

CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Special Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Bingham House, No. 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 11th January 2005.

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

Councillors: Mrs S A Alexander
R Bourne
Mrs M T Eccles
Dr P A Hedges
J B Leicester
Mrs R A Leicester
R G Lock
D J M Sankey

Andrew Rennie Crook - Town Clerk

187.05 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors B D Hudson, Mrs B A Potter, Mrs M S Rickman and N E Whereat.

188.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G T Adams declared an interest with regard to Minute No. 189.05 - Kingshill Design Code in respect of his role as Vice Chairman of the Cirencester Civic Society having in that capacity sat on the Kingshill South Design Code Steering Group.

189.05 KINGSHILL SOUTH DESIGN CODE

The Mayor advised Members that the meeting had been called specifically to consider the Kingshill South Design Code and welcomed Mr A J Jones, Head of Planning at Cotswold District Council.

Mr Jones presented the background to the Design Code and placed it in the context of the determination currently being made by the Inspector pursuant to the Local Plan Inquiry. The Inspector's report is expected to be published in about June 2005. Mr Jones stressed that it was possible that the Inspector could discount Kingshill South as a site for development.

Members were made aware of the involvement of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and advised that some 12 pilots had been selected for the design code process. Of these pilots, it now appeared that the Kingshill Design Code was the only one that had reached final draft stage and that it would be presented at the Urban Summit to be held in Manchester at the end of January 2005. Mr Jones stated that the Steering Group and members of the local community had been involved in the process which had progressed from a prescriptive role to a much more acceptable status. It was stressed by Mr Jones that the Design Code would not usurp the role of the Local Planning Authority and that it would be for the Local Planning Authority to work up the Master Plan for Kingshill.

The Clerk identified the role of the Town Council through the involvement of Councillor Mrs S A Alexander and himself in the evolving Design Code. Mr Jones comments were confirmed in that the Code as now presented was not prescriptive but would be most useful by reference to the Cotswold Design Code and Master Plan that was to be developed by the Cotswold District Council.

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The Clerk referred to the Design Code that had been circulated to the Members (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes) and ran through the principal issues contained within the document by reference to the index. The Members were clearly made aware of the location of the site, the topographical and landscape constraints and the need for quality design to incorporate all types of housing, including affordable housing.

The Design Code was identified as taking into account the nature and character of the Cotswolds both in terms of its setting and urban development.

Members raised questions of both Mr Jones and the Clerk and it was **RESOLVED that this Council endorses the principles as set out in the Kingshill South Design Code as an input to the Master Plan process insofar as it applies to Cirencester for the possible future development of Kingshill South.**

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Councillor D J Nash
Mayor