

## **CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held at The Council Chamber, Cinderford on Tuesday, 11th April 2017 commencing at 6.00 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

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

Town Clerk; Mrs L.L. Thomas

Four Members of the Public

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

### **1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed everyone including the four Members of the Public, to the Meeting. The Town Council continued to work hard for the Town and had achieved the following;

- Completed the transfer of the Triangle from FODDC to the Town Council
- Moving forward to gain a Quality Assurance Award from GAPTC
- Two webcams in the Town centre, which was a first for the Forest, with thanks to Councillors Mark Turner and Chris Witham, plus provision of wi-fi in the Belle Vue Centre
- Official Trustees of the Forest Fitness Centre, working with FODDC and Freedom Leisure.

She concluded her Report, with thanks to the Clerk, and to Mrs Weyman for all their work throughout the year, to assist the Council in completing so many projects.

### **2. REPORT FROM THE MAYOR - CLLR M. COBORN.**

Cllr Coborn welcomed all to the meeting with his Report

- The Town Council continued to work with the Traders, but would like to see more of the Landlords involved.
- The loss of HSBC Bank was a blow for the Town
- Purchase of Triangle completed, with wi-fi now available
- First Music Festival held, with another planned for 2017
- Working group set up to look at tidying the Town to make it look more attractive
- Northern Quarter - work now started on the road but we need the jobs, housing and the Glos College now committed.
- Now have 15 excellent Town Councillors, including 5 District Councillors, doing their best for the Town
- Excellent flower display last year and sure it will be again this year, with thanks to the Council employees for their good work
- Thanks to all the Council staff who worked hard to ensure the Council runs throughout the year

He concluded that all Councils were cutting back, culminating in less services from some Councils, with tough decisions having to be made, but he hoped that Cinderford Town Council would continue to maintain its services.

### **3. REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLR. G.L. MORGAN.**

Cllr Morgan then proceeded to read his Report;

- Unfortunately services were continually being squeezed but the priority remained to continue to improve the quality of life for people and communities.
- The total GCC budget was 407.68 million for 2017/18 with
- £136.88 million allocated to Adult Services,
- £89.32 million to Children & families
- £83.8 million to Communities & infrastructure
- £72.78 million to Technical & support services
- £24.91 million to Public health
- Extra funding had been put forward for Highways to maintain the roads following comments received through the consultation

He concluded his Report, with the problems/complaints regarding traffic and congestion around the new St. Whites School area, and confirmed he was asking questions revolving around the development of the old School, and how this could help the current situation.

### **4. REPORT FROM DISTRICT CLLR. MRS E.D. MARTIN.**

Cllr Mrs Martin gave her Report, a full copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

### **5. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.**

The Chair asked the public if they wished to raise anything;

- A lady representing a group of people who had taken up residence on the Old Weighbridge site at Northern. had received Notice of Court Hearing for re-possession of the site and asked if the Town Council could give any assistance. She was advised that Glos County Council held the Statutory obligations for any traveller liaison, with FODDC having a Statutory duty for children and vulnerable adults.
- A question was asked about tourism, but it was explained that this was all dealt with on-line, although an office had opened by Coleford Town Council, When asked about access to the viewing platform in the Tower, it was explained that it was open when any event was held in the Town Centre, and Cllr Turner confirmed he would be happy to take anyone up there. The Clerk advised it was not possible to have open access at all times, due to health and safety.
- A complaint was made about the increasing amount of dog fouling around the Town, and it was explained that anyone making a complaint would need to go to Court, as a witness, which people were not willing to do. It was confirmed that the Town Council is currently looking at different options regarding the problem.
- Fly-tipping seemed to be an on-going issue with collection costs needing to be reduced.
- Speeding cars in Cinderford High Street, especially on Saturday afternoons - to be referred to the Police.

### **6. CLOSURE.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, and the Meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Di MARTIN -11/04/17

- The introduction of the new waste and recycling service in August last year has resulted in:
  - 32% increase in recycling and food waste collections between August and December compared to the same period last year
  - o 37.5 tonnes of plastic bottles collected per month compared to 195 tonnes for the whole of last year.
  - o 56% increase in paper and cardboard tonnages collected.
- The District Council was selected as a finalist in the prestigious UK Heart Safe Award for its role in enabling local communities to be more resilient through community defibrillation, health delivery projects and community engagement, as well as encouraging local communities to have first aid training so that they can confidently respond to an emergency in their local area.
- The Council also supported the annual 'Small Business Saturday' campaign with free car parking all day in Coleford, Lydney, **Cinderford**, Newent and Mitcheldean. Parking charges were also waived for the Christmas light switch-on events over the festive period.
- Phase 1 of the spine road construction in the Cinderford Northern Quarter is well underway. Temporary road closures are in place (August-September) in Newtown Road to allow the formation of the new junction at Newtown Road/Broadmoor Road.
- The funding decision for Growth Deal Round 3 has been announced meaning GlosCol has now made a firm decision to move to **Cinderford's** Northern Quarter.
- The Council's shared Environmental and Regulatory Service (environmental health) was highly commended in the recent national LGA/LGC awards. The new service has adopted smart working principles which enable staff to work remotely or from any of the Council centres across the partnership. Savings are approx.. £220k per annum for FODDC.
- To celebrate a year of providing community leisure facilities in the Forest of Dean, Freedom Leisure is offering unlimited swimming in public sessions, for just £10 a year, to the community's under 8's and over 75's –age groups where swimming can make a real difference to health.
- The District Council is working with Cinderford Town Council to enable Freedom Leisure to manage the Forest Fitness Centre and ensure its future viability.

· Three organisations received a cash prize as winners of the District Council and Forestry Commission's Clean for the Queen competition in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday. Lydney Parkrun, Steam Mills Primary School, **Cinderford** and Redmarley C of E Primary Academy were each awarded a share of a £1,000 prize fund donated by UBICO Limited. All three took up the challenge of arranging a community clean up to improve the look of their local area and the judges were impressed by the number of volunteers that took part and their litter picking efforts.

· The 'Love Your Forest' anti-litter campaign, which caught national media attention, was officially launched on 12 May with the opening of the UK's first ever rural 'litter shop' in Coleford. The shop showcased litter found in the area with the aim of highlighting in a thought-provoking but humorous way the problem of litter in the countryside. The campaign also features 'Communitrees,' whereby over a hundred trees at key litter hot-spots in the Forest are adorned with faces to deter would be litter louts to let them know they are 'being watched.' The 6-month long project is being run by behaviour-change charity Hubbub and supported by the Forest of Dean District Council, including Joint Waste Team officers, and Lucozade Ribena Suntory. If successful the project will be rolled out nationally to other rural areas.

· The Council, in partnership with Gloucestershire Dementia Education Strategy and members of the Forest of Dean Dementia Alliance organised a series of sixteen free Dementia Awareness Roadshow Events across the district in support of Dementia Awareness Week, which ran from 15 to 21 May 2016. The aim was to ensure attendees became better informed about dementia, have a better understanding of the condition, how it affects a person, how to communicate with someone with dementia and support that is available.

I represent the Town and District Council on the Forest Health Forum which strives to inform Patients and Public about Health Issues affecting people in the Forest Area. It is also a conduit for information exchange and will raise concerns that people may have with Commissioners and Provider.