

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

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

Town Clerk - Mrs L.L. Thomas.

APOLOGIES for Absence – Max Coborn, R. Pritchard, Mrs L.I. Sterry.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

295. CONFIRMATION OF DISCUSSION AND VOTING METHOD.

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

296. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

The Chairman then welcomed Mrs Jenny Wilkins to the Meeting, as she had a question to put to Council.

In light of the Climate change, she asked if Town Council would be amenable to the planting of community fruit trees on verges and in recreation areas around the Town. Members agreed it was a good idea and that the Climate Action Group discuss this and bring back to Council as to how to progress it. Cllr Reader said she would also raise it at the Forest Group to get their feedback. Mrs Wilkins thanked the Council for allowing her to present her question and then left the meeting.

297. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS.

Following a technical issue with the email system, Cllr Witham suggested the system be moved to Google Mail, which would mean a cost of £80/100 per month, but would be more robust. Members agreed changes should be made.

RESOLVED accordingly.

298. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 9th February 2021, having been circulated, were confirmed and agreed to be signed as a correct record.

299. FOREST HIGH SCHOOL.

As the canteen roof had been leaking badly for some time, the School had obtained 3 quotes to get the roof repaired which they had copied to the Clerk, and were asking for a contribution of £3,150. being half of the lowest quote they had received. Members discussed the request and in order to ensure the safety of pupils, agreed to pay the requested sum.

RESOLVED to pay Forest High School
the sum of £3,150. to carry out essential
repairs to the roof, under Section 137.

300. FORMER HSBC BANK.

Kelly Bluett from FUSE had contacted the Clerk as they were struggling to raise all the funding necessary for the flooring, and had supplied a list of materials required costing £2,182.50 which would see the floor completely re-laid and ready to use. Members agreed as the flooring would be of mutual benefit, but to ask for assurances that the floor would remain in situ, and all warranties to be given in the name of CTC.

RESOLVED Council pay £2,182.50
on receipt of invoices made out to
Cinderford Town Council.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to remind FUSE of their commitment for designs for the new proposed Skatepark at MWPF, in return for use of the bank building.

301. TOWN CENTRE FAMILY TRAIL.

Wendy Jackson (FODDC) had written regarding a Town Centre Family Trail to run in each of the four Forest Towns over the Spring/Summer period, subject to Covid guidelines being met. This would be a free to play digital trail to invigorate the High Streets. Further details can be found at <https://highstreetsafari.com/>. They had also received feedback from Forest of Dean & Wye Valley Tourism (FDWVT) who had also suggested a Shop Local Raffle. The recommendations were:

1. FoDDC to allocate £1,000 budget within their Reopening High Street Safely (RHSS) grant award to experiment with the family trail initiative before 30 June 2021. As this activity is eligible for RHSS funding support, there would be nil cost for the Town Councils or businesses to participate with this marketing campaign.
2. FoDDC, the 4 Town Councils and FDWVT to explore the Shop Local Raffle idea and if this can be taken forward to boost local sales. Please note this activity is not eligible for RHSS funding support.
3. FoDDC, the 4 Town Councils and FDWVT to agree a collaborative "Shop Local, Shop Safely" marketing approach. This will involve a named contact at each Town Council working with the FoD Regeneration team and FDWVT to identify participating businesses/trail locations; and, each partner to use their existing website and social media platforms to help market the family trail and/or raffle.

RESOLVED Council agreed with point 1, but more costs and information were needed in order to consider point 2. Point 3, was something that the proposed new project manager could work on, and Cllrs Di Martin and R. Lewis, confirmed they would be happy to be current contact for Wendy to discuss any progress.

302. WESLEY CHURCH.

As Town Council had already made the decision to purchase the Church, the Chair had been looking through the figures and proposed that the Church be purchased with money from balances. When setting the budget the sum of £45k had been set allocated for loan repayments, but if it was purchased from balances it would save the electorate the cost of interest on any loan. Members discussed the proposal and agreed it made financial sense to purchase it from balances,

RESOLVED to purchase the Church
for £225,000. to be paid from balances.

303. CLIMATE ACTION UPDATE - £50 JOINING FEE FOR GREENING CAMPAIGN.

Cllr Ms Reader had found information on a Greening Campaign, which would fit in with the Climate Change work, and currently with a special offer of a £50. Joining fee.

RESOLVED CTC join the Greening Campaign.

Cllr Sally Reader left the meeting at 8.17 pm.

304. GCC – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY.

GCC had written with notification of a change in legislation which would mean that certain unrecorded rights of way in the Parish could be lost.

If there are any historic tracks and ways which are no longer used on a daily basis but are considered to be part of the history of the Parish, and if they are not currently shown on the official records of rights of way, they could be permanently closed off in 2026 by the owner of the land over which they cross. Existing rights of way as shown on the Definitive Map will not be affected, but in order to protect unrecorded routes, they will need to be identified and claimed before 1st January 2026 cut off date. The Clerk confirmed that she had a copy of the Definitive Map in the area, and also suggested the Forest Waste land map, which Council had worked on previously. Cllr Morgan confirmed he would be interested in looking into this and would walk around the Parish to see if anything should be added to the Definitive Map.

RESOLVED accordingly.

305. GCC - VARIOUS ROAD NOTICES.

- Buckshaft Road, from junction with St. Whites to the junction with Coombe Drive, Tuesday 6th – 8th April, for new water connection.

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>.

306. DOUBLE VIEW and MOUNT PLEASANT PLAY AREAS.

The Clerk had circulated to Members, plans for replacement play areas, at Double View and Mount Pleasant, which would be funded from Section 106 funding. Members were pleased with both schemes, and confirmed the Clerk should order both.

RESOLVED accordingly.

307. CORRESPONDENCE.

- Glos Wildlife Trust had confirmed that the new bridge to access the Linear Park from Valley Road was almost complete. They were also looking to form another working group to consider a green spaces map of Cinderford, and needed reps from CTC. The Clerk confirmed that Cllrs Morgan and Holder had previously worked with Will Masefield, and were happy to continue. Cllr Charlto-Wright confirmed he would also be interested.
- NALC had confirmed the Remote Meetings Regulations would expire on 7th May, with the default position to go back to in-person meetings. However they were continuing to lobby and work with other local government bodies on allowing for remote meetings to continue and would keep Members updated. They were recommending that any Annual Parish Meeting is held towards the end of May, if Council wished to hold them in person with the Annual Council Meeting being held any time in May.
- GCC had confirmed that a community testing site would soon be set up at the Miners Welfare Hall in Cinderford, but this would be in addition to the Mobile Testing Unit at Cinderford Rugby Club.
- FODDC were undertaking a review of its current policy covering the Licensing Act 2003. The Clerk had forwarded copies to Members including the link to the consultation, and asked if anyone had concerns to contact her, in order for it to be included as an Agenda item for discussion in April.
- The Secretary of the Sheep Liaison Group had written confirming they continued to offer non-members the opportunity to make an address for up to five minutes, during their quarterly meetings on matters pertaining to running sheep on the statutory Forest. Currently due to covid restrictions, any concerns should be addressed to the Chair, Clare Harvey.
- The Clerk confirmed that the excess payment had now been received in respect of the damage caused to the Dockham Road bus shelter.
- GCC media release confirmed Gloucestershire's housing partnership had reaffirmed its commitment to helping people off the streets.

308. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- (a) 6 Forest Vale Road – Erection of a commercial unit to the rear of unit 6 with alterations to unit 6 to allow for replacement cladding and low pitch roof with associated works – P0107/21/FUL.
- (b) Plot 6 Forest Vale Road – Proposed redesign of the car park incorporating the closure of one of the site entrances including the relocation and construction of new access. Erection of a site hut with increased security – P007021/FUL

RESOLVED the above two applications
be Supported.

- (c) Gardens of Rock House & Bryn Mawr, St. Whites Road – Copper Beech (T1), Copper Beech (T2), Sycamore (T3) and Copper Beech (T4) – Crown lift all trees to 3 metres above ground level, on the western side overhanging a footpath – P0338/21/TPO
- (d) 13 High Street – variation of condition 02 Approved plans of P0111/18/FUL to allow for alterations to internal layout – P0276/21/FUL
- (e) 5 Hodges Way – Erection of a single storey rear extension. Demolition of conservatory – P0288/21/FUL
- (f) Land adjacent 14 (12B Plot 1) Causeway Road – Erection of a detached welling with associated works (revised scheme) – P0170/21/FUL
- (g) 21A St. Whites Road – Erection of a two storey side extension with associated hard and soft landscaping. Demolition of a single garage – P0360/21/FUL

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

- (h) 38 Speculation Road – Discharge of condition 04 (site investigations) and 05 (land contamination assessment) relating to planning permission P1686/19/FUL – P0027/21/Discon

RESOLVED No Objections be raised
providing FODDC is satisfied that the
conditions had been met.

309. MEMBERS REPORTS.

- Cllr Morgan presented his Report, which had been forwarded to Members – copy attached to these Minutes.

310. 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 - £13,125.87
BVC - £6,025.89
CTC - £10,727.21

311. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

RESOLVED the next Full Meeting be
held on Tuesday, 13th April 2021
at 7 p.m.

312. CLOSURE.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

RE: March Agenda

1 message

MORGAN, Cllr Graham <johns.MORGAN@gloucestershire.gov.uk>

3 March 2021 at 22:13

To: Cinderford Town Council <clerk@cinderfordtowncouncil.gov.uk>, Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council
<info@clerkrspc.plus.com>

Hi Lyn / Joanne

This is my County Council activities report for your two Councils, I have recently communicated the fact that the Homes & Communities Agency are going to market the former Northern United Colliery site to County Cabinet Member Cllr Nigel Moore, stating pointing out that depending just how much the Homes and Communities Agency are going to be asking for this site, it could make an excellent new recycling centre for the Forest of Dean replacing the cramped site at Oak Quarry Broadwell.

I have yet again asked Andrew Middlecote of Gloucestershire Highways to get the new VAS signs now erected at Cinderford Bridge commissioned and activated.

I am continuing to liaise with Forestry England the County Council and the Forest of Dean District Council with regard the Flooding issues along the Cinderford Brook, these Organisations are looking at how they can work more closely with each other to solve these issues as climate change continue to produce more extreme weather events.

I have also been investigating right of way issues in Cinderford.

Very Best Wishes Graham

Cllr G Morgan

If you are contacting me as a local constituent please be aware I may need to share your personal information when contacting County Council Officers or other agencies relevant to your query.

For more information on how I and the County Council use personal data visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/privacynotices.