

# **CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a Meeting of Council held in the Bingham Gallery and Conference Suite, Bingham House, No. 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs S A Alexander – Mayor  
Councillor G T Adams – Deputy Mayor

**Councillors:** Mrs C Braidwood  
P A Braidwood  
A N Curry  
H G C Gray  
W Helm  
R Hughes  
A Lichnowski  
D J Nash  
Mrs S A le Noury  
Mrs B A Potter  
Mrs M S Rickman

Andrew Tubb – Chief Executive Officer  
Clive Sherwood – Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Johan Newman – Executive Officer

## **46.09 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Mrs J Hincks (personal).  
Note: Subsequent apologies were received from Councillor Ms K M Yarrow (personal).

## **47.09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R Hughes declared a personal interest in relation to the Chesterton Community Project item as he is a committee member of the Project (Minute 52.09).

## **48.09 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

## **49.9 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs S A Alexander, attended the following: -

- A meeting with the Principal of Royal Agricultural College, Professor Chris Gaskell, on 17<sup>th</sup> June
- An exhibition of school art work at the New Brewery Arts, as part of the publicity for the production of a series of "Mystery Plays", on 20<sup>th</sup> June
- The Diamond Jubilee Lunch of Soroptimists International of Cirencester and District on 29<sup>th</sup> June
- A "Mystery Play" at Bingham Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> July

## **50.09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No notification of questions was received.

**51.09 MEMBER PARTICIPATION**

No questions relating to the business of the Council were raised.

**52.09 CHESTERTON COMMUNITY PROJECT**

Members received a report together with the Chesterton Community Project's Constitution for consideration and endorsement.

It was noted that the Town Council's notice boards can be used for the display of the Project's meeting notices and that the community section of local newspapers could be used free of charge.

**RESOLVED that the Constitution be endorsed so that the same can be taken by the Project's Committee to a public meeting in September for approval.**

**53.09 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED that the recently considered applications and decisions, under delegated authority, of the Planning Committee made at meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 be noted.**

**54.09 CORPORATE GROUP**

Members received a report following a meeting of the Corporate Group held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

The report updated Members on the Chief Executive Officer's Annual Appraisal, Draft Youth Policy, Member Support and Development and Guidance Notes for the award of ward grants.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**55.09 PROJECT GROUP**

Members received a report following a meeting of the Project Group held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008 relating to allotment fees and the setting up of a Project Sub-Group to consider issues relating to the Abbey Grounds and St. Michael's Park.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- a) the report be noted;**
- b) the increase in allotment fees be deferred to 2009/2010 and that the fees for 2008/9 remain at £10.00; with the approval for smaller plots being established.**

**56.09 OUR FUTURE CIRENCESTER - MARKET AND COASTAL TOWNS INITIATIVE**

Members received a report relating to the Community Plan 'Our Future Cirencester' and to consider future funding.

The Chief Executive Officer outlined the report and highlighted that the extension of the Community Agent's contract to March 2009 to establish a framework for delivery, was being negotiated and that the Steering Group's Chairman, Councillor A Lichnowski, would report on it's progress to the Council's Project Group.

It was noted that the Steering Group was meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008 to begin the process of developing the delivery process, prioritisation and publicity. The

formal launch of the Plan being on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at a meeting of the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum in the Bingham Gallery. Attention was also drawn to the 'Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Grant' received by Cotswold District Council from Central Government. Members were reminded that the Town Council, in partnership with Action Cirencester, the Civic Society and the Chamber of Commerce, had proposed to prepare a bid for funding towards the Market Place Improvement Scheme. It was now reported by Cotswold District Council that this fund was only available for internal projects only.

Members were very concerned with this development, especially as the Cotswold District Council's 'Vision for Cirencester' document identified the Town Council as the best placed authority to co-ordinate the project and as such should not be viewed as an external organisation.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- a) **the report be noted;**
- b) **£25,000 be allocated from General Reserves for the commencement of work to deliver the Community Plan (subject to expenditure, recommendations from the Steering Group being approved by Project Group);**
- c) **the Mayor write to the Cotswold District Council identifying the Town Council's disappointment at its decision relating to the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Grant for internal projects only and ask for the same to reconsider.**

#### **57.09 KINGSHILL LANE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

Members received a report relating to the future development of the Kingshill Lane Sports Development Site, including information about the wind turbines.

It was noted that meetings had been held with the Sports College at Kingshill School, the Athletics Club and the Ramp Users Group in respect of the development of the site and that a sport focused community lunch is to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Reference was also made to the continued unreliability of the wind turbine lights, along the path from the Kingshill School to the old railway cutting and the recommendation that the same be linked to the main power supply.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- a) **the report be noted;**
- b) **the wind turbine lights be linked to a supportive main power supply.**

#### **58.9 HERITAGE OPEN DAYS.**

Members received a report relating to arrangements for the Heritage Open Days and the suggested opening of Suite 3, Dyer House, to display 'twinning' related items in partnership with the Cirencester Twinning Association.

It was noted that the Bingham Gallery and Conference Suite will be open to the public on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008 from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. as part of the Heritage Open Days and that it had been suggested that Suite 3 of Dyer House, be opened (via the link door) at the same time.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- a) **the report be noted;**
- b) **Suite 3, Dyer House, be opened on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008 from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. as part of the Heritage Open Days;**
- c) **there be a permanent display of the 'twinning' signed statements of intent between the towns of Cirencester and**

**Itzehoe, photographic memorabilia and from time to time local and Trust art work in Suite 3, Dyer House.**

**59.9 DRAFT ACCOUNTS 2007/8**

Mr C Sherwood, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Responsible Finance Officer, outlined the draft accounts for the year 2007/8 and highlighted the following issues: -

- The General Fund at £210,841, as previously identified, is necessary for a Council of this size, but allows the Council to fund items such as the Community Plan with the interest which accrues.

- The Capital Fund of £432,654 will drop dramatically for projects such as those at the Kingshill Lane Sports Development Site.

- The Charter Street Market was still in profit considering the poor weather of last year.

- The settlement figure for the loan of the Abbey Grounds had been requested from Cotswold District Council following the Council's decision to settle the same, but had delayed the same due to developments identified at Minute 56.09.

- Earmarked Reserves – Mention was given to the allocation for the Abbey Grounds paths and the Abbey Grounds Play Area refurbishment, which would be carried out following the completion of the Archaeological Management Plan, to be completed in September.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- a) **the draft Accounts for the year 2007/8 be approved;**
- b) **the Earmarked Reserves identified in the Accounts for the year 2007/8 be approved;**
- c) **the Annual Return for the year 2007/8 be approved, including the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance sections.**

**60.09 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID 1<sup>ST</sup> TO 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**

Members received a copy of the Schedule of Accounts paid for the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

**RESOLVED that the payments for the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 be approved and authorised.**

**61.09 GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

Members considered submitting a resolution for debate at the Annual General Meeting of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

No resolutions were suggested by Members.

Councillor D J Nash, who serves on the Association's County Committee, raised a concern with regard to some of the changes proposed in new Constitution. Councillor Nash accordingly sought a clear mandate from the Council as to the proposed Constitution when it was available.

**RESOLVED that the proposed new Constitution of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils be considered by Council at its meeting in September.**

## **62.09 REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

Councillor A Lichnowski had attended a meeting of the Energy Neighbourhood Project and meetings of the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative.

Councillor Mrs B A Potter had attended a meeting of the Stratton Educational Foundation.

Councillor A N Curry had attended a meeting of the Cotswold Road Safety Liaison Group on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

Councillor R Hughes had attended a meeting of the Chesterton Community Project.

Councillor G T Adams had attended a meeting of the Cirencester Open Air Swimming Pool Association on 7<sup>th</sup> July and provided a written report, together with accounts for the period to 4<sup>th</sup> July. Councillor Adams advised that the pool is running satisfactorily and had raised funds of over £21,000, but the success of the pool was obviously dependent on the weather.

## **63.09 CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Council Information Sheet  
Members noted the Council Information Sheet, which was circulated at the meeting.

b) Any other correspondence received in accordance with Standing Order 68g)  
None were received.

## **64.09 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

None were identified.

## **65.09 EXEMPT INFORMATION - PERSONNEL GROUP**

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 section 1 extended by the Local Government Act 1972 section 100.

**RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was in the opinion of this Council and advisable in the public interest, that the public and press be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.**

## **66.09 OPEN SESSION - KINGSHILL**

Agenda Item No. 20 was taken in confidential session due to it relating to legal issues and negotiations concerning the possible transfer of land which forms part of the Kingshill South development.

**RESOLVED that further investigations and discussions be carried out.**

## **67.09 OPEN SESSION - CHARTER MARKET**

Agenda Item No. 21 was withdrawn.

The meeting closed at 8.14 p.m.  
Alexander

Councillor Mrs S A

Mayor