

CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Policy Committee held in The Bingham Gallery, Bingham House, 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 14th March 2006.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs S A Alexander – Chairman
Councillor Mrs M T Eccles – Vice Chairman

Councillors: Dr P A Hedges
D J Nash
Mrs B A Potter

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

Observers: Councillors: G T Adams
R Bourne
J D Leigh
R G Lock
N E Whereat

124.06 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors J B Leicester and Mrs R A Leicester.

125.06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

126.06 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 8th February 2005 (approved by Council on 8th March 2005) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

127.06 WARD AUDITS

Councillor Mrs S A Alexander thanked Councillors G T Adams, R Bourne, Mrs M T Eccles, J D Leigh, J B Leicester, Mrs R A Leicester and N E Whereat for handing in their Ward Audits and was awaiting those from Councillors Dr P A Hedges, B D Hudson, R G Lock, D J Nash, Mrs B A Potter and Mrs M S Rickman. Councillor Mrs Alexander hoped that the Ward Audits awaited would be forthcoming and stated that there was no point in holding a meeting of the Ward Audit Working Group until further information was received.

Councillor Mrs Alexander referred to the Gloucestershire Charter, which was being discussed by full Council later in the evening, which referred to consultation and communication between town councils and Gloucestershire County Council by particular reference to damage to traffic signs, street lighting failures, potholes, etc. She hoped that the ward audits would help with this process.

Members were requested, if they had limited time available, to complete their Ward Audits, that they should prioritise on roads, footpaths and signage.

POLICY STATEMENT

Members considered the Council's Purpose Statement and **RECOMMENDED to Council that the statement should be re-affirmed subject to the item relating to F.I.D.O. being deleted: -**

"Cirencester Town Council is a council dedicated to working to make the town a clean, safe and vibrant place, meeting the needs and aspirations of all its citizens. By:

Providing cost-effective services

- Administering the town finances within the stated budget
- Maintaining the town's parks recreation grounds and play areas
- Maintain sports development
- Maintain walls around the parks and the churchyard
- Grants to local organisations to fulfil our aims and objectives*
- Maintain the Abbey Grounds lavatories
- The Charter Market
- County information office in the centre of town
- Information available on our web site
- Allotments
- Maintaining the Parish Church closed churchyard
- Implementing new legislation

Promoting a clean, safe and low-crime environment

- CCTV
- Crime and disorder partnership
- After dusk closure of parks and playgrounds
- *F.I.D.O. in the parks and Kingshill Sports Development (replace as and when to continue with the service) [Recommended for deletion as there is no budget provision to replace the same.]*
- Promotions, clean up Cirencester campaign
- Working with the Churn project
- Environmental enhancements

Supporting activities and facilities for all ages and abilities

- The support for the Corn Hall
- Playgrounds, recreation grounds and parks
- Bandstand
- The Abbey Grounds lavatories
- The St Michael's Park lavatories
- Games for hire at St Michael's Park
- Kingshill Lane Sports Development
- Skateboard facilities
- Support of the Advent Market
- Seating provided in the wards of the town
- Grants to organisations that advance the objectives
- The open-air swimming pool
- Loop system (for DDA)

Encouraging good citizenship and pride in our town

- Ward audits
- Maintain close links with the town's schools and the college
- Move the Town Council towards Quality Council Status

- Promotions to clean up the town
- The Market Town's Healthcheck through partnership working
- Promote public art in the town
- Grass cutting on the housing estate around the town
- Holding civic functions for all sections of society
- Newsletter to all the townsfolk
- Encouraging maximum participation from the local community.

Supporting a vibrant economy

- Promotion of the town by the productions of guide books and maps
- Website
- Maintain the public parks
- The mop fair
- Membership of the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum
- Links with the Chamber of Commerce
- Links with other tiers of local government
- Links with the Voluntary sector
- Links with the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils
- Links with the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

Encouraging appropriate developments that can meet the needs of all.

- Playing a leading role in the aspects of the planning process that affects the town, including the Local Plan
- Links with the Churn Project
- Ward audits and the town plan, feeding into the Healthcheck

*** Every time a decision is made in respect of a definitive issue, a timescale be attached identifying a programme of expectation."**

129.06 5 YEAR PLAN

Members considered the formation of a 5 year plan.

Members believed that this issue should be addressed by all Members.

RECOMMENDED that an informal meeting be arranged to consider a 5 year plan.

130.06 COUNCIL POLICIES

Members considered the rolling programme to review all Council Policies and believed that the same should be carried forward to be considered in the new civic year 2006/7.

It was noted that many objectives have been achieved, e.g. improvements to the play areas. Members noted that when policies were made an action plan was essential.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the Council Policies outstanding be carried forward for consideration in the Civic Year 2006/7.

The meeting closed at 6.28 p.m.

Councillor Mrs S A Alexander
Chairman