

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, 10th March 2009 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
W Helm
Mrs J Hincks
R Hughes
H G C Gray
Mrs S A le Noury
A Lichnowski
D J Nash
Mrs M S Rickman

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

201.09 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs B A Potter (personal) and Ms K M Yarrow (personal).

202.09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

203.09 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 10th February 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor subject to additional wording to the first sentence at Minute No. 185.09 - Mayor's Announcements to read "14th January - The funeral of Dennis Harris. Mr Harris rented a house from the C & S A Bowly's Almshouse Charity on which the Mayor represents the Council."

The Chief Executive Officer provided the following update: -

a) 188.09 - Planning Committee b) Highway Signage

Contact had been made with the Stakeholder Manager for the Cotswolds at Gloucestershire County Council following the concerns raised by the Town Council on highway signage and a response was awaited.

204.09 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that she had attended the following: -

11th February - Visited Powell's School to share with year 4 the role of Mayor in Cirencester and other issues related to civic duties and responsibilities and the children advised of their issues of concern.

4th March - Attended the Mock Trials at the Magistrates Court. The children performed very well and believed that more than one could go on to be barristers in the future.

6th March - Attended the reception and private viewing of "Music of the Eye" at the Corinium Museum; an exhibition of Mosaics by members of the British Association for Modern Mosaics and was pleased that the Association had chosen Cirencester for its exhibition.

7th March - Supported the Fairtrade initiative by giving out bananas to passers by with a view to Cirencester becoming a Fairtrade town.

7th March - Attended the Mayor of Gloucester's charity ball in aid of "Headway" and "The Willow Trust".

Members were reminded of the training on 17th March and to complete the training and development audit form.

Chesterton members were also reminded to complete the "Youth Shelter Monitoring forms".

205.09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Standing Order 68 refers)

No notification of questions was received.

206.09 MEMBER PARTICIPATION (Standing Orders 27 to 30 refer)

No notification of questions was received.

207.09 PLANNING COMMITTEE

a) RESOLVED that the recently considered applications and decisions, under delegated authority to the Planning Committee, made at Meetings held on the 19th February and 5th March 2009, be noted.

b) It was noted that the Committee had considered a letter from Councillor J Birch, Portfolio Holder for Development Services at Cotswold District Council, regarding the future of Catalpa Square following the cutting down of the four prominent Catalpa trees, at their meeting on 5th March 2009.

It was accordingly **RESOLVED that the Town Council support the aims of the Cotswold District Council in improving the area for the townspeople and that further public consultation be endorsed.**

The cessation of bus usage via Gosditch Street and Dollar Street was also considered by the Planning Committee and it was noted that further information was to be obtained as to the reasons for this route being used, including passenger usage data.

208.09 CORPORATE GROUP

Members received the Notes of the Corporate Group Meeting held on 11th February 2009.

RESOLVED that the Notes of the Corporate Group Meeting held on 11th February 2009 be noted.

209.09 PERSONNEL GROUP MEETING

Members received the Notes of the Personnel Group Meeting held on 16th February 2009.

RESOLVED that: -

- a) the report be noted;**
- b) the Health and Wellbeing Policy be updated to incorporate a free annual hearing test for staff who work in a noisy environment following the recommendation of the Occupational Health Unit at Gloucestershire County Council.**

210.09 PROJECT GROUP

Members received a report from the Chairman of the Project Group following the meeting of the Group held on 16th February 2009, which included updates on the Chesterton Community Project and a Kingshill Development Update.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

211.09 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID 1ST TO 28TH FEBRUARY 2009

Members received a copy of the schedule of payments made for the period 1st to 28th February 2009.

RESOLVED that the payments for the period 1st to 28th February 2009 be approved and authorised.

212.9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) REGULATIONS - STATEMENT OF POLICY

RESOLVED that the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations - Statement of Policy be approved as follows: -

Policy 1 - Regulation 12

Cirencester Town Council will not grant additional years of membership to scheme members.

Policy 2 - Regulation 13

Cirencester Town Council will not grant an additional annual pension to active scheme members.

Policy 3 - Regulation 18

Cirencester Town Council will allow:

(i) A scheme member aged **55 or over, having reduced their hours and/or rate of pay, to receive their accrued benefits (in part or full) and continue working in the reduced capacity, subject to no additional costs being incurred by the Council;

(** substitute with 50, if member contributing at the 31/03/2008 and elects before 01/04/2010)

(ii) the discretion to waive on compassionate grounds, any reduction that may normally apply due to the early payment of those benefits.

Policy 4 - Regulation 30

Cirencester Town Council will give discretionary consideration, on compassionate grounds only, to active and deferred members (who left after 31/03/2008):

- (i) for a scheme member aged between **55 and 60 to receive their accrued benefits early;
(* substitute with 50, if member contributing at the 31/03/2008 and elects before 01/04/2010)
- (ii) for the waiver of any reduction that may normally apply due to the early payment of benefits.

Policy 5 - Regulation 3

Cirencester Town Council will consider on the 1st of April annually the contribution bands applicable to scheme members.

Policy 6 - Regulation 16

Cirencester Town Council will not extend the statutory 12 month window within which a scheme member can elect to aggregate previous deferred LGPS benefits into their current employment.

Policy 7 - Regulation 83

Cirencester Town Council will not extend the statutory 12 month window within which a scheme member can elect to transfer benefits from another scheme into their current employment.

Policy 8 - Regulation D11 2(c)

Cirencester Town Council will give discretionary consideration on compassionate grounds only to allow early payment of deferred benefits, where the scheme member left the Town Council's employment before 01/04/1998 and has attained the age of 50.

It should be noted that early payment of benefits would be without the actuarial reduction applied (i.e. payable at their full rate).

Policy 9 - Regulation 31

Cirencester Town Council will give discretionary consideration on compassionate grounds only, where the scheme member left the Town Council's employment between 01/04/1998 and 31/03/2008, to:

- (i) allow a scheme member aged between 50 and 60 to receive their accrued benefits early;
- (ii) waive any reduction that may normally apply due to early payment of benefits.

Policy 10 - Dispute Resolution Procedure

In the event of an Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure case, Cirencester Town Council will appoint the Legal Services Department of Gloucestershire County Council to act on its behalf.

Policy 11 - Registered Medical Practitioner

Cirencester Town Council confirms that its appointed Registered Medical Practitioner is Gloucestershire County Council's Occupational Health Service.

213.09

OUR FUTURE CIRENCESTER AND THE VISION UPDATE

Members received a verbal update from the Chief Executive Officer relating to the 'Our Future Cirencester' Community Plan and the District Council's Vision work for Cirencester.

It was noted that there was nothing new to report on the Vision for Cirencester. With regard to the 'Our Future Cirencester' Community Plan, it was noted that the working groups were nearing completion and their recommendations would be considered by the Steering Group, the Management Group and the recommendations for expenditure would be forwarded to the Project Group for consideration under delegated authority from the Council.

Councillor A Lichnowski, Chairman of the Steering Group, advised that the Steering Group and working groups would meet on 4th April 2009 for a presentation to be given on all recommendations prior to formal consideration on 20th April 2009.

214.9 PROPOSED NEW OFF-STREET PARKING CHARGES

Members considered a response to the proposed new off-street parking charges provided by Cotswold District Council and the invitation from the Chamber of Commerce to join a small working group to consider the current car park charging policy and proposals for change that would benefit residents, visitors and local business.

Members were concerned at the potential impact of increasing the charges in the current financial climate. It was noted that there was inequality of the charges compared with Tetbury and the Council lamented the fact that top slicing/reinvestment in the town from car parking revenue had ceased.

It was also noted that the charges for the Beeches Car Park in Cirencester state that the Maximum Stay is 10 hours, but refers to "All Day £3.20", which is inconsistent.

RESOLVED that the Council: -

- a) **be represented on the Chamber of Commerce's working group on car parking arrangements in the town;**
- b) **advise Cotswold District Council of the inconsistency in the charging of the Beeches Car Park, the concern at the potential impact of increasing the charges in the current financial climate, the inequality of the charges with Tetbury and that it lamented the fact that top slicing/reinvestment in the town from car parking revenue had ceased.**

215.09 REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Councillor A Lichnowski had attended the Annual Meeting of the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum on 28th February 2009.

Councillor Mrs S A le Noury reported that following the closure of the "Pop-in Centre" for the elderly, a new location for meetings had been found at "The Wheatsheaf Inn" in Cricklade Street.

216.09 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.

217.09 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

To consider how the use of plastic bags in the town can be reduced.

218.09 EXEMPT INFORMATION

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.

219.09 OPEN SESSION - KINGSHILL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Agenda Item C18 was taken and noted in confidential session due to it pertaining to legal/contractual issues.

It was RESOLVED that the update relating to the legal aspects in respect of the proposed sports/community development at Kingshill be noted, further to receipt of Counsel's advice.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.
Alexander

Councillor Mrs S A

Mayor