

# **CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a Meeting of Council held in The Bingham Gallery, Bingham House, 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, at 7.10 p.m. on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

**PRESENT:** Councillor N E Whereat – Mayor  
Councillor Mrs S A Alexander – Deputy Mayor

**Councillors:** G T Adams  
R Bourne  
Mrs M T Eccles  
Dr P A Hedges  
B D Hudson  
J D Leigh  
R G Lock  
D J Nash  
Mrs B A Potter  
Mrs M S Rickman

Andrew Rennie Crook - Town Clerk  
Johan Newman – Personal Assistant

A Prayer was read by the Mayor.

## **80.07 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors J B Leicester, Mrs R A Leicester and Mrs S A le Noury, Clive Sherwood, Deputy Town Clerk and Acting Sergeant Chris Freeman.

## **81.07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Clerk drew Members' attention to the requirements of the Code of Conduct and having taken advice from the Monitoring Officer, informed Members that they should enter into all debates with an open mind. If they have made comments publicly or to the press that would indicate the way in which they are going to vote, then such Member is advised to declare a prejudicial interest and leave the meeting for the agenda item in question.

## **82.07 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor subject to Minute Nos. C78.07 and C79.07 to be considered under confidential matters.**

## **83.07 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor gave the following report: -

“Over the last month, I have attended the Convocation of the Royal Agricultural College when the Lord Lieutenant, Henry Elwes, presented the degrees.

Last night, I attended the induction of the new Vicar, The Reverend James Butterworth, and I take this opportunity to wish him well in his new post.

A couple of weeks ago, the Mayor of Bridgnorth visited the Cirencester Town Football Club with a local ladies team who were playing in a competition. I had the pleasure of spending some time with the Mayor.

Finally, I draw your attention to the Newsletter, by particular reference to the item relating to Remembrance Day. All Councillors are invited to gather at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November at the War Memorial. On Sunday, we

have been invited to attend the Remembrance Service and lunch afterwards. I know that the Clerk has only received indication from only a few of you as to whether or not you will be attending. Will you please let the office know tomorrow.”

Councillor D J Nash reported to the Council that a Cirencester youngster by the name of Amy Mazelska had been recognised in the Gloucestershire County Council’s Medal of Courage awards and asked that the Mayor extend his congratulations. The Mayor confirmed that he would do so.

**84.07 QUESTION TIME FOR ELECTORS**

None were received.

**85.07 QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS**

None were received.

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

None were received.

**87.07 GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

No questions were asked of this authority.

**88.07 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

No questions were asked of this authority.

**89.07 PROJECT BOARD**

Members received a report from the Chairman of the Project Board, Councillor D J Nash, (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

Councillor Nash commented that play areas involved more than just providing equipment such as roundabouts, but about provision for older children. This accordingly meant that play areas should be referred to as “recreation areas”.

Reference was made to the Open Air Swimming Pool and it was noted that the Board would be delighted if other Members of the Council would like to be involved in an informal meeting arranged between representatives of the Town Council and the Association.

Attention was also drawn to the cost of providing the Christmas Lights, which cost the Council Tax payers approximately £10,000 per annum for 6 weeks of illumination. Councillor Nash stated that he was not sure that this represented value for money and was hopeful that the Chamber of Commerce and others would identify their involvement. Mention was also made of the area known as “Catalpa Square” in Dyer Street, where some businesses had identified that they would like the lighting extended into this area. Councillor Nash added that, if it was possible, it should be at their own expense.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**90.7 NORMAN ARCH AND COTTAGE**

The Clerk provided an update on the negotiations with The Vivat Trust.

The Clerk advised Members that the acquisition of the lease of the Norman Arch and Cottage had been approved by the full board of The Vivat Trust. The next step would be for them to set up a professional team and to approach fund aiders for money to get an "option appraisal grant", which would be given to the most economically advantageous bidder.

It was hoped that the full structural survey would be carried out this year and that Listed Building and grant applications, etc., would be applied for in March.

The Clerk estimated that the signing of legal documentation would probably be in about June 2007.

Members again stated that they would like the matter concluded by the end of the current civic year and asked the Clerk how this could be achieved.

The Clerk advised that the Council could set up the legal documentation, at a cost, which would identify to The Vivat Trust the Council's detailed expectations.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk provide the Norman Arch Working Group (Councillors G T Adams, R Bourne, Mrs M T Eccles and Mrs B A Potter) with a copy of leases entered into with The Vivat Trust and other bodies with a view to making recommendations to Council at the next meeting.**

#### **91.07 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL – PARKING STRATEGY – PHASE II**

Members received a copy of the above consultation (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

Members who are also Cotswold District Councillors (Councillors Mrs S A Alexander, Dr P A Hedges, D J Nash and Mrs M S Rickman) declared an interest.

Councillor J D Leigh declared an interest with regard to disabled parking.

Councillor Dr Hedges advised that the Cotswold District Council's Cabinet had voted to defer on the determination of the issue in order to obtain further consultation comments. Councillor Hedges also advised that RTA Associates Ltd (who were carrying out the consultation on the District Council's behalf) had not received the current parking policy of 2003.

A Member stated that Cirencester was already disadvantaged due to the high parking charges and recommended that the Town Council resist the charge for on street parking unless it falls in line with other market towns.

With regard to season ticket holders, a Member stated that Cotswold District Council must acknowledge that pay and display customers were at a disadvantage to the season ticket holders and that an increase should be made in respect of the latter.

Attention was also made to the need for ticket machines that provide change and also that parking in the Market Place should be for a maximum of half an hour.

**RESOLVED that Members submit their comments to the office by 12 Noon on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006.**

A Member queried the costs of the Mop Fair when it uses the Forum Car Park. The Clerk advised that the fee to the operator is negotiated with the Showmen's Guild and uplifted by inflation. This year's fee being £2,767.00.

Cotswold District Council, however, had increased the charge this year for the use of the car park, administration, etc., from £1,600 to £1,990. When questioned further, the Clerk advised that it would be necessary for the Council to consider this issue in future years to determine on the viability of the same.

#### **92.07 MARKET TOWNS HEALTHCHECK**

Councillor Mrs S A Alexander reported that the Healthcheck had now been re-named "The Future Cirencester" to give it a new image. Councillor Mrs Alexander outlined the type of data that was now being collated e.g. social and community issues and transport and accessibility. This information would then be analysed.

The Clerk stated that the slippage in this project had cost this town money and that the Town Council (working with Cotswold District Council and the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum) had put in a bid to the Market and Coastal Towns Association for the allocation of funding.

#### **93.07 GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

Members received and noted the "Resolutions Proposed by Member Councils for the 2006 Annual General Meeting" to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

**RESOLVED that as Councillor Dr P A Hedges is the Council's representative on this organisation, Councillor Dr Hedges be delegated to vote on the resolutions as he sees fit.**

#### **94.7 REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

- a) No reports of meetings from Members were received;
- b) The Clerk reported that with regard to representatives of the C & S A Bowly's Almshouse Charity, he had contacted Mrs A M Calvert and Mr J W Watson. Mrs Calvert and Mr Watson have confirmed their willingness to continue but Mr Watson stated that he felt that a younger more vibrant individual should be appointed. It was accordingly **RESOLVED that the Council's representatives on the C & S A Bowly's Almshouse Charity be Councillors Mrs A M Alexander and N E Whereat and Mrs A M Calvert.**

#### **95.07 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

None.

#### **PART TWO** **CONFIDENTIAL**

**C96.07 MINUTES**

**C97.07 ACCOUNTS – PAYROLL**

**C98.07 PERSONNEL**

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 8.35 p.m.

Councillor N E Whereat  
Mayor