

CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chamber, Bingham House, No. 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 8th February 2005.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs S A Alexander – Chairman

Councillors: M T Eccles (arrived 6.15 p.m.)
Mrs R A Leicester
Mrs B A Potter (arrived 6.25 p.m.)
D J M Sankey

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

OBSERVERS: G T Adams
J B Leicester

214.05 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors B D Hudson and Mrs M S Rickman.

215.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

216.05 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 24th December 2004 be noted and signed by the Chairman, the Minutes having been approved by Council on Monday, 24th January 2005.

217.05 A REVIEW OF POLICIES

The Committee considered the Council's Environmental, Purchasing and Nature Conservation Policies and **RECOMMENDED to Council that: -**

- a) **the following policies be approved;**
- b) **the Environmental Working Group consider all policies and to identify possible additions.**

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. To monitor all initiatives in the market and there should be a six monthly report to the Council on the operation of this policy.
2. The Council will closely monitor energy consumption in its buildings and seek to ensure a reduction, followed by continuing efficiency.
3. The Council will monitor the cleanliness of streets.
4. The Council will lobby the Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council and other bodies on environmental issues. However, it recognises the need to work with these bodies as closely as possible.
5. The Council will only support, promote or encourage those developments or activities which either improve or cause as little damage as possible to the environment.
6. In its consideration of Planning Applications, the Council will place environmental and conservation factors at the forefront.
7. The Council will consider what initiatives can be carried out with a view to maintaining public awareness of environmental issues.

THE PURCHASING POLICY

The Council will: -

1. purchase diesel, LPG or electric engined vehicles, or those equipped with catalytic converters. This requirement will also apply to the granting of car loans to staff for the purchase of new cars. In the case of second-hand cars, the requirement shall be the ability to run on unleaded fuel or diesel;
2. not purchase any products containing CFC's or harmful solvents;
3. not use peat, or peat-based products;
4. ensure the minimum use of weed killers and will comply with EU directives and guidelines issued by the Pesticides Safety Directorate;
5. not purchase items containing or using non-sustainable tropical hardwoods;
6. will require an environmentally-aware standard of design and colour in any fittings or structures being provided on its land;
7. will purchase "environmentally friendly" products even when they are not the cheapest, but that where the cost is 10% extra to bring the matter to the attention of the Mayor or the Chairman of the Finance Committee (unless the matter is required to be decided by that Committee or Council anyway);
8. will monitor market initiatives and where appropriate, act upon them (in accordance with 7. above).

NOTE:

- A. These conditions are to be incorporated into any contracts or working arrangements with outside bodies.
- B. Wherever possible, all agendas and minutes will be printed on both sides of the paper. Paper from a renewable source is to be used exclusively, unless the Council agrees to the contrary.

NATURE CONSERVATION

1. Rivers and streams within the Council's control will be managed in an environmentally sensitive way.
2. The planting of trees on Council property will be encouraged where appropriate.
3. Preference will be given to planting those species which are in keeping with the environment.

The Clerk drew attention to the improvements planned for the railway cutting at Kingshill and advised that, with the assistance of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, it was hoped that wild flowers would be planted. Unfortunately, a problem had been identified on health and safety grounds due to the amount of dog fouling in that area. An improved environment for wildlife was also being encouraged by selective cutting around waterways.