

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, 13th April 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor G T Adams - Mayor
Councillor A Lichnowski - Deputy Mayor

Councillors: Mrs S A Alexander

Mrs C Braidwood

H G C Gray

W Helm

R Hughes

Mrs S A le Noury

D J Nash

Mrs B A Potter

G M Selwyn

Mrs M S Rickman

Andrew Tubb - Chief Executive Officer

Clive Sherwood - Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Johan Newman - Executive Officer

241.10 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor P Braidwood (personal), Councillor A N Curry (personal) and Councillor Mrs J Hincks (personal).

242.10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

243.10 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th March 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

Voting Record:	For - 11	Against - 0
Abstentions - 1		

244.10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Standing Order No. 68 refers)

No notification of questions was received.

245.10 MEMBER PARTICIPATION (Standing Orders 27 to 30 refer)

No notification of questions was received.

246.10 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the recently considered applications and decisions made under delegated authority to the Planning Committee, at meetings held on 18th March and 1st April 2010, be noted.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

247.10 CORPORATE GROUP

Members received the Notes of the Meeting of the Corporate Group held on 10th March 2010, which included information relating to the NALC Development Strategy and Business Plan and Honorary Freemen and Freewomen, both of which are identified separately within these Minutes.

RESOLVED that the Notes of the Meeting of the Corporate Group held on 10th March 2010, be noted.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

248.10 CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Members received the Notes of the Meeting of the Climate Change and Sustainability Group held on 22nd March 2010, including information relating to Transition Towns, 'Sustainable Cirencester?' event feedback and the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill.

RESOLVED that the Notes of the Meeting of the Climate Change and Sustainability Group held on 22nd March 2010, be noted.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

249.10 PROJECT GROUP

Members received the Notes of the Meeting of the Project Group held on 22nd March 2010, which included information relating to the Abbey Grounds, St. Michael's Park and Kingshill Lane Sports Development.

It was noted that the 'Our Future Cirencester' - Community Plan Project Manager's contract was still being negotiated and it was hoped that the same would be confirmed in the near future.

RESOLVED that the Notes of the Project Group Meeting held on 22nd March 2010, be noted.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

250.10 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID 1ST TO 31ST MARCH 2010

Members received a copy of the schedule of payments made during the period 1st to 31st March 2010.

Attention was drawn to the following items: -

Voucher No. 433 - B Hosgood - £181.00 - Market Manager's Fee

Voucher No. 445 - Cotswold Stone Quarries - £84.60 - Supply of walling stone for Spitalgate

Voucher Nos. 459 - 461 - Works at Purley Road - To be re-charged to the Bingham Library Trust.

Voucher No. 463 - RBS Software - £2330.05 - Installation and setup of accounts software

RESOLVED that the payments for the period 1st to 31st March 2010 be approved and authorised.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

251.10 NALC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND BUSINESS PLAN 2010-12

Members received a report relating to the Town Council's response to the National Association of Local Council's (NALC) Development Strategy and Business Plan 2010-12.

It was noted that the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) considered its response at a County Committee meeting on 15th March 2010 and it was agreed to support a combination of Options 5 and 6 in respect of the democratic structure; this would involve a radical change in the composition of National Council, ending the current representation from each respective county association; and would involve the creation of a smaller National Executive.

Concern was expressed by the GAPTC County Committee that the document lacked clarity on specific tasks and in how the strategy was to be delivered i.e. in terms of funding and resources. In this regard, it was noted that the Strategy and Business Plan had not fully addressed the recommendations of NALC's review group in defining and reviewing NALC's services and ensuring that the organization was fit for purpose and delivering effectively; also, in exploring how NALC could support County Associations and their respective roles in supporting local councils regardless of size.

It was noted that the South West Conference of Local Councils' Association had differing views on the document, but the GAPTC still believed the above view was very valid and would not be changing their response.

It was accordingly **RESOLVED that Cirencester Town Council submits a response in line with that outlined in the above paragraphs and in a covering letter to NALC explicitly endorsing the GAPTC's response.**

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

252.10 HONORARY FREEMEN AND FREEWOMEN

Members received a report relating to the conferring of the title Honorary Freeman and Freewomen and that consideration would be given to three local people in confidential session (see Minute No. C265.10).

It was recommended by the Corporate Group that the title should be awarded in acknowledging exceptional and wide-ranging service in a voluntary capacity and that suggestions be made from within the local community for consideration. It was also recommended that there be no more than 12 honorary freemen/freewomen at any one time.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive Officer further clarify the criteria for Honorary Freemen and Freewomen for consideration at a future meeting.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

253.10 CIRENCESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Members received a report relating to the proposed establishment of a Cirencester Neighbourhood Partnership.

RESOLVED that subject to the terms of the Neighbourhood Partnership yet to be agreed, Cirencester Town Council formally approves its membership and agrees to nominate a link person/advocate; and within its annually agreed budget and resources agrees to provide support to the Partnership and local Neighbourhood Groups in meeting the needs of the people and place of Cirencester.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

254.10 CIRENCESTER TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Members received a report relating to the future of the Cirencester Twinning Association.

Following an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Twinning Association held on 8th March 2010, at which it was decided to dissolve the Twinning Association, it was recommended to Council that a Twinning Group be established to continue in the organisation of twinning events and building on the Town's twinning links.

It was noted that the closing budget of in excess of £1,000 would be transferred to the Town Council.

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED that:** -

- a) the Council establishes a Twinning Group comprising the Mayor, two Town Councillors and three non-members by way of co-option;**
- b) Standing Orders be amended to incorporate such arrangements;**
- c) a Friends of Twinning, voluntary group, be established and a periodic newsletter prepared and dispatched by the Town Council.**

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

255.10 DRAFT PARKING STRATEGY FOR THE COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Members noted that the Council had received the draft Parking Strategy consultation document for the Cotswold district and the deadline for a response being 20th May 2010.

It was noted that Dr A Pellegram is to prepare a draft response on behalf of 'Our Future Cirencester': Community Plan and it was an opportunity for the Council to look at the Strategy, with other organisations in the town, to gain different view points before it was formally considered.

RESOLVED that a Parking Strategy Group be formed to consider the Strategy document comprising of Councillors G T Adams, A Lichnowski, H G C Gray, W Helm and G Selwyn and to draft a response on behalf of the Council by 20th May 2010.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

256.10 OUR FUTURE CIRENCESTER (FORMAL DESIGNATION OF LAND AT CITY BANK)

Members received a verbal update on the 'Our Future Cirencester' Community Plan from Councillor A Lichnowski, Chairman of the Steering Group.

Councillor Lichnowski advised that the Business Working Group was progressing well on the business database and would be linking the same to the new website. At the climate change/sustainability event on 18th March, twenty plus volunteers had been identified, which was encouraging and were setting up a Sustainable Transport Group. The aim of the Group being to link in with others, such as cycle and pedestrian groups, to have joined up thinking on sustainable transport.

The first meeting of the Heritage Group had taken place and the same was being re-named as the 'Culture Group'.

The Green Strategy Group was also progressing well and had already identified potential funding such as 'Environment Stewardship', which is a government scheme that offers financial rewards for good stewardship and

management of the land to improve the quality of the environment. The scheme is delivered by Natural England on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs as part of the Rural Development Programme for England and is available to farmers and land managers in England.

It was noted that much of the Council's land was eligible for this funding and was extremely encouraging. The ES does not affect any future plans the Council may have and the Abbey Grounds, City Bank and the Amphitheatre had been identified as the key areas that could benefit from this funding; the City Bank Recreation Area being identified as the first site to benefit, if successful. The land, however, needs to be registered with the Rural Land Registry before an application can be made for Higher Level Stewardship funding from Natural England before application can be made for the funding, which takes about 3-6 months and would be delivered through 'Our Future Cirencester': Community Plan.

RESOLVED that: -

- a) the report be noted;**
- b) the Council's land holdings, where appropriate, including those at City Bank, the Amphitheatre and Abbey Grounds be registered with the Rural Land Registry to enable an application for Higher Level Stewardship funding from Natural England.**

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

257.10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Mayor

The Mayor outlined events that he had attended as follows: -

11th March - Attended a tree planting ceremony, which was organised by the Cotswold Tree Warden Group in recognition of a reduction in printing output at Cotswold District Council.

20th March - Prize Giving Ceremony organised by the Cotswold Tree Warden Group and collected two runners up certificates for Cirencester in the Champion Tree Competition.

23rd March - Mock Trials at the Gloucestershire Magistrates Court where young children enact a courtroom drama and take the parts of magistrates, counsels, witnesses, court reporters and artists.

End of March - The Smallpiece Trust, in conjunction with STEMNET & WISE, using a grant from the Department of Children, Schools and Families, organised a residential course at the Royal Agricultural College, which involved one hundred youngsters attending engineering workshops.

b) Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk

The Chief Executive Officer outlined events that he had attended as follows: -

11th March - SLCC Branch Meeting

15th March - Toured, along with the Executive Officer, the Star College at Cheltenham and hoped it would be the start of future links with the College and arranging work placements for some of the students, which would help the transition process into their working lives

15th March - GAPTC County Committee Meeting

18th March - Action Cirencester Meeting

26th March - New Brewery Arts Trustees meetings with volunteers of the 'Ozone', at which a presentation was made on their ideas for the 'Ozone' and their work.

c) Town Councillors

The Town Councillors outlined events that they had attended as follows: -

Councillor G Selwyn attended a meeting of the Watermoor Group and confirmed that the two subways had now been repainted. The Group was now organising a litter pick to take place in the area next month.

Councillor Mrs S A Alexander attended a meeting of the St. Lawrence's Hospital Charity.

Councillor D J Nash attended the following meetings: -

March

15th GAPTC

17th Volunteers Meeting

Board of CCVS

20th Charity Horse Racing event organised by 6th form college

22nd Chesterton School Governors Meeting

25th South West Association of Local Councils Meeting

29th NHS Consultation on bed closures

Talk to ex guide and scout leaders

30th NALC Council Meeting

31st Deer Park School Governors Meeting

April

1st Meeting at Chesterton School

8th Chartered Parishes Meeting

13th NALC Larger Councils Committee

Councillor A Lichnowski attended a meeting of the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum at which consideration was given to the re-designing of their website.

258.10

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.

259.10 MATTERS IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

None were identified.

260.10 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.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

261.10 PERSONNEL

Item No. C20 was taken in confidential session due to it pertaining to contractual issues.

RESOLVED that the personnel update be noted.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

262.10 HONORARY FREEMEN AND FREEWOMEN

Item No. C21 was taken in confidential session due to it pertaining to personal details of three local people.

RESOLVED that the matter be deferred to a future meeting.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

263.10

CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL - THE FUTURE - PROJECT AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Item No. C22 was taken in confidential session due to it pertaining to contractual issues.

RESOLVED that the recommended way forward be approved.

Voting Record:	For - 12	Against - 0
Abstentions - 0		

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.
Adams

Councillor G T

Mayor