

CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Town held in the Bingham Gallery and Conference Suite, Bingham House, 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, 29th April 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor G T Adams – Mayor
Councillor A Lichnowski – Deputy Mayor

Councillors: Mrs S A Alexander
Mrs C Braidwood
P Braidwood
H G C Gray
W Helm
Mrs J Hincks
R Hughes
Mrs S A le Noury
D J Nash
Mrs B A Potter
Mrs M S Rickman
G M Selwyn

Andrew Tubb – Chief Executive Officer
Johan Newman – Executive Officer

Organisation representatives detailed in Minute No. 273.10
Local residents and press

267.10 APOLOGIES

None were received.

268.10 WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

"It is very pleasing to see so many people here this evening. A warm welcome to you all - councillors, guest speakers and other members of the public. Perhaps I can take a few moments to outline the procedure for this meeting. After councillors have approved the Minutes of the Town Meeting that was held last year, we shall go on to the Reports. The first is from me, as Mayor, which, this year, is called an address! We shall then proceed to the Chairmen of our committees.

Cirencester Town Council is no different to any other form of government, large or small, at Westminster, at Shire Hall or Trinity Road and even, one assumes, in Brussels, in that much of the work is done by committees set up within the organisation. You will see on the agenda that we have nine such committees or groups. Although all councillors are members of the Finance Committee, members of the other committees or groups volunteer themselves to serve, and each committee or group elects their chairman and vice chairman. They meet regularly, monthly or sometimes more frequently and then report to the whole Council, which notes the results of their deliberations and then discusses the recommendations they've made, which are then either amended or approved. A great deal of work is done by these groups and they consume many hours of work. Town Councillors, none of whom are paid, all work hard. Many volunteer for other work within the community and have pretty full diaries and there are some who also serve as District or County councillors.

Each meeting will have already been provided with many pages of background information, and guided in its deliberations, by our officers but approving a recommendation at Council is only the beginning. These then have to be implemented and entail much further work by our comparatively small, but fortunately very efficient team in the office, led by Andrew Tubb, our CEO and Town Clerk, Clive Sherwood, our deputy CEO and senior financial officer, together with executive officer Johan Newman

and administrative officers, Libby Hughes and Nick Brook. And outside, in all weathers, we have our splendid team of Grounds Staff.

After the Reports the winners of the Fairtrade Competition will be announced.

Then organisations within the town who serve the local community will have an opportunity to give a two minute summary of their year and those who have received grants from the Town Council can use this opportunity to tell us all of the work they do and to what the grant contributed.

And then we shall pass on to a general Town Discussion, when anyone present will be able to raise anything pertinent to the work that the Town Council does,

Having explained all that, I will turn to the second item on the agenda."

269.10 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 28TH APRIL 2009

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Town held on Tuesday, 28th April 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

270.10 MAYOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

Councillor G T Adams, Mayor of Cirencester, gave his report for the year as follows: -

"Each year, every Mayor, starts by saying how the year has seemed to them - 'one of change' or 'exciting' are the words used by my predecessor, Shirley Alexander, in 2008 and 2009 and now, searching for a single word to describe the past year, I would choose 'fruitful' or 'rewarding'. Things are starting to happen.

There are several items on the Our Future Cirencester agenda that are now moving into their delivery phase but I will leave Andy Lichnowski, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the OFC Steering Committee, to tell you about those. However, although it comes within their programme, I *will* mention the Market Place.

The Town Council has been nominated to be the lead authority for this initiative. Together with the £150,000 the Town Council has reserved for this, CDC has made a commitment to contribute £100,000 and a Charitable Trust has given £60,000. We have lobbied County Council/Highways fiercely to have this Initiative included in the Local Transport Plan 3 and during the coming months we expect to be able to start the process of drawing up alternative plans for possible changes to the lay-out and costing them, having hopefully priced the £60,000 that is needed for this exercise from Shire Hall. There would then be extensive consultation, with local people and organisations. Only after that shall we then begin the financially painful quest for the extra money needed to complete the work. But don't despair!

I would like to emphasise that it is not the intention to pedestrianise the whole Market Place but just to arrange the limited space around the Church to better advantage, which will provide a new open public space. Surely no one would wish to have buses continuing to puff diesel fumes into the Church entrance if an alternative can be found.

I stated in my first Newsletter that this project was dear to my heart and I shall continue to do everything I can to bring it to fruition.

Moving on, and still hoping to avoid treading on the toes of those who will follow me, I would highlight the Spitalgate Wall repairs, carried out by our own skilled staff and funded in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council. Further maintenance along that stretch of wall will be subject to a condition survey that is being undertaken by the Town Council.

Cirencester was awarded Fairtrade status.

Working in partnership with CDC, who replaced the four trees in Catalpa Square, we have agreed to take on the responsibility of caring for them during the early stages of their growth.

In July the Town Council approved the appointment of a student intern. Funded in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and a grant from the Royal Agricultural College, she provided support for the local shopping initiative 'I Love Cirencester' and commenced work on developing a database of local shops and businesses.

After an election in Watermoor, we were able to welcome Councillor Gary Selwyn to The Council.

Through the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils, we have liaised with appropriate Town and Parish Councils prior to taking decisions on the installation/replacement of road and tourist signs, in an effort to reduce the overall number of signs within the county and to remove all superfluous signs and redundant posts.

In September, subject to both internal and external funding and planning permission being obtained, the Town Council agreed to a phased approach being adopted to develop the 32 acre sports and community facility at Kingshill.

- Phase 1 will deliver a trim trail, BMX facility, skate plaza and three junior/mini grassed pitches. Work on these should commence during the summer of this year.
 - Phase 2 will deliver an extension to the existing pavilion, a new-build community facility, play areas for children and a floodlit all weather pitch.
- A planning application is currently being prepared with the view to this work commencing on site in 2010/11.

A Communication and Website Design contract was given to a local business – Foundation – to develop: -

- a new brand and logo
- a new website
- a new format for stationary and the Newsletters and to provide
- a PR service for 12 months
- marketing advice, training and support for staff during the project and
- training for the use of the Website's Content Management System

We have endorsed the publication of a new Town Guide, that will both provide information and boost tourism and the local economy.

Following the discontinuation of the Twinning Association we were delighted to announce that the Town Council will continue to support the town's twinning and friendship links with Itzehoe in Germany and St Genis Laval in France by establishing a Twinning Group and Friends of Twinning.

In April we endorsed the forming of the Cirencester Neighbourhood Partnership, supporting local community groups in tackling issues at a grass roots level.

In July the Town Council launched its Community Engagement Policy which builds positively and practically on the Town Council's view that *anyone who lives, works, goes to school or college in Cirencester is valued and that we recognise the significant contribution that is made by the community.*

And just recently a new initiative is evolving, which thanks to a successful partnership with the Bromford Group (Fosseway Living) will, hopefully, establish a chill-out area for teenagers, called the Ozone, located at the Niccol Theatre, New Brewery Arts.

Our CEO and the Town Council highly value the many opportunities to work in partnership with others. So much more can be achieved by combining the resources available, sharing information, effectively assessing needs and shaping services at a local level.

As Mayor, and on many occasions accompanied by The Mayoress, I have attended a variety of functions and occasions. These are a selection:

- The Soroptimist's Annual Lunch
- Choral Evensong & Reception for the Friends of Cirencester Parish Church
- A Help for Heroes Dinner
- Two 100th birthday parties at Watermoor House
- The Cotswold Show
- The Funeral of Tim Jennings
- Opening of several new shops and business premises in the town
- Presenting an award to Tiger Brewer, as the youngest Wing Walker, at Rendcomb airfield.
- Meetings of Churches Together in Cirencester
- A Canine Partners demonstration
- The NALC annual conference in London
- The Heritage Open Day weekend
- The centenary launch for Gloucestershire East Division of the Girl Guides
- The new restaurant at Cirencester Hospital
- The Licensing of The Revd. Howard Gilbert at Watermoor Church
- The Royal Agricultural College Annual Convocation
- A band concert at the Bingham Hall
- A reception to learn more about the Parish Church renovation.
- A Reception and Concert at 29th Regiment Officers' Mess
- The Service of Remembrance and wreath laying ceremony
- We hosted a small reception at Ingleside House
- A Cantores concert in the Parish Church
- The Memorial Concert for Tim Jennings
- The Corinium Players Guitar Ensemble concert
- The Christmas lunch at Watermoor Church
- A Reception to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Cirencester Housing Society
- A Gloucestershire Farm Shops evening at the Agricultural College
- The 70th anniversary dinner of Phoenix Company who produce the annual pantomime
- The Cotswold Counselling AGM
- Joined Andrew for an hour on Corinium Radio
- The Advent Festival and Lights' switch on
- The Mother Goose pantomime
- A Christian Unity service at the Baptist Church to hear about Street Pastors
- A Service in the Parish Church to observe Holocaust Memorial Day
- The Royal Wessex Yeomanry Officers' Dinner at Bovington
- Done tree planting and attended Cotswold Tree warden Group prize-giving
- The Mock Trials event for school children
- A Smallpeice Trust engineering weekend at the RAC and a dinner afterwards with the youngsters
- And just last Sunday, attended the Annual Civic Service at St. David's Church, Moreton-in-Marsh

It has been a very good and most enjoyable year."

271.10

**CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009/10,
INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT AND
INCLUDING REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS**

Please refer to the Annual Report 2009/10, as previously circulated.

Copies are available at the Town Council's Customer Information Point and on-line at www.cirencester.gov.uk

272.10 FAIRTRADE COMPETITION

Mr Mike Dearsley, a member of the Action Group who has helped to make Cirencester a Fairtrade Town, gave a background to Fairtrade products and was pleased to announce that the Fairtrade status was awarded to the town on 24th June 2009.

The Mayor was accordingly delighted to receive a certificate in recognition of the town's new Fairtrade status on behalf of the town. The status was awarded annually and the group would need to apply again in the next couple of months.

In association with 'Fairtrade Cirencester', Cirencester Town Council launched the 2010 Fairtrade competition', which is hoped will be an annual event. The competition was for local schools and colleges to design a 'Fairtrade poster' and 'Fairtrade slogan' to go on this website and also for individuals, families, businesses and community groups who support and promote Fairtrade in the town, under the following three categories: -

- 1) All schools/colleges within Cirencester
- 2) Individuals/Families who live in Cirencester
- 3) Businesses and Community groups based in Cirencester

The response was excellent and Mr Dearsley announced the following winners and those that were highly commended: -

Winners:

Phoebe Somers (Deer Park School)

Megan Flanighan & Niamh Ratcliffe (Chesterton Primary School)

Highly commended:

Sebastian Anders & Meichel Wright

Alexsandra Ololade

Hannah Bowsher

Rebecca Bowsher

(all Chesterton Primary School)

Business Winner:

Omanye Traditional African Drumming & Dance UK

The competition was kindly sponsored by: -

Marks and Spencer Plc, Cirencester

Tesco Cirencester Extra

The Body Shop International Plc

Evelyn Heasman and Alice Perret from 'Omanye – Traditional African Drumming and Dance UK were present at the meeting and were delighted to receive the prize of a Fairtrade Hamper from Marks and Spencer.

273.10 2009/10 GRANT AWARDS

The following representatives gave a summary outlining their respective work and how the funding has been used: -

Duncan Willoughby – Sue Ryder Care – Leckhampton Court Hospice*

Mike Howarth – Cirencester Table Tennis League

Peter Langman – Chesterton Community Project*

Annie Gould – New Brewery Arts*

Andrew Banfield – Cheltenham, Cirencester and Tewkesbury Citizens Advice Bureau

Ken Edwards – CRUSE Bereavement Care*

*Written reports available.

A report is also available on request from Cotswold Counselling, as they were unable to be represented at the meeting.

274.10 TOWN DISCUSSION

The Chief Executive Officer stated that he felt very privileged to work for the Council, as it has a far ranging impact within the community, which can really make a difference to people's lives. He also stated that he was pleased that the Council's Engagement Policy was working in practice and wanted to build on that in engaging much more and hoped that in 12 months time he would be able to report on projects such as the Chesterton Community Garden; it was community based projects such as this which in time will make a real difference to the town.

275.10 CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor thanked all those who attended, with special thanks to the representatives of the local organisations for their most interesting contribution to the meeting and for all the hard work that they do within the town.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Councillor G T Adams
Mayor