



**Meeting of Cinderford Town Council
The Council Chamber, Cinderford,
Tuesday 8th February 2022, 7.00 p.m**

Present:

Cllr Chris Witham (Chair)
Cllr Mark Turner
Cllr Tim Holder
Cllr Chris Brown
Cllr Roland Pritchard
Cllr Roger Sterry
Cllr Lynn Sterry
Cllr Jeremy Charlton-Wright
Cllr Graham Morgan
Cllr Di Martin
Cllr Sally Reader (late arrival 7.20pm)

In attendance:

Emma Bennett (Clerk, CTC)
Les Love (Facilities & Estates Manager, CTC)
Chris Nelson (Police & Crime Commissioner)
Nick Penny, FVAF
2 Police Officers
15 Members of the public

Apologies:

Cllr Louise Bent
Cllr Max Coborn
Cllr Mason Coborn.
Cllr Rachel Lewis

The Chair advised that due to the attendance of the Police and PCC item 7 would be discussed first.

7. To discuss Cinderford policing with the Police & Crime Commissioner, Chris Nelson

The Chair welcomed the PCC, Chris Nelson, who circulated the [Police and Crime Plan Priorities - Gloucestershire's Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner](#) documentation which outlined 6 priorities and highlighted the [Flare App | Gloucestershire Constabulary](#) which was created to share experiences of how and where women and girls felt unsafe. Councillors and residents discussed issues around local community policing, 101 number issues, number of officers, police HR, volunteering, ASBO, New Years Eve issues, call centre IT, response times, cultural integration and difficulties, accessing services, Forest police & fire central base, mental health, multi-agency approaches, addiction services, crime prevention, bystander activities and different opinions.

Due to time constraints Residents and Councillors were invited to submit further written questions to the PCC via email. Cllr L Sterry left the meeting. The Chair thanked the PCC for attending. The police responded to a number of issues which were raised at the meeting.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Recorded as above. The Chair congratulated Cllr Lewis on the birth of her daughter.

2. Declarations of Interest – to receive any declarations of interest in any matter to be discussed at the meeting. Members and Officers are requested to identify the nature of the interest.

Re item 9 Cllr Brown declared he had a pecuniary interest as CEO and as a paid employee of FVAF. Cllr Brown would leave the meeting for item 9.
Cllr Martin and Cllr Morgan declared they had a non-pecuniary interest as they were Trustees of FVAF and would not take part in the discussion or voting.

Cllr Reader declared an interest in item 14e. Item 14e was for noting and not discussion.
Cllr Turner declared an non-pecuniary interest in item 18f and would not take part in the discussion.

3. Public Participation Session – to provide the opportunity for Members of the Public to raise questions or comment on items on the Agenda (limited to 15 minutes, with a maximum 3 minutes per person)

Residents who lived by Miners Welfare playing field reporting parking issues when football matches were played. They highlighted access problems, safety concerns and raised concern over future parking issues when the skatepark was built that demand would increase and a bigger car parking space was required. Council noted that the number of football pitches at Miners Welfare field had increased the issues with two pitches in use at the same time. The Council agreed to talk to the football manager regarding the issues. Residents were advised they could respond to the planning application for the skatepark and parking on the FODDC planning portal. The Playing Fields Committee would follow up on issues raised and also the need for public toilets in the area at their next meeting.

The gate for the car park was discussed. The Council had not made any plans on this yet and this would be considered by the Playing Fields Committee in due course.

A resident highlighted an issue with rodents which was a Forest of Dean District Council matter. Cllr Turner would follow this up with FODDC and the resident should direct any further queries to FODDC.

4. Chairman's Urgent Business

- **Signing of the Funding Agreement for the Steam Mills Playarea & project process**

Council received a copy of the documentation and authorised the Clerk and Chairman to sign relating to the grant award.

Proposed Cllr Charlton-Wright, Seconded Cllr R Sterry. All in favour.

- **Approval of the Steam Mills Playarea design**

Council had received 3 designs for the Steam Mills playarea. Feedback from the local school had been considered on 2 of the designs. 1 design was submitted after the deadline. Council approved the Kompan design based on feedback, design, equipment provided, maintenance and environmental features. Councillors noted that Kompan were also suppliers of other Cinderford play equipment which was deemed high quality.

Proposed: Cllr Charlton-Wright, Seconded: T Holder. All in favour.

- **British Legion Great Tommy Sleepout** - a resident had enquired about sleeping on the triangle and outside the library for one night. Council supported the Triangle charity sleepout subject to adequate kit and risk considerations being in place. GCC would need to be contacted for permission regarding the library sleepout.

Proposed: Cllr R Sterry, Seconded Cllr D Martin. All in favour.

5. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25th January 2022 (copy herewith)

The minutes of the 25th January 2022 meeting, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr S Reader, Seconded Cllr:G Morgan. Councillors who abstained due to absence from 25th January meeting were Cllr R Pritchard. Remaining Councillors were in favour.

6. Matters Arising from Minutes

The following was discussed:

ACTION	STATUS
Covid Business Support Fund - question repayment request with FODDC.	Contacted FODDC awaiting reply.
Newsletter/comms - to obtain copies of other newsletters for information and take forward.	Copies obtained. Discussed initial designs. Clerk progressing with costing options. .
Queen's Green Canopy Tree - received. Planting oak tree - not suitable outside front.	To agree a new location as oak tree not suitable at BVC due to long term growth size and damage to walls, car park and building.
Update on PSPO alcohol - advice FODDC CTC wish to reinstate a alcohol free zone.	FODCC have now advised there was no actual "alcohol-free zone". It was an initiative that we believe was introduced by the predecessor of the Community Safety Partnership; the CDRP. It wasn't an alcohol ban, but an exclusion of anti-social drinking, so a police officer could seize drink off individuals if they were acting in an anti-social manner whilst drinking in public. It was worded thus, so people could still enjoy a

	<p>drink sensibly at musical events e.g. proms in the park, music festival, etc. It looks like the modern tool to do this, a Public Spaces Protection Order, would work similarly.</p> <p>The Police, they would have to be consulted at the earliest opportunity. It occurs to me that the Community Safety Partnership should be the way to take this forward. Guidance at: https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.21%20PSPO%20guidance_06_1.pdf</p> <p>A PSPO can only be made where there is a clear need for one.</p>
To meet and consider TNL/Together for our Planet ideas & complete grant form	To meet.
Contracts for Clerk and existing staff	Personnel Committee to meet.
Issue statement for compliance with WCAG	CW taking forward.
To complete forms for resident road closures for jubilee	In progress.
Miners Field – check with FODDC re lease for planting trees in wet corner of field	Okay in principle. To contact when at stage to progress.
Grant Freedom Leisure	Cllr Brown visited to discuss details around the scheme. They welcome Councillors visiting. Operating hours were discussed. Cllr Brown commented it will be a great programme for 11-18 years old.

7. To discuss Cinderford policing with the Police & Crime Commissioner, Chris Nelson

Discussed as the first item on the agenda.

8. Community Hospital, Statepark & Dilke Memorial Hospital - To receive the latest update

a. Parking in Barleycorn Square

The Council were awaiting the outcome of the planning application for the skatepark and carpark.

Time: 8.30pm Cllr Chris Brown left the meeting.

9. To consider and approve the FVAF Community & Youth Centre proposal to move from Rheola House to Dockham Road & to approve FVAF's proposed investment into Dockham Road (presentation by Nick Penny, FVAF)

Council had received copies of the FVAF proposal which had been previously discussed at the Estates & Playing Fields Committee meeting. The proposal was for FVAF to move from Rheola House which they had outgrown to Dockham Road on a 25 year peppercorn lease with FVAF taking on the building and land liabilities with FVAF being able to offer increased community benefit and services. Council noted that FVAF planned significant investment in the building, surrounding green spaces, would install solar panels, improve the open courtyard and improve the space with an urban green area. The phased approach was noted with funders for phase 1 and 2 identified. FVAF would provide numerous services and employment to the area which was welcomed. FVAF planned on £1.75m invest which was an average of £70k a year over 25 years. Council discussed that the vaccine centre had announced their closure from 31.03.2022. Existing NHS tenants would sit within the management of the lease. Council noted the Dockham Road site was at the bus transport hub and that users could travel by bus. Car parking at the site was noted. FVAF believed traffic issues would not increase dramatically and Cinderford had the infrastructure. Council agreed a long term tenant providing services and employment was welcomed.

Cllr S Reader proposed that Council approved the FVAF Community & Youth Centre proposal at Dockham Road with investment,, Seconded Cllr Charlton-Wright. Two abstentions from Cllr Morgan and Cllr Martin. Remaining Councillors were in favour.

The Chiar highlighted that one issue would be discussed separately. (This related to staffing/employment/TUPE)..

8.45pm Cllr Chris Brown rejoined the meeting.

10. To receive an update on the Levelling Up Fund:

a. Wesley Church & rebranding suggestion to “The Wesley”, “Forest of Dean Community & Arts Centre”

The purchase had been completed on 7th February 2022 and communication on the purchase had taken place. All those involved in the project were thanked. A church stakeholder meeting had taken place. The proposed name and strapline had been supported by all stakeholders. The Estates Manager would also meet with the Vicar and be interviewed by BBC Radio Gloucestershire. New signage was planned. Proposed to approve the name change and strapline as detailed above by Cllr R Sterry, Seconded Cllr T Holder. All in favour.

b. 6 Market Street - new floor installed. Next planned works is replacement rear windows and new fire door as the current door was not up to required standards.

c. Rheola House - works to be planned after surveying.

The Estates Manager advised that a surveyor would visit all 3 properties to create a scope of works and give direction on expenditure. Quotes were being obtained using local businesses where possible. The Estates Manager encouraged visitors and welcomed residents voice as this was a community process. .

11. Climate Action (N/D) - to receive the Climate Action Update

Tiny pilot growing scheme was moving forward. The planters on Woodside Street have bulbs in and were not suitable for vegetables. The Hilldene location would be a good community growing space. Cllr Reader would use money from the FODDC grant and Climate grant to purchase a small number of planters. Volunteers were sought to help with planting and ongoing maintenance.

12. To discuss how the Town Council can positively engage with the community and improve overall community cohesion (D)

Details on the free English lessons planned for the international community would be discussed at the March meeting.

13. GCC - Various Road Closures (N)

The GCC roadworks bullet had been forwarded to Council. A copy is available to the public at: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/>

14. Correspondence (D):

a. Police written update - the latest written report was received and noted.

b. Pride in Gloucestershire Event - Sunday 17th July 2022 - request to hold a small free music event with a stage and rides. The event would be open to all. Proposed to agree to the event with use of the Triangle area Cllr C Brown, Seconded Cllr S Reader. All in favour.

c. St Whites School, Heron Project Group re road safety and VAS issues - correspondence received and circulated. 20s Plenty signs had been ordered and received for the area. Replacement battery for VAS had been ordered and charging was taking place. The police would undertake speed checks in the area with pupils. The Clerk would request further signs for the Steam Mills area. Council noted that Vehicle Advisory Signs would be discussed at the Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council meeting and Cllr Morgan would update on this at the next meeting. It was hoped the school could employ a further lollipop person. A copy of the correspondence had been forwarded to the Police and GCC Highways to address safety concerns.

d. Gloucestershire Accessibility Project - Council received details of the GAP and considered the importance of accessibility to the Council buildings. Due to future works planned it was proposed to ask GAP to provide input into the three buildings at 6 Market Street, The Wesley and Rheola House. Council agreed subject to the expenditure being no more than £1000. Proposed Cllr C Witham, Seconded Cllr J Charlton-Wright. All in favour. The Estates Manager would also make contact with the Dementia Access Alliance regarding a dementia friendly audit.

e. Wyldwood Arts funding announcement - Council were delighted to hear of the National Lottery Community Foundation award for a three-year project designed to explore new, creative approaches to connecting people and communities across the Forest of Dean. The Town Council welcomed future collaborations with Wyldwood Arts.

f. Commissioner's Fund - launch of the [Commissioner's Fund](#) to align with the [Police and Crime Prevention Plan](#). The Clerk is working with organisations to submit an application by the deadline.

g. Canopy Event funding request - Letter was received at the November 2021 Council meeting and Council agreed to support in principle. Canopy were planning an event on 7th May 2022

at The Wesley with the planning meeting attended by staff and Councillors. Councillors welcomed the enthusiasm of Canopy and welcomed the community works.
Proposed: Cllr C Brown, Seconded Cllr D Martin.

- h. **Great British Spring Clean** - a litter picking event for 2nd April 2022 at 10am between Forestry England and CTC was planned to litter pick on FE land is the track that runs from beside Winner Garage and up past the brickworks. Councillors supported the event and would help with waste collection and litter picking.

15. Reports/Minutes (N)

- a) **Written update from County Councillor** - written report received and noted.
b) **Written update from District Councillor** - no matters to report.
c) **Committee Updates** - 25th January 2022 committee minutes were noted by Council. .

16. Finance (N/A)

a) To agree the Accounts for Payment

Members were circulated with the figures for the accounts requiring payment and it was RESOLVED that the accounts and wages for totalling the following amounts be paid:
January/February 2022 (since last meeting) - £246,169.40 (this included the purchase of the Wesley building)

February 2022 CTC - £11737.78

February 2022 BVC - £4904.44

Payroll February 2022 - £14399.72

Proposed: Cllr J Charlton-Wright, Seconded Cllr R Sterry. All in favour.

- b) **To update on progress with moving to internet banking** - further form taken to Lloyds Bank for access changes.
c) **To receive the Internal Control Checklist** - latest report received and noted.
d) **To receive the latest financial reports** - financial reports received and noted.

17. Documentation/Policies (A):

- **Cinderford Aims & Objectives** - Council received the document and agreed this was a good starting document and could be built upon over future years. The Clerk would arrange for this to be added to the website.

Proposed: Cllr J Charlton-Wright, Seconded Cllr R Sterry. All in favour.

18. Planning Applications - see list attached

a. P2067/21/APP - Garden Of 31 Dockham Road Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2BG

Councillors had no issues and were happy for the Planning Officer to decide.

b. P2065/21/FUL - Community Room 19A Freeminers Way Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2PF

Council supported the change and would be glad the building was being used.

c. P0002/22/FUL - Land At Miners Welfare Playing Field Barleycorn Square Road Cinderford

CTC had a declaration of interest as the applicant. Council supported the application noting its importance to the hospital project.

Proposed Cllr R Sterry, Seconded Cllr T Holder. All in favour.

Issues raised by residents into parking in the area would be discussed by the playing fields committee. Council noted that FODDC were responsible for contacting residents over the application and not CTC.

d. P0022/22/FUL -6 Forest Vale Road Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2PH

Neutral. Council considered the application and were happy for FODDC to decide. .

e. P0106/22/FUL - Land Adjacent To 9 College Road Cinderford Gloucestershire

Support.

f. P1934/21/FUL - 18 Station Terrace Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2LD

Support. No objections. .

19. Date of next Meetings (N)::

- **Council Meeting – Tuesday 8th March 2022**
- **Estates/BVC/Finance/Market Street Committee - Tuesday 1 March 2022***
- **Playing Fields Committee - Tuesday 22 February 2022**
- **Events Meeting - Tuesday 1 March 2022***

Signed:.....

Date:.....