



**Minutes of the Cinderford Town Council Meeting
The Council Chamber, Cinderford
Wednesday 25th January 2023, 7pm**

Present:

Cllr Chris Witham
Cllr Anthony Davies
Cllr Di Martin
Cllr Graham Morgan
Cllr Nigel Taylor
Cllr Mark Turner
Cllr Jeremy Charlton-Wright
Cllr Chris Brown
Cllr Tim Holder

In attendance:

Emma Bennett (Clerk, CTC)
1 member of the Skatepark User Group
0 Members of the public

Apologies received:

Cllr Max Coborn
Cllr Louise Bent
Cllr Mason Coborn
Cllr Roger Sterry
Cllr Sally Reader
Cllr Roland Pritchard

Absent:

None.

1) To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received, noted and accepted as detailed above.

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.

Councillors were reminded under the LGA Finance Act any councillor who is two or more months in arrears with their Council Tax payments (even if a liability order hasn't been granted) has a legal duty to make a declaration of interest. There were no declarations made.

Item 7(e) Dockham Road - Cllr Chris Brown (CEO, FVAF) declared a pecuniary interest.
Cllr D Martin declared a non pecuniary interest as Trustee of FVAF.

Item 8(d) Staff Salary Information Report - The Clerk declared an interest as CTC staff.

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)

None raised.

4) Chairman's Urgent Business

No items to raise.

5) To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2023

The minutes of the meeting, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

Proposed Cllr Charlton-Wright, Seconded Cllr Taylor. All in favour..

6) Matters Arising from Minutes

To discuss at the 14.02.2023 meeting.

7) To receive an update on the Community Hospital, Skatepark, Dockham Road & Dilke Hospital

a. Latest planning correspondence - Archus have sent the groundworks report to the FODDC Planning Officer and a response was awaited.

b. Update from SP Associates for trial pitting, lab testing & report generation - groundworks report received and circulated to Councillors. Council noted the report recommendation and would await a response from FODDC Planning.

c. Mavericks update - the Cinderford project remains as the next build in the schedule once permission is granted.

d. To receive the tenders for the Car park, Drainage & Footpath Works and agree the Contractor

Four replies were received and circulated. These had been independently reviewed by Archus. Council considered the responses and advice from Archus noting Archus had reviewed the information and had arranged for an Engineer to also review. Council agreed to appoint Company 1 at a cost of £138,527.77 based on advice and price.
Proposed Cllr Turner, seconded Cllr Taylor. All in favour.

Council were subsequently informed that Company 1 was MFFreeman.

e. Dockham Road & FVAF Lease update - the draft lease was currently being progressed with solicitors.

There was no update on the community hospital build or Dilke hospital.

8) 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 totalling the following payments be paid:
Payroll - January 2023 £11548.41.

January 2023 payments made - £46,476.20 which included the second instalment for The Wesley roof.

Expenditure to be approved: £24,350.04

Approved Cllr Charlton-Wright, Seconded Cllr Holder. All in agreement.

b) To receive the Internal Control Checklist

To receive at the 14.02.2023 meeting.

c) To receive the latest financial reports

A copy of the latest bank statement and expenditure report was provided for information. Councillors welcomed the new financial reporting.

d) To receive the staff salary 2023/24 information report

Received and noted. Council would discuss in closed session.

e) To discuss earmarked reserves & virements

The Earmarked Reserves Report was received. Council noted the reserves had reduced following the purchase of The Wesley in 2022. Council discussed the reserves for the Eastdean Initiative & Linear Park. The Clerk would enquire with FODDC regarding any restrictions of use.

f) To receive the PWLB information

The Clerk had met with the CEO of GAPTC to discuss a potential PWLB for the car park, drainage, footpath and lighting which was being purchased by CTC. Copies of the correspondence had been circulated and the 7 stages to be followed was noted. .

g) To agree applying for a PWLB loan to finance the car park, drainage, footpath and lighting works and beginning the formal PWLB process

Council discussed options to cover the CTC aspect of the project. Details of costs paid to date, known expenditure including details of the S106 and NHS contribution figures were provided.

Council discussed the shortfall and agreed to progress a PWLB with repayments to be in line with the rental income from Dockham Road and further information would be sought to progress this.

Resolved to progress investigating a PWLB option for a maximum of £200k to be repaid at £25k per annum which was likely to be over 8 years and details would be confirmed at a future meeting. Proposed Cllr Turner, seconded Cllr Brown. All in agreement.

h) To receive and approve the Budget for 2023/2024 and agree the precept

Council received the budget noting increases in expenditure. Council noted this related to the Dockham Road fire alarm system and roof improvement works, election costs, increased utility costs and The Wesley internal works. Council discussed the proposed budget, changes, and cost of living crisis noting that Dockham Road will become a community building which would house services in Cinderford for residents and the Forest. Council discussed communication of the community buildings.

The Council discussed setting the precept for 2023/24 at £477,131.00. This will be a band D charge of £192.66 which is a 14.58% band D increase. Council noted the majority of Cinderford properties were Band A & B, Proposed: Cllr Martin, Seconded Cllr Charlton-Wright. Abstention Cllr Taylor & Cllr Turner. Remaining Councillors in favour.

9) Planning Applications - see list attached (D)

Erection of x5 Class use B1/B8 units with associated parking, landscaping and works.

Land Off Forest Vale Road Cinderford GL14 2GH. Ref. No: P1760/22/FUL
Support.

Change of use of part of garage to self contained holiday let. (Retrospective)

Latimer Bungalow Littledean Hill Road Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2BT
Ref. No: P0010/23/FUL
No objections

Permission in principle for the erection of a detached dwelling.

Greenacres Heywood Road Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2PW
Ref. No: P0028/23/PIP
No objections.

Installation of a perch bench fixed to three stone block feet.

Forest Of Dean Sculpture Beechenhurst Speech House Road Gloucestershire GL16 7EQ
Ref. No: P1753/22/FU
Support.

Erection of 6 flats with associated parking, landscaping and works. (Revised Description).

Heywood Mews Heywood Road Cinderford GL14 2PN Gloucestershire
Ref. No: P1671/20/FUL
Concerns access & loss of privacy. Highways to review. FODDC to consider.

Council discussed the skatepark application noting that Council will support the application when the discharge of conditions application is received from FODDC.

10) Date of next Meetings (N)::

- Events Meeting - Tuesday 7th February 2023

CLOSED SESSION

THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SCHEDULE 12(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 8(D) (STAFF MATTERS)

8d) To receive the staff salary 2023/24 information report

Council discussed the Clerk's role and hours. From 1.4.2023 the Clerk's role would increase from a part-time to full-time position.
Proposed Cllr Charlton-Wright, Seconded Cllr Brown. Unanimously accept.

Signed:.....

Date:.....