

CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of Council held in The Bingham Gallery, Bingham House, 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, at 7.15 p.m. on Tuesday, 14th March 2006.

PRESENT: Councillor N E Whereat – Mayor
Councillor Dr P A Hedges – Deputy Mayor

Councillors: G T Adams
Mrs S A Alexander
R Bourne
Mrs M T Eccles
B D Hudson
Mrs S A le Noury
J B Leicester
Mrs R A Leicester
J D Leigh
R G Lock
D J Nash
Mrs B A Potter
Mrs M S Rickman

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

A Prayer was read by the Mayor.

135.06 APOLOGIES

None were received.

136.06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

137.06 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 10th January 2006 and the Special Council Meeting held on 14th February 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor subject to Minute Nos. C115.06 to C117.06 and C123.06 to be considered under confidential matters.

Updates:

a) Minute No. 112.06 Representatives on Other Bodies

Councillor D J Nash advised that the outlook of Cotswold Council for Voluntary Service was secure for the foreseeable future.

Councillor R Bourne confirmed that he had now received copies of the Agendas and Meetings for the Cirencester Open Air Swimming Pool Association and had attended a meeting on 13th March 2006.

138.06 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that he had attended, along with other Councillors and the Clerk, classes at Cirencester Deer Park School and commented that the events were very constructive with the pupils being very appreciative of the Councillors input. There was a possibility that pupils would be attending a future Council Meeting.

139.06 QUESTION TIME FOR ELECTORS

The following question was received from Mr M Parrish of 21 The Avenue, Cirencester: -

QUESTION:

“Would the Council confirm that they do not intend taking any legal action against any of the contractors, suppliers, professionals or consultants involved in the Kingshill Lane Sports Development Site?”

ANSWER:

No. It would be imprudent for the Town Council to close off its options and indeed, an action has already been commenced in respect of some of the problems that have been experienced.

140.06 QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS

None in open session.

141.06 RESOLUTIONS MOVED ON NOTICE – STANDING ORDER NO. 19

None were received.

142.06 GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

No questions were asked of this authority.

143.06 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

No questions were asked of this authority.

144.06 PROJECT BOARD

Members received a report from Councillor D J Nash, Chairman of the Project Board, regarding the meetings held on 16th January and 20th February 2006 (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

A Member voiced concerns with regards to the liability of the supplier of the problematic lights at Kingshill Lane. The Clerk replied that the contractor has tried to resolve the problems and that remedies were being sought.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

145.06 THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHARTER

Members received a letter from Mr P Bungard, Chief Executive of Gloucestershire County Council, dated 31st January 2006, together with Charter (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

The Clerk reported that there were shortcomings within the document but it obviously had a number of benefits and was a “living document”.

RESOLVED that the Council support the Gloucestershire Charter and that the Clerk and the Mayor would attend the launch of the same in April.

146.06 KINGSHILL LANE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT SITE – SKATEBOARDING FACILITY

Councillor Mrs M T Eccles provided the following report on the above: -

The skateboard facility is now open and has been seeing regular use.

Reports of damage from acts of vandalism have been minor.

Gareth Parsons, owner of the skate and ski board shop in Swan Yard and Ian Jennings from the Youth Group in Lewis Lane have undertaken to be in attendance at the facility on two evenings a week. With regard to the floodlights these are only switched on when Gareth or Ian are in attendance and not after 9.00 p.m. Gareth is also seeking further funding of approximately £28,000 from private sources to further enhance facilities at the site.

The Town Clerk has confirmed that the site is covered by insurance for public liability

Gareth and Ian are very committed to keeping the facility open and it is working well.

Members believed that a formal opening ceremony would be advantageous and the facility should be publicised.

RESOLVED that a formal opening ceremony be organised and the facility be publicised.

147.6 REVISION OF CHARGES 2006/7

Members consider the charges for St. Michael's Park, Allotments and Football Pitches at Kingshill Lane Sports Development Site for 2006/7.

Resolved that the following charges apply for the year 2006/7: -

ST. MICHAEL'S PARK

	£
Tennis	3.70 per hour
Tennis (Concessionary Rate)	2.30 per hour
Lights	3.70 per hour
Croquet	3.70 per game
Golf (Adults)	1.40 per game
Golf (Children & Concessionary)	.70 per game
Golf (Family Ticket - 2 Adults & 3 Children)	2.80 per game
Barbecue (inc. Charcoal)	7.00

ALLOTMENTS

Rental (City Bank & Chesterton Two Acres)	6.00
Rental (Beeches)	60.00

FOOTBALL

Per Match	40.00
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148.06 CIRENCESTER PARK WARD – HIGH PEDESTRIAN CASUALTY RATES

Members received a report from the Child Accident Prevention Trust regarding the above (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

Councillor D J Nash circulated statistics on the casualty rates, together with a proposition and hoped that Members would support the same.

Members were very concerned at high speed of vehicles through the town and considered that the town centre 20 mph zone signage could be confusing. It was also noted that the original plans for the Park Street included 20 mph roundels, but this had been objected to by various action groups. English Heritage had not taken a view on signage in Cirencester.

The Chairman stated that roundels were preferential to pedestrian casualties.

RESOLVED that: -

Council notes the unacceptably high number of pedestrian casualties occurring in the town and welcomes the recent introduction of a 20 mph speed limit for vehicles in the town centre.

Council notes with alarm that far too many drivers are apparently ignoring this new speed limit.

Accordingly, Council calls upon Gloucestershire Constabulary to do all that it can to enforce the speed limit up to and including prosecution of offenders.

Further, Council recognises the resource implications of police enforcement and calls upon the County Council as Highways Authority to take all practicable steps to remind drivers of the speed limit by means of road signs, roundels and publicity through the local media.

149.06 REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Councillor Mrs S A Alexander reported that the Cirencester Temperance Trust has not had a meeting and had taken steps to remind the Chairman.

Councillor R Bourne had attended a meeting of the Cirencester Open Swimming Pool Association and advised that they were enthusiastic and determined to make the pool successful. The Association were cleaning in and around the pool on 25th March and stated that volunteers would be welcome. The pool will open on 21st May 2006.

Councillor Dr P A Hedges had attended the opening of the National Childbirth Trust Bring and Buy sale on the previous weekend.

Councillor N E Whereat had attended a meeting of the St. Lawrence's Hospital charity.

150.06 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Council Structure – An informal meeting was requested.

PART TWO
CONFIDENTIAL

C151.06 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 9.35 p.m.

Councillor N E Whereat
Mayor