

## **CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held online in a secure Zoom video conference on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

COUNCILLORS; C. Witham (Chairman), Mason Coborn, Mrs L. Bent, C. Brown, J. Charlton-Wright, Ms R. Lewis, Mrs E.D. Marlin, G.L. Morgan, Mrs L.I. Sterry, R.A. Sterry, M. Turner.

Town Clerk - Mrs L.L. Thomas.

APOLOGIES for Absence – Max Coborn (Mayor), R. Pritchard, Ms S. Reader.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the January meeting of Council and wished all a Happy New Year.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

- Cllr C. Brown – Budget item 14, ref Youth Association (CEO @ FVAF)
- Cllr Mrs Marlin – Budget item 14, ref CANDI (Committee Member)
- Cllr G. Morgan – Budget item 14, ref CANDI (Committee Member)

### **257. CONFIRMATION OF DISCUSSION AND VOTING METHOD.**

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

### **258. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

There were no Members of the Public joining the meeting.

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

Nothing raised.

### **260. MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 8th December 2020, having been circulated, were confirmed and agreed to be signed as a correct record.

### **261. MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the Belle Vue/Finance Meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, having been circulated, were confirmed and agreed to be signed as a correct record.

### **262. FLASH FLOODING – VALLEY ROAD and STEAM MILLS.**

Several Members had been contacted in December following the flash flooding in Steam Mills and Valley Road. Cllr Morgan as the Cinderford Flood Warden had done an excellent job in contacting all the various authorities/land owners in an effort to get the issue resolved. Luckily the properties in Steam Mills did not get flooded but several properties and cars were flooded in Valley Road, which had resulted from poor or lack of ongoing maintenance of the Cinderford Brook. The issue was still being looked at by GCC, the lead authority, with ongoing discussions with Forestry England and FODDC. It was agreed the Town Council should support this by writing to all relevant authorities and also to the MP.

RESOLVED accordingly.

#### **263. OPCC – SAFE & SOCIAL ROADS SURVEY.**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner had sent out an online survey for Parish and Town Councils to complete in order to get an overall picture of what local road safety initiatives were operating and how effective they were. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Morgan complete the survey.

RESOLVED accordingly.

#### **264. 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>.

#### **265. FUTURE HIGH STREET BID/WESLEY CHURCH.**

The Clerk confirmed that the bid had been unsuccessful due to a low Benefit Cost Ratio, and Cllr Brown would be attending a de-briefing the following day, which would allow him to report back more fully to Council at the February meeting. He was hopeful that the great designs/plans that had been drawn up could still happen, but in a different way.

With regard to the Wesley Church, it was already acknowledged that it was an historical building within the Town, and the project had received strong community support when included within the submitted bid, for funding. The Clerk reminded Members that should they wish to purchase the building and to apply for a PWLB loan to cover the purchase cost, they would need to take this into consideration when determining the budget/precept later in the meeting.

RESOLVED the Town Council look to purchase the Wesley Church, and the service cost of a PWLB loan be allowed for when discussing the Budget.

#### **266. SKATEPARK DESIGNS.**

The Clerk had already obtained two designs/costings, and Cllr Turner was waiting for a further quote from FUSE. It was agreed to defer the discussion to the next meeting of Council in February.

#### **267. CORRESPONDENCE.**

- GCC – copy of County draft budget totaling more than £480 million for 2021 showing a net increase of over "12 million.
- GCC – showing a cut of 97% in its net corporate CO2 emissions, since 2006/7.
- GCC – launched public consultation on its budget for 20/21, following approval by Cabinet.
- GCC – now using three new plug-in electric highways vans, which would be used to help repair roads across the county.
- GCC – Ash Dieback project replanting scheme – since June 2020, Highways had managed to remove 2,400 infected Ash trees which had posed a danger to highway users, and as they were entering the replanting phase, were encouraging local parish councils to use their local knowledge to assist in identifying suitable areas, where replanting could be undertaken – the Clerk asked Members to email any site area suggestions to her to allow her to complete and submit the form by 29<sup>th</sup> January. Noted.
- Resident – request for double yellow lines on Edgehills Road – Members agreed it was a problem with cars constantly being parked there and agreed to forward to GCC, in addition to other earlier requests ie Valley Road, and no-through road for Mountjoys Lane.

## **268. BUDGET 2020/2021.**

The Clerk circulated her Report to all Members for the 2021/22 budget, which allowed for varying payroll figures, depending on the new employment structure to be agreed. The Council had also previously agreed an annual grant of £1k for the mobile meals service as run by Age Concern – as this had now been taken over by another provider, the Clerk asked Members if they still wished to provide this grant. It was agreed it should be allowed for within the budget, but only paid out on evidence of status of new provider. Members also agreed to allow £45k to cover loan repayments if the Council were successful with their bid to purchase the Wesley Church (as discussed under Minute 265). Following the retirement of the current Clerk, the largest increase to the proposed budget was for payroll, to cover the cost of a 'Projects/Facilities Manager' to work with the new Clerk, and a further administrative assistant. Members agreed option 2 as presented by the Clerk and it was

RESOLVED the Precept for 2021/22  
be set at £374,560. (increase of £2.70  
per month on Band D).

## **269. DONATIONS.**

There still remained £467. In the donations budget for the current year, and not further requests had been received, although it was understood that Gloucestershire Police were currently encouraging the set up of further Neighbourhood Watch Groups, so funding requests could be received in the very near future.

## **270. TO REVIEW RISK ASSESSMENT AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS 2021.**

The documents had been previously circulated to Members for their perusal, and there had been no changes in the Financial Regulations. With regard to the Risk Assessment, the Clerk recommended that Council increase the Fidelity Guarantee from £300k to £600k, which Members agreed.

RESOLVED both documents be  
approved, with the amendment  
to the Risk Assessment as agreed.

## **271. TO REVIEW STANDING ORDERS.**

It was agreed to defer this item of business to the February meeting of Council.

## **272. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

(a) Land at Whimsey Ind Estate Road – Discharge of condition 09 (motorcycle parking), 10 (travel Plan), 11 (electric Vehicle Charging points), 12 (intrusive site investigations), 13 (remediation scheme) and 17 (external lighting) relating to planning permission P0980/20/FUL – P0126/20/Discon.

(b) Land at Whimsey Ind Estate Road – Discharge of condition 19 (external materials) of planning permission P0980/20/FUL – P0126/20/Discon.

RESOLVED No Objections to the above two  
applications, provided FODDC is satisfied that  
all conditions have been met.

## **273. 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.

Cllr Brown just wished to inform Members that FVAF had given out 100 Christmas Hampers, 55 of which were for Cinderford residents.

**274. 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 - £18,136.75

BVC - £6,892.58

CTC - £17,926.89

**275. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

RESOLVED the next Full Meeting be  
held on Tuesday, 9<sup>TH</sup> February 2021  
at 7 p.m.

**276. CLOSURE.**

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.