

# **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, 8<sup>th</sup> February 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  
B D Hudson  
J B Leicester  
Mrs R A Leicester  
Mrs B A Potter (departed at 8.00 p.m.)  
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.

## **218.05 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors R G Lock and Mrs M S Rickman.

## **219.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received.

## **210.5 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor subject to the addition of the words “for the purpose of review” to the final sentence at Minute No. 210.05 – Matters Identified for Consideration at Future Meetings and Minute Nos. C211.05 and C212.05 to be considered under confidential matters.**

## **211.5 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.)

## **212.05 MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor drew the Members’ attention to the Newsletter and to the event organised by the Daniel Bingham Centenary Celebrations Working Group, namely BBC Radio’s “Any Questions?” to be held at Bingham Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> February and hoped that Members would assist in distributing some of the tickets.

The Mayor advised that he had attended a 29 Regiment Royal Logistic Corp dinner, a presentation by the Army at which he was pleased to see so many of the Members and the Chairman of Cotswold District Council’s Civic Service at Chipping Campden.

**213.05 QUESTION TIME FOR ELECTORS**

No questions were received.

**214.05 QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS**

No questions were received.

**215.05 RESOLUTIONS MOVED ON NOTICE – STANDING ORDER NO. 19**

None were received.

**216.05 GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

No questions were asked of this authority.

**217.05 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

No questions were asked of this authority.

**218.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members received and noted a letter from Mr J M Ellis, Monitoring Officer at Cotswold District Council, dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2005 (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

The Mayor also referred to the "Roadshows for Members" being held by Cotswold District Council on "The Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests", that have been identified on the Newsletter and hoped that Members would attend.

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

As per a previous resolution to refer to the above on a regular basis, the Clerk had nothing to report but hoped that the Ward Audits Working Group recommended by the Policy Committee would progress matters in respect of the Market Towns Healthcheck.

**220.05 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS STAFFING**

a) Chairmen's Working Group

The Mayor reported that a meeting of the above had been held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2005 to discuss a number of issues, primarily making recommendations to Council in March as per the following resolution (Minute No. 204.05b) made on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005, as follows: -

*"requests the Chairmen's Working Group to work with Officers to develop detailed proposals for a three committee structure (Finance, Policy and Planning, Environment & Amenities) with some delegated authority. These proposals to be brought to the March Council Meeting so that, when approved, the new structure can be put in place for the 2005/6 Council Year."*

The Mayor advised that at this stage the Group would like to recommend that the Council would indeed form the new committees as agreed but that each of the three committees should consist of all 15 Members of the Council in order to avoid concerns about delegated authority to just a few Members and the Group would like the Council's agreement in principle. The Mayor also advised that the Group would like to recommend that the Council does not meet so often, say once every other month.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- i) the Council agree in principle to the recommendation that the three committees namely, Finance, Policy and Planning and Environment and Amenities should consist of all 15 Members of the Council;**
- ii) full proposals be provided at the Council Meeting in March.**

b) Staffing Working Group

Councillor Mrs M T Eccles, Chairman of the Staffing Working Group, advised Members that the Staffing Working Group met on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2005 and formulated the following proposal, which it hereby commends to Council: -

"That Council be asked to approve an arrangement between the Clerk, the Mayor and the Chairman of the Staffing Working Group whereby the Clerk is freed from the responsibilities of general office work to prioritise the prime objectives of the council."

Councillor Mrs Eccles advised that a letter had been sent to all Councillors this evening outlining the same and identifying that the Officers, at their discretion, be able to employ temporary staff and that Members' contact with the office should be kept only to the most pressing issues.

Councillor Mrs Eccles also advised that the next meeting of the Staffing Working Group was to take place on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at 3.00 p.m.

**RESOLVED that the Mayor, Chairman of the Staffing Working Group and the Clerk formulate an arrangement whereby the Clerk is freed from the responsibilities of general office work to prioritise the prime objectives of the Council.**

**221.05 PLAY AREAS**

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk together with quotation for play equipment at St. Michael's Park (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes). Members were also circulated on the evening with a report from Councillor G T Adams, Chairman of the Play Areas Working Group (a copy of which is also appended to the signed Minutes).

After debate, it was **RESOLVED that approval be given to: -**

- a) the rolling together of all earmarked reserves for individual play areas be placed under the one heading of Play Areas;**
- b) in principle the annual allocation of an additional sum of £25,000 for the next four years to Play Areas;**
- c) the acceptance of the quotation received from LAPPSET for the supply of play equipment at St. Michael's Park for the sum of £22,390 + VAT.**

**222.05 FOOTPATH/CYCLE LINK BETWEEN BEECHES ROAD AND VICTORIA ROAD**

Members received a report from the Clerk regarding a contribution towards a Feasibility Study for improving the currently unsatisfactory pedestrian/cycle link between Beeches Road and Victoria Road (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

**RESOLVED that a contribution of £1,000 be allocated towards the cost of a Feasibility Study.**

**223.05 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE – GRASS CUTTINGS**

Members received and noted a letter from Dr A Mullins, Waste and Sustainability Manager at Cotswold District Council, dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2005 (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

**224.05 REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR FESTIVAL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Members considered a request to support a festival for people with disabilities being held as a taster session in June 2005. Mr A Reid, the Leisure Marketing Manager at Cotswold District Council, advised that disabled people would be given the opportunity to try out various martial arts and self defence techniques as well as holding a competition section for those who already participate.

**RESOLVED to agree in principle to supporting the event but requested the Clerk to ascertain from Mr Reid details of the type of support sought and the likely costs involved e.g. the cost of the trophies for the event.**

**225.05 REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

No written reports were received.

**226.05 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

No matters were identified.

**PART TWO**  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

**C227.05 KINGSHILL LANE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**  
**C228.05 MINUTES**

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 9.00 p.m.

Councillor D J Nash  
Mayor