

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held online in a secure Zoom video conference on Tuesday, 8th September 2020 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS; C. Witham (Chairman), Mrs L. Bent, C. Brown, Mason Coborn, J. Charlton-Wright, Ms R. Lewis, Mrs E.D. Martin, Ms S. Reader, M. Turner.

Town Clerk - Mrs L.L. Thomas.

APOLOGIES for Absence – G.L. Morgan (Ruspidge & Soudley PC), Max Coborn (Mayor), R. Pritchard.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

201. CONFIRMATION OF DISCUSSION AND VOTING METHOD.

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

202. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS.

The Chair had invited a local parishioner to join in the meeting, who had made contact with the Clerk regarding the extremely poor broadband service they had in and around the Market Street area. Mr. Davies had kindly put together a visual presentation for Council to explain the position clearly. He had already tried to get the service improved, but was unable to get over BT restrictions, and there were still 1.45 million people without fibre optic. When he had applied for a grant to get the work done, he was informed that Cinderford was considered Urban and not Rural. It did seem that there was a lot of mis-representation, and it was suggested that he contact Mark Harper MP regarding the Urban/Rural description. The Chair thanked Mr. Davies for his informative presentation, and asked him to keep the Town Council informed with any updates he received. Mr. Davies thanked the Council and then left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

203. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2020, having been circulated, were confirmed and agreed to be signed as a correct record.

204. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND PARADE.

With the ongoing Covid situation, the annual Christmas Parade would not be able to be held, but the Clerk had confirmed with the electricians for the lighting to be erected, as usual. She had also been contacted by someone asking to join in with a vehicular parade around the Town area, which could be viewed from gardens etc, and include the Christmas lorry and maybe a Fire Engine if available. Members agreed and confirmed the Events Committee could deal with any arrangements, if required.

205. FOREST VIEW PARK – REQUEST FOR SEATING.

Cllr Morgan had received a request for seating to be installed in Forest View Park which was really used as a transient park for Parents and children going to and from School. Local residents had complained in the past and the Council had removed anything used as seating which attracted older youths in the later evening. Members did not think seating was required in this area, but being aware of some initiatives/funding in the near future, agreed that all provision be looked at by the Playing Fields Committee.

206. STEAM MILLS REC GROUND – BOAR PROOF FENCING.

The boar had once again got into the Recreation ground turving up some of the pitch. Members of the football club had seen it and immediately put the ground back into place. However they had been unable to use the ground for the two previous seasons due to boar damage, and were now asking if the Council would consider erecting boar proof fencing along the forest boundary and the side boundary behind the park. The Clerk had obtained a quote from a Company experienced in doing this type of fencing, for the sum of £4215. It had also been established that the boar had also walked through the brook and this would need some kind of work carried out.

RESOLVED the Clerk instruct for the
fencing to be done as soon as possible.

207. CINDERFORD TOWN AFC – REQUEST FOR ADV BOARD/DONATION.

The Football Club had contacted the Clerk to see if the Council would renew the advertising boards to support them as in previous years, and the Chair had agreed to a two year period. The Club had appointed a voluntary Commercial Manager who was looking at fund raising to repair the roof and refurbish the Club to ensure its maximum use. The costs of repairs needed was in the region of £13,000. And for roof repairs needed to ensure the building was watertight amounted to just under £6,000. County Cllr Morgan had confirmed he was happy to give the remainder of his County community budget (£664.05) and the Club had written to ask if the Town Council could also support them with this. As the Music Festival could not be held this year, it was agreed the budgeted sum of £2,000. be allocated to the Club for the vital roof repairs, to be released, when the Club had raised sufficient funds to carry out the roof repairs.

RESOLVED accordingly.

208. REDUCTION OF SPEED LIMITS THROUGHOUT THE TOWN.

Cllr Charlton-Wright had raised his concern regarding the speed of traffic travelling around the Town, the side streets and the outskirts and felt more needed to be done to try to reduce these speeds. There was already a 20mph limit through the Town Centre but needed to be enforced. Other Members were also aware that the FoD Road Safety group were always looking at the issue of speed throughout the Forest. It was also something that County Cllr Morgan had raised, and continued to raise, on many occasions with Highways. It was agreed that the Town Council was committed to working with Highways and would continue to look at ways of reducing speeds.

209. SPONSORSHIP OF WELCOME SIGNS/PLANTERS.

A business in Town had asked Cllr Turner if it would be possible to sponsor a sign on the Town entrance. The Clerk suggested that if more businesses were interested that maybe some of the planters could also be sponsored. It was agreed that a working group look at various options, costings etc. for further consideration.

Cllr. M. Turner left the meeting at 8.55 pm.

210. GCC - VARIOUS ROAD NOTICES.

- Heywood Road closed, from junction of Westfield Road to junction with Edge Hills Road to allow for boundary box install – 10/9 to 14/9.
- A4151 Church Street, Littledean closed from outside Camp Farm to outside Cherry Tree Farm to allow for tree trimming – 8/10 to 14/10 between 9.30 and 15.30

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>.

211. CORRESPONDENCE.

- Donation acknowledgements received from CANDI, St. John's Church, FoD Health Forum, Great Oaks Hospice.
- Heritage Open Days would be taking place 12th September, with Cllrs Morgan and Turner opening the Archives for people, but whilst observing COVID regulations.
- GAPTC had sent a notice for Resolutions to be submitted by 14th October, for the AGM taking place by Zoom on Wednesday 9th December at 6.30 pm.
- An invitation had been received from FODDC to attend an online Climate Action Day for Town and Parish Councils, on Wednesday 7th October 10 am to 4 pm – copy had been forwarded to Members for information.
- An invitation had been received from FODDC to attend an online Climate Emergency Partnership Development Event (Part 2) on Wednesday 23rd September, 6.30 – 8.45 pm – copy forwarded to Members for information.
- GCC had sent out information regarding celebrating 'Gloucestershire Day' on Monday 21st September – copy sent to Members for information.
- FODDC had forward a copy of a Public Path Extinguishment Order in Hollydean.

212. 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.

213. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

The Clerk had circulated to Members a list of the Planning Applications dealt with during August recess:

- (a) Land at Whimsey Ind Estate – Erection of new construction industry education and training centre and related mock building site, P0980/20/FUL.
- (b) 6 Market Street - ~Change of use from former bank to a mix use of B1 (co-working office space), retail tester space (A1), a small café counter operation (A3) and ancillary space, P1092/20/FUL.
- (c) Cinderford Health Centre, Dockham Road – Permission in principle for the erection of 8 dwellings with associated works, P1228/20/PIP

Support for above applications.

- (d) Highlands, 50A Flaxley Street – creation of off road parking bay including dropped kerb and pathway, removal of boundary wall and creation of gentle sloped parallel parking bay with the inclusion of mirror visual aids on each entry point, P1013/20/FUL.
- (e) 11A Dockham Road – erection of a single storey extension, P1019/20/FUL.
- (f) 99A Victoria Street – removal of x1 Copper ~Beech tree and pollard x1 Willow tree, P1253/20/TPO

No Objections for above applications.

Planning Applications received for consideration:

- (g) Land adjacent 16 Edgehills Road – discharge of condition 5 (drainage details) of planning permission, P0224/20/FUL.

RESOLVED No Objections providing FODDC
Is satisfied that the condition has been met.

- (h) Pilgrim Cottage, 10 Upper Bilson Road – reduce Silver Birch by 50%. P1336/20/TPO.

RESOLVED No Objections.

214. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

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

RESOLVED the accounts and wages
totaling the following amounts be paid;
BVC/CTC - £46,833.60.
BVC - £4,920.23.
CTC - £3,438.96.

215. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

RESOLVED the next Full Meeting be
held on Tuesday, 13th October 2020
at 7 p.m.

216. CLOSURE.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.