

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held online in a secure Zoom video conference on Tuesday, 9th February 2021 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS; Mrs E.D. Martin,(Acting Chairman), Max Coborn (Mayor), Mason Coborn, C. Brown, J. Charlton-Wright, Ms R. Lewis, G.L. Morgan (7.30pm), R. Pritchard, Ms S. Reader, Mrs L.I. Sterry, R.A. Sterry, M. Turner, C. Witham.

Town Clerk - Mrs L.L. Thomas.

John Whitehead (Forest High School), Rich Wilkins (Cinderford Town Youth AFC).

APOLOGIES for Absence – Mrs L. Bent.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

277. CONFIRMATION OF DISCUSSION AND VOTING METHOD.

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

278. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

There were no general Members of the Public joining the meeting.

279. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS.

The Chair welcomed John Whitehead, Headteacher of Forest High School, to the meeting. He explained that FHS was an aging site which required a significant amount of daily maintenance and repair. Since September 2019, money had been invested in improving the site, eg asbestos removal, new roofs and health and safety improvements. This had resulted in the maintenance budget being £13,000. Overdrawn. They now had a leaking roof on the conservatory section of the canteen, which had been patched up on several occasions, but now needed replacing. They had received one quote for £6,300. and were awaiting a further two quotes for the work. SGSAT had committed 50% of the costs, so assuming the quote of £6300 was acceptable, meant they required £3,150. to enable the work to be carried out and asked if the Town Council could give a grant. The Chair explained that Council could not make a decision on the request that evening, and asked that he forward the further two quotes to the Clerk, and Council would discuss the request at a further meeting. Mr. Whitehead thanked Council and left the meeting at 7.15 p.m.

280. LEASE OF ST. WHITES FIELD.

The Chair welcomed Rich Wilkins (Cinderford Town Youth AFC) to the meeting. He had been in touch with Bruton Knowles, the agents acting on behalf of the Church, for the lease of the field at St. Whites, and had been informed the Church was willing to lease the field to the Football Club over a 5 year lease, for £250. per annum and he was asking if the Town Council would consider paying the annual rental fee. The Clerk reminded Members that Council had previously offered £300. per annum for the field for community use, which had been refused. As this would provide further youth football pitches in the Town, Members agreed to pay the rental.

RESOLVED CTC would pay the £250.
per annum over the 5 year lease period.

281. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2021, having been circulated, were confirmed and agreed to be signed as a correct record.

282. RECRUITMENT UPDATE.

The Clerk confirmed the advert had gone to the local press and their online job vacancies, to GAPTC and to South West Recruitment Today, in a Public Sector Special. The application deadline was 23.59 on Sunday 28th February. It was agreed that a panel be agreed to select candidates, and to then interview and all Members would be invited to an online chat to meet the interviewees. The panel would consist of C. Witham, C. Brown, Ms R. Lewis, Mrs Di Martin, M. Turner.

The Clerk confirmed that her official leaving date would be 31st March 2021.

RESOLVED accordingly.

283. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2020/21.

A letter had been received Iain Selkirk regarding his appointment as the Council's Independent Internal Auditor for 2020/21, for which his fee would be £410.00.

RESOLVED that Iain Selkirk be appointed as the Independent Internal Auditor for the 2020/21 financial year.

284. CLIMATE ACTION UPDATE.

The Clerk had circulated to all Members, the notes of the Town & Parish CEE meeting held on 25th January 2021, and she had also written to Dr. Ana Belen Cristobal Lopez, in support of the funding bid for the Horizon 2020 Aurora Project, on behalf of the Council. Cllr Reader would be emailing out dates for the Climate Working Group to meet.

285. HSBC BANK.

The door fittings on the security door had broken which had caused the door to be unsafe. A new lock has been fitted to the old doors to allow it be used, and the Clerk had got a quote for a replacement door and side panel and for the two openings where the ATM's had been fitted. She considered the quote of £1,500. To be very reasonable and comparable to attempting to get the broken security door fixed.

RESOLVED the quote be accepted.

286. GCC - VARIOUS ROAD NOTICES.

- A4136 Monmouth Road, section 1, Upper Lydbrook – closed 5 nights for resurfacing, 19.00–07.00 - 22nd Feb to 26th Feb.
- Mousell Lane – closed 4 days for resurfacing, 07.00–19.00 - 17th Feb – 22nd Feb, excluding weekends.

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>.

287. FUTURE HIGH STREET BID – MOVING FORWARD.

Cllr Brown, Cllr Witham, Wendy Jackson and the consultants had met with government reps to discuss the application, Cinderford had been the 2nd smallest applicant from 101 applications, and the submission had been well received. Unfortunately the strength of volunteering, community impact verses a strict BCR just did not compete. The benefit cost ratio for the Cinderford bid was 1.4 and 1.5 was needed and the scoring metrix had been inappropriate for rural areas. Apparently there would now be a Levelling-up fund, to level and strengthen communities, so this could be something to consider. Hopefully the Town Council would be able to use some of the work the consultants had prepared in the future. The Chair thanked Cllr Brown for his work.

288. REVIEW STANDING ORDERS.

The Clerk had previously circulated the revised Standing Orders for Members perusal, and it was agreed they be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED accordingly.

289. CORRESPONDENCE.

- WPS Insurance – confirmation that Fidelity cover now increased to £600k with no additional premium payable.
- IMI Independent Memorial Inspection – the Clerk had noted the War Memorial was looking rather dirty and now had an iron staining on it and had contacted IMI for a quote to clean it. They had returned a quote for £1500 for a general steam clean plus a further £500 for the iron staining. Cllr Witham had found a contact to apply for funding for the cleaning and would apply for this.
- FODDC – the next Census would be taking place on Sunday 21st March and were asking for help in distributing information to the Public, and suggesting that any public building should be lit in purple.
- Greg Moger – the extension on the Scout Hut was now almost finished with just a further £2k to raise to complete the covered way and footpath to the disabled toilet, hopefully in the Spring. They had noted the closure of the Wesley Church and wishes to make their facilities available for anyone looking to hire space.
- Viv Hargreaves – the joint Parishes Communication Group had compiled a report on the FODDC preferred option on the Local Plan, which the Clerk had forwarded to all Members for their perusal. The Clerk reminded everyone that CTC had made no comment on the Local Plan as there was nothing appertaining to Cinderford. However, the suggestion of a new community being built at Churcham made no sense for ongoing wellbeing of the Forest at all. Members agreed with the comments raised in the report, and asked the Clerk to confirm their support, and to inform FODDC.
- Cllr Morgan – with regards to the flooding issues, the Clerk confirmed that Cllr Morgan had been very pro-active in contacting all the various organisations, who were now looking at working together to ensure this did not happen again, and the Clerk suggested that Cllr Morgan as the Flood Warden attend these future meetings. Cllr Witham suggested that another Member should also work with Cllr Morgan to ensure the Town Council would retain the knowledge and Cllr Charlton-Wright volunteered to do this.
- GCC – GFRS looking for wholetime community firefighters.
- GCC – Praise for GFRS in Covid 19 inspection report.
- GCC – Pledges new community resilience funding to support Gloucestershire's most vulnerable.
- GCC – No child to go hungry during half-term.
- Forest Economic Partnership – Putting the Forest on the Map – 10 minute survey.

290. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- (a) 20 Danby Close – erection of a two storey side extension and associated works – P0033/21/FUL.
- (b) 18 Woodlands Reach – erection of a replacement attached garage with first floor extension above to provide additional bedroom – P0004/21/FUL.
- (c) 13 High Street – change of use to x2 one bed flats with bike store and associated works and alteration – P2150/20/FUL.
- (d) 10A Causeway Road – alterations to front dormer with additional dormer to rear elevation, erection of a front porch, carport and pitched roof to existing garage – P0168/21/FUL.

RESOLVED No Objections be raised to any of the above applications.

291. MEMBERS REPORTS.

- Cllr Mrs Martin had attended a virtual meeting of re-opening High Streets safely on the 3rd February and briefly went through items covered, but nothing to report on Cinderford as such.

292. 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 - £13,491.12

BVC - £2,376.02

CTC - £4,136.12

293. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

RESOLVED the next Full Meeting be
held on Tuesday, 9TH March 2021
at 7 p.m.

294. CLOSURE.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.