

# **CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bingham House, No. 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

**PRESENT:** Councillor D J Nash – Mayor  
Councillor G T Adams – Deputy Mayor

**Councillors:** Mrs S A Alexander  
R Bourne  
Mrs M T Eccles  
B D Hudson  
R G Lock  
Mrs B A Potter (7.30 p.m. arrival)  
Mrs M S Rickman  
D J M Sankey  
N E Whereat

Andrew Rennie Crook – Town Clerk  
Clive Sherwood – Deputy Town Clerk  
Johan Newman – Personal Assistant

A Prayer was read by the Mayor.

## **92.05 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Dr P A Hedges, D S P Clifford, J B Leicester and Mrs R A Leicester.

## **93.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received.

## **94.05 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, subject to Minute Nos. C88.05 to C91.05 to be considered under confidential matters.**

## **95.05 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

That the availability of recently considered applications and decisions be noted. (These files are available for inspection both in the Council Office during the working week and at Council Meetings.)

## **96.05 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor drew the Members' attention to the Newsletter and particularly to the Kite Event, which was taking place in the Abbey Grounds on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2004 in aid of The James Hopkin's Trust.

The Mayor also advised that the visit to the Corinium Museum was being re-arranged as invitations had been received for a date that had clashed with the Council Meeting.

## **97.05 QUESTION TIME FOR ELECTORS**

No questions were received.

## 98.05 QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS

No questions were received.

## 99.05 RESOLUTIONS MOVED ON NOTICE – STANDING ORDER NO. 19

- a) Notice in accordance with Standing Order No. 19 was received from Councillor R Bourne and seconded by Councillor B D Hudson on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

The notice moved the following resolution: -

“That this Council reconsider its decision to lease purchase the INVU data retrieval system in the absence of a clear business justification for lack of any analysis of alternative options and/or quotations.”

The resolution was moved and seconded.

**The resolution moved on notice related to a decision made within the last six months. Accordingly, a resolution to suspend Standing Orders was moved and seconded but failed on being put to the vote. The resolution moved on notice therefore failed.**

- b) Notice in accordance with Standing Order No. 19 was received from Councillor D J Nash on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

The notice moved the following resolution: -

“This Council views with grave concern the proposals by Post Office Ltd to close the Branch Post Offices at Chesterton and Watermoor. Council recognises the strong commercial challenges faced by Post Office Ltd but believes that the two Branches are an essential part of their respective communities and are of particular social value to the high proportion of elderly people residing in close proximity to them.

Accordingly this Council strongly urges Post Office Ltd not to close the Branch Post Offices at Chesterton and Watermoor.”

**This motion was carried with the addition that the Clerk be instructed to write to both Post Office Ltd and Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP expressing the Council’s concern.**

## 100.05 GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

No questions were asked of this authority.

## 101.05 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

No questions were asked of this authority.

## 102.05 DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995 IN RELATION TO PLAY AREAS

Members received a report from Councillor G T Adams, Chairman of the Play Areas Working Party, regarding the above (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

**RESOLVED that: -**

- a) **the report be noted;**  
b) **consideration be given by the Finance Committee to the financial recommendations contained therein, namely that additional funds be raised for the upgrading of certain play areas.**

**103.05****KINGSHILL LANE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT – PITCH ALLOCATION**

Members received a report from the Clerk drawing attention to a letter that had been received from Mr N Adams, Hon Secretary of Stratton Utd AFC, dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 2004, regarding the above (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

**RESOLVED that: -**

- a) **the report be noted;**
- b) **a team be invited to replace the one that has withdrawn from the Kingshill Lane Sports Development Site;**
- c) **the Deputy Clerk contact the management of Stratton Youth to offer that club the opportunity for one team to play at the Kingshill Lane Sports Development Site for the season 2004/5 in accordance with the terms of the S106 Planning Agreement (sale of London Road for residential development);**
- d) **if the Stratton Youth FC did not take up the opportunity, then Stratton Utd be offered the opportunity to play on the site in the season 2004/5.**

**104.05****REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS STAFFING****a) Code of Conduct Working Group**

Members received a report from the above (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

**RESOLVED that: -**

- i) **the report be noted;**
- And that the following items recommended by the Working Group be implemented: -**
- ii) **the Minutes of Council and Committee Meetings be prepared and distributed within ten working days of the meeting;**
  - iii) **all agendas, reference papers and minutes be agreed with the Chairman before publication and circulation;**
  - iv) **the final item on each Council agenda be "Matters Identified For Consideration at Future Meetings – Members are invited to suggest items for inclusion on future agendas";**
  - v) **the Committee Room be designated the Committee/Members' Room and that it may be booked for Council related meetings (provided that they are non-political) for a trial period of 6 months and that the following facilities are provided therein for Members: -**
    - **a computer with printer**
    - **a shredder**
    - **stationery**
  - vi) **visiting cards be produced for Members.**
- And that: -**
- vii) **the following recommendation be deferred back to the Working Group for further consideration: -**  
**"that when the Council is debating an issue, legal constraints, if any, are raised at the end of Members' debate."**

**b) Purpose Statement Working Group**

Councillor Mrs S A Alexander advised that a report would be presented to the Council Meeting in October 2004.

**c) Staffing Working Group**

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor D J Nash advised that the Group had met a couple of times and had studied office procedures and time records of the office staff and was beginning to formulate ideas. Work was currently being pursued on formal appraisals.

**105.05 KINGSHILL ESTATE – SALE OF LAND**

Members received a report from the Clerk regarding a request that has been received from Mr N Blackwell of 147 North Home Road, Cirencester, to purchase amenity land adjacent to his property (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes). The report also identified a suggestion by Councillor R Bourne for an alternative area.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- a) **Mr N Blackwell’s request to purchase an area of amenity land adjacent to his property identified at Appendix “A” be refused;**
- b) **the Clerk suggest to Mr Blackwell that if he submitted a new request identifying an area which took the land to be purchased right down to the footpath, then the Council would be disposed to treat the sale as an exception to its policy owing to the problems on that area.**

**106.05 RURAL WHITE PAPER AND MARKET TOWNS HEALTHCHECK**

As per a previous resolution to refer to the above on a regular basis, the Clerk advised that with regard to the Market Towns Healthcheck – Cirencester Partnership, a way forward had been found with the assistance of Councillor Mrs S A Alexander and Councillor Dr P A Hedges who had kindly volunteered to assist due to the resignation of the Council’s representative. On account of the email sent to the Steering Group in May, the Clerk would step down as Chairman. Jane Winstanley and Ian Donaldson, together with a representative from the Cotswold District Council, had also offered to help get the Partnership back on track and work up a presentation to go out to consultation.

The Clerk hoped that the Partnership could now go forward and as the Healthcheck was working in towns such as Fairford, Lechlade and Tetbury, there was no reason why it should not work in Cirencester.

The Clerk’s verbal report was noted and appreciation was given to the Clerk for all that he had done in this respect.

**107.05 REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

No reports were received.

**PART TWO**  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

- C108.05 MINUTES**
- C109.05 ABBEY GROUNDS W.C.’S**
- C110.05 KINGSHILL LANE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT SITE**
- C111.05 POTENTIAL BORROWING**

See Confidential Minute Book.

**RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest, that the public and press be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

The meeting closed at 9.12 p.m.

Councillor D J Nash  
Mayor