPENING OF RECREATION AREAS.**

The Clerk confirmed that the Skatepark had now been re-opened with relevant signage put in place. Kelly Bluett had asked permission to carry out some skateboard sessions, which would be £15. Per person per session or £70. For a block of 6 sessions and had supplied to the Clerk all relevant required paperwork. They would also look to provide a closed session for disadvantaged young people, which would be fully funded. With regard to the Miners Field, Kompan should have been fitting the final outstanding pieces today, and with further maintenance work completed this week, the park should be open on Friday, again with relevant signage in place. Some parents had made contact with Cllr Turner asking if they could put up a bouncy castle and some gazebo's on the field on Friday, to celebrate a group of year 6 children leaving school. Members could not see an issue with the gazebo, but the bouncy castle would need to be risk assessed with numbers of users restricted. Social distancing rules would need to be adhered to also.

Rich Wilkins had also contacted the Clerk regarding resuming training on the Lower High Street and the Miners Field, and had supplied the Clerk with the relevant required paperwork.

The Clerk confirmed that the remainder of the Council recreation areas would be re-opened as soon as they could be manually checked and all required signage put in place.

**191. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2020.**

The Clerk had circulated all the accounts and paperwork to Members for their perusal prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED the accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, be duly approved and accepted.

**192. APPROVAL OF GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2019/20.**

The Clerk referred Members to questions number 1- 8 of the Governance Statement.

RESOLVED that questions 1-8 be answered 'Yes' to each and duly approved.

**193. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTING STATEMENT FOR 2019/20.**

The Clerk had circulated the Accounting Statement with all relevant supporting information and it was

RESOLVED the Accounting Statement be duly approved and accepted.

Cllr. S. Reader left the meeting at 8.55 pm.

**194. GCC - VARIOUS ROAD NOTICES.**

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>. The Clerk had also received notice of GripFibre work to be undertaken in July, on the Mireystock Upper Lydbrook Road, and on the Speech House Road, Broadwell to Cannop. Although out of Cinderford Parish, the information had been forwarded to Members for information and sharing. Noted.

**195. CORRESPONDENCE.**

- Foresters Forest – introducing a blue and green plaque scheme to commemorate historic figures who lived or worked in the Forest of Dean. Already forwarded to Members for information. Full details and how to vote on their website; <https://bit.ly/BlueGreenPlaques>.
- Wyedean Tourism – digital content/virtual tour linking with the re-opening of High Street. FODDC would fund website Town content covering the four Towns, but were asking if the Town Councils would fund a clip to promote their own Town to be included on the website at a cost of £2/2,500. Members thought this would be a positive way in which to promote local shops who had been so helpful at the start of lockdown, and to encourage people to continue to shop local and agreed to take part in the promotion of the Town.

**196. MEMBERS REPORTS.**

The Chair asked for any Members Reports to be submitted to the Clerk which would then be circulated by email, and attached to the Minutes for information.

**197. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

Applications for consideration:

- (a) Woodside Gate House, Woodside Street – Erection of first floor extension – P0828/20/FUL.
- (b) 12 Parragate – Erection of a domestic garage to replace existing (part retrospective) – P0849/20/FUL.

- (c) 133 Victoria Street – Proposed erection of a front extension – P0825/20/FUL.
- (d) Amended Description – 9 Wesley Road – Conversion of existing property from 6 bedsits to 10 bedsits accommodation. Erection of a two storey front extension and erection of a three storey rear extension with associated works. (Revised Scheme) – P0110/20/FUL.
- (e) Forest Coach House, Woodville Road – Construction of raised off road parking area for two vehicles. (Part retrospective) – P0760/20/FUL.

RESOLVED No Objections to all  
of the above applications.

**198. 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 - £24,950.48  
BVC - £2,703.16  
CTC - £3,166.80.

**199. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

RESOLVED the next Full Meeting be  
held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
at 7 p.m.

**200. CLOSURE.**

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.