

CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of Council held in the Bingham Gallery, 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 10th April 2007.

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 B Leicester
Mrs R A Leicester
J D Leigh
Mrs S A le Noury
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.

192.07 APOLOGIES

None.

193.07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

On the recommendation of the Deputy Monitoring Officer, the Clerk advised Members that whilst it was recognised that the Council's business must be pursued, Members should refrain from electioneering.

Councillor Mrs S A Alexander and Councillor Mrs M S Rickman, as Soroptimists, declared personal interests in relation to Minute No. C211.07 – Charter Market.

194.07 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 13th March 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor subject to Minute Nos. C186.07 and C187.07 to be considered under confidential matters.

195.07 FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the grants as recommended by the Finance Committee at their meeting on 10th April 2007 be approved.

196.07 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the availability of recently considered applications and decisions be noted. (These files being available for inspection both in the Council Office during the working week and at Council Meetings.)

The Chairman thanked the Clerk and the office staff for all their work.

197.07 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor drew Members' attention to the Annual Town Meeting to be held on 24th April 2007 and hoped that they would all attend. The Mayor thanked Members for their support during the past year and wished them all the best for the future, if standing for election or not.

198.07 QUESTION TIME FOR ELECTORS

None were received.

199.07 QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS

None were received.

200.07 RESOLUTIONS MOVED ON NOTICE – STANDING ORDER NO. 19

None were received.

201.07 GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

No questions were asked of this authority.

202.07 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

No questions were asked of this authority.

203.07 PROJECT BOARD

The Chairman of the Project Board, Councillor D J Nash, outlined his report of the meeting held on 16th March 2007 (a copy of which is appended to the signed Minutes).

It was noted that the Open Air Swimming Pool Association's application for assistance, which had been considered by the Finance Committee earlier that evening, would be considered by the Project Board at their next meeting on 16th April 2007.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

204.07 NEW TOWN CLERK

The Clerk reported that Mr Andrew Tubb had been appointed as the new Town Clerk and would be taking up post at the end of June 2007.

The Members expressed their gratitude to the Officers and to the Interview Panel for all the work involved in the appointment of the new Town Clerk.

205.07 ENHANCING OF POLICING IN CIRENCESTER

The Clerk reminded Members that the Council had resolved that £22,500 be identified in the budget for 2007/8 to support the enhancement of policing in Cirencester, subject to a clear audit trail.

The Clerk reported that an agreement had not yet been finalised but the same was anticipated in the next few days. This would then be followed by a joint press release on behalf of both the Town Council and the Police. All actions arising thereafter would be dealt with by the Police publicity team.

RESOLVED that the Clerk's verbal report be noted.

206.07 ACCOUNTS – AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2006

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

RESOLVED that: -

- a) the report be approved and noted;**
- b) all recommendations identified in the report be implemented, i.e.**
 - the letter of engagement from the Internal Auditor should identify his independence and fully outline the tasks to be undertaken;**
 - a schedule of payments to be authorised at each meeting;**
 - a reserves policy to be documented as a matter of good practice.**

207.07 PARKING STRATEGY

The Clerk reminded Members that he had produced a report on the above to Council on 13th February 2007, which identified the following issues that should be included when the final response on the Parking Strategy consultation is presented: -

“That there should be no car parking charges on a Sunday;
That parking meters should give change;
That consideration should be given to the exit/entrance from the Beeches Car Park in terms of the existing conflict between pedestrians and vehicles and the attendant safety issues;
That consideration should be given to exit barriers for off street car parks thus enabling charging for car parking to be based on the departure time (in making such recommendation, the Working Group appreciate that this provision could not be introduced into on street parking).”

The Clerk advised that the issue of civil enforcement had moved on somewhat in that Central Government was seeking to push regulations through so that councils would be responsible for procedures for enforcing on-street parking from October. It was accordingly believed that further discussions on the Parking Strategy consultation should not be pursued until such time as the decriminalisation had been tried and tested by Cotswold District Council as the enforcing authority.

RESOLVED that the Clerk’s verbal report be noted and that the matter be put on hold until the decriminalisation had been tried and tested by Cotswold District Council as the enforcing authority.

208.07 MARKET AND COASTAL TOWNS ASSOCIATION INITIATIVE

The Clerk reported that the Vision for Cirencester being pursued by Cotswold District Council and the successful bid for inclusion in the Market and Coastal Towns Association Initiative, gave an ideal opportunity to gain a holistic overview of the issues of the Town.

The Clerk stated that with support from Mr Charles Coffin of the Association replies had been received following invitations to sit on the Steering Group. Notification was awaited for an initial meeting with the Steering Group and Mr Coffin.

209.07 REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Councillor G T Adams advised that the Cirencester Open Air Swimming Pool would be opened in May.

Councillor D J Nash advised that the Chairman of the Cotswold Council for Voluntary Service would be standing down at the next meeting, which gave the organisation time to seek a replacement. He stated that the current

financial status was being studied very closely and, unfortunately, some posts will be made redundant. He stated that the organisation was very grateful for the financial support received from the Town Council and hoped to ensure that there was no danger to the organisation and the services it provides.

Councillor N E Whereat advised that he had attended a meeting of the St Lawrence's Hospital when the accounts had been provided and stated that the properties were very well maintained.

210.07 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted that all recreation facilities should be reviewed and that there were five sets of quotations/plans available for the Abbey Grounds Play Area for inspection in the Town Council Offices.

PART TWO
CONFIDENTIAL

C211.07 COUNCIL MINUTES

Please note that the order of the following two items was changed from that identified in the Agenda.

C212.07 CHARTER MARKET

C213.07 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 7.50 p.m.

Councillor N E Whereat
Mayor