

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held at The Council Chamber, Cinderford on Tuesday, 8th September 2015 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS; Mrs J. Johnson (Chair), M.M. Coborn (Mayor), T.R. Holder, A. Knight, Mrs E.D. Martin, R. Pritchard, M.D. Turner, Ms K. Wynn Mrs L.I. Sterry, R. Sterry, L. S. Wilce.

APOLOGIES for Absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs K. Brown, G.L. Morgan, C. Witham.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Mrs L. L. Thomas (Clerk) declared an interest in item 94(a) planning applications.

The Chair welcomed Mr Jason Shirley and Mr Stuart Williams from the Dean Forest Railway who gave a brief presentation on the proposed extension from Parkend to Speech House and then on to Cinderford.

DFR were mainly a Heritage Steam Railway, but with some mainline stock, with a 4.5 mile route, Lydney to Parkend, which attracted 30,000 passengers per year. Their aim now was to improve the links into Cinderford, with a living museum/tourist attraction, providing skills training and employment, and minimising environmental impact. All this would fit into the plans for the Northern Quarter development and provide an excellent link between Cinderford and Lydney.

The proposed extension would be carried out by the University of Bristol Civil Engineering Dept, with the initial link to Wimberry (below Beechenhurst), then on to Cinderford, with the proposal favouring the former Englehard site, and it was hoped that the old Railway Inn building could be utilised as the Station Building. Timescale wise, it was anticipated 5 years for the link to Wimberry, with a further 2 years for the link to Cinderford.

The Heritage Diesel Units were cheap to run so it was envisaged that fares should be very favourable, to encourage the communities of Cinderford and Lydney to use the links, with car parking at Cinderford and Norchard, to encourage tourism throughout the Forest.

A meeting had been scheduled at the Office of Rail and Road, for the 10th October, to discuss the issue of level crossings and other options.

The Forestry Commission, Forest of Dean District Council, County Highways all agreed to support the project, in principle, and they were now asking for the support of the Town Council. The Secretary of State for Transport would have to approve the project.

RESOLVED that Cinderford Town
Council gave unanimous Support
for this very exciting project.

The Chair thanked Mr Shirley and Mr Williams for attending the Meeting, which they then left at 7.40 pm.

83. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th August 2015, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

84. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

(a) CAB - AGM 7/10/15. (Minute 65 b).

CAB would be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 7th October 2015, 4 - 6 pm. Cllrs Mrs Martin and Ms Wynn confirmed they would attend, and it was also confirmed that Cllr Mrs Brown would also be attending. Noted.

(b) Speed Limit through Steam Mills. (Minute 65 c).

It had been noticed that the Police were doing some community speeding training that evening with residents, in Steam Mills. Noted.

(c) Open Day/Memorabilia. (Minute 65 d).

Cllr. Turner confirmed there had been a lot of interest through facebook, with people confirming their attendance, and to bring memorabilia along. The Clerk confirmed the building would be open from 8.30 am, to allow for setting up, with the building open to the public from 10 - 4 p.m.

(d) GRCC - Affordable Housing. (Minute 68).

An acknowledgement had been received from Mark Harper MP, with confirmation that he had written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark MP, with the concerns of the Town Council. Noted.

(e) G.C.C. - Armed Forces Community Covenant. (Minute 69).

The Clerk confirmed the Armed Forces Covenant had now been signed by Cllr. G.L. Morgan. Noted.

(f) The Former Railway Inn, Station Street. (Minute 73).

The Clerk had applied for Listed Building status and an application had been lodged accordingly, but further information/photographs were required. Noted.

(g) Members Report - Forest Forum & Zebra Crossing Update. (Minute 74).

Street lighting were still waiting for the brackets to be delivered, to allow the new l.e.d lighting to be fitted on the Zebra crossing. Noted.

(h) Web Page - To Review Costings. (Minute 75).

Cllr. Witham confirmed the web page should be launched that week and asked Members to email him with any information, and for Cllr Coborn to forward his biography, for inclusion. Noted.

85. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Playing Fields committee held on the 25th August 2015, having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

86. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

(a) Election of Chairman. (Minute 1)

As Cllr. Mrs Martin was only acting as a temporary Chair, the committee would elect a Chair at its next meeting. Noted.

The Clerk was asked to arrange a further meeting to allow everyone to visit the recreation areas, and to decide upon a strategy.

RESOLVED accordingly.

87. MEMBERS REPORTS.

Cllr Mrs Martin informed all that the Forest Health Forum AGM would be taking place on the 6th October, which would include a seated session of Tai Chi. She also reported that following a Community Health Survey, it revealed that numbers were down both in Lydney and at the Dilke. Noted.

88. CINDERFORD CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY - REQUEST FOR A ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP.

The 35th Annual Show would be taking place at the Wesley Hall, on the 22nd and 23rd October, and a request had been received for continuing sponsorship of the two classes. Members were pleased to see that the Show continued to run, and agreed sponsorship of two classes, for a total of £70.

RESOLVED accordingly, that £70. be
be forwarded under Section 137.

89. FODDC - REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY.

The Forest of Dean Licensing Authority was carrying out a review of its Licensing Policy, which must be carried out every 5 years, with very few changes having been made to the current policy. Copies of the draft revised Policy was available on the Council's website at www.fdean.gov.uk. Noted.

90. FODDC - SUBSCRIPTION TO FOD TOURISM ASSOCIATION.

FODDC were encouraging all Town Councils to join the Tourism Association, which would cost £120. per annum, which would give Cinderford an entry on the web page. Members agreed it was a positive approach to boost tourism in the Forest and an opportunity to promote the Town. The Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Tourism Association would be giving a presentation on Wed. 4th November at 6 pm, in the Council Chamber at FODDC.

RESOLVED Cllr. Mrs L. I. Sterry attend.

91. COUNTY HIGHWAYS - WHITE LINING.

As the replacement centre white lining had not been extended up to Wesley Road, the Clerk had queried this, and had been informed that although historically there had been centre lines from Valley Road to Wesley Road, they were omitted as part of a road safety initiative when the road had been resurfaced 4/5 years previously. Members were concerned as they were receiving complaints from drivers of large vehicles regarding the lack of the centre lines.

RESOLVED the Clerk write to Highways
requesting the centre lines be reinstated,
up to Wesley Road.

92. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.

Cllr. Turner had contacted Gloucester City Council regarding the possibility of purchasing some of their old Christmas Lights and agreed the Clerk could make an offer on the lights, and it was agreed that a meeting be arranged for the Events Committee to discuss all the Christmas arrangements.

RESOLVED accordingly.

The Clerk advised Members that the following item be discussed, to the exclusion of the Press and Public.

RESOLVED accordingly.

Cllrs. Mrs L. Sterry and R. Sterry left the meeting at 8.55p.m.

94. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

As Members of the Development Control Committee, Cllrs Mrs E.D. Martin, Mrs L.I. Sterry, did not take part in the vote on any of the following applications.

- (a) 27A Woodside Street - Single storey front extension. P1210/15/FUL.
- (b) 34 Barley Corn Square - Demolition of existing derelict dwelling and erection of 3 terraced houses with associated works. P1168/15/OUT.

RESOLVED no objections be made
to the above planning applications.

- (c) Land at Arcadia, Littledean Hill Road - Erection of 1 dwelling and associated parking. P0933/15/FUL.

RESOLVED objections be made to the above
application due to the poor access.

- (d) 29 Market Street - Change of use of existing ground floor retail space to a 2 bed flat. P1228/15/PM3PA.

RESOLVED strong objections be made to
the above application - Members agreed the
premises remain as retail.

- (e) The Northern Quarter - Discharge of conditions (16) - scheme for promoting the movement of dormice, reptiles and amphibians, (35) - Provision, implementation and ongoing safe operation of compensatory flood storage for contamination risks, (39) - Archaeology, (41) - Scheme for contamination risks and (48) - Ground surface water monitoring scheme relating to planning permission P0663/14/OUT.

RESOLVED no objections, providing
FODDC was satisfied the conditions had been met.

- (f) Land Off Speculation Road - Proposed use of a former transport yard and trailer storage as a waste transfer station for garage and industrial waste oils and motor parts with associated parking of company HGV. Installation of three bunded storage tanks, oil interceptor, associated hard standing, vehicle access road (sui generis). West Oils.

RESOLVED the application be supported.

95. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Members were circulated with the figures for accounts requiring payment and it was;

RESOLVED the accounts and wages
totalling the following amounts be paid;
BVC/CTC - £11,994.85.
BVC - £2,509.62.
CTC - £6,402.76.

96. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

RESOLVED the next Meeting be held on
Tuesday, 13th October 2014 at 7 p.m.

97. REFUGEES.

It was agreed the Town Council support the actions of the Forest of Dean District Council, in assisting Refugees.

98. CLOSURE.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.