

COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 5 January 2010
7pm at Ockwells

Councillors present:

Cllr T Robertson– Chairman Cllr B Atfield Cllr G Chapman Cllr T Clements
Cllr P Colmer Cllr M Hatton Cllr R Szybiak Cllr D Tetlow

2 Members of the public

The fire instructions on the entrance door were pointed out.

Public Question Time – Bob Jones – Chairman of Cricklade Business Association confirmed that he and the Business Association would not be taking the lead on the Christmas Lights in Cricklade in the future. He would like to meet with members of the Council to discuss the options available. Cllr Robertson on behalf of the Council thanked the CBA and Bob for all their involvement in the past.

MINUTES

09.99 Apologies for absence – Cllr B Beasley and Cllr R Case.

09.100 Declarations of Interest – Cllr D Tetlow - prejudicial interest regarding Item 09.107.

09.101 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 1 December 2009 were signed by the Chairman and adopted as a true record.

09.102 Clerk's report on action points from 1 December

08.10 - Long Close

A meeting took place on 20 May between D. Tetlow, English Heritage (EH) and Wiltshire Council Archaeology Dept (WCAD) to look at the Town Wall Monument. Following this meeting EH and WCAD have proposed a management plan for the walls with a working group to be formed in the near future. An update has been requested. The Town Clerk has written to the MD regarding the transfer of land and the current state of the area– the letter has been acknowledged and more information has been requested, which has been supplied

08.95 - Abingdon Court Farm Open Space, Area of Land Behind Meer Stone & Hatchetts

Colin Brown (WC) visited Cricklade on 1st Oct and met with ATC and Cllr Atfield. Another site visit was made by Colin and another WC Officer a few weeks later to look at the area again. WC will tidy up areas. Cllrs agreed to consider a formal proposal (once made) to take ownership and responsibility to these areas. ATC to contact Colin Brown acknowledging our interest and to prepare a list of other WC areas.

09.18 - Exclusive Rights of Burial

Suitable package identified and agreed by C & L committee on 28 July - to take to FTC for approval and funding. ATC looking at in house provision.

09.37 – Parish Improvement Grant

Cllr Chapman has met with members of the Footpath Group the area identified for improvement is the path between Bath Road and Doubledays. A grant application has been made and an acknowledgement email received.

09.72 – Closed Churchyards/Cemetery Maintenance

Following meeting of 3 October – I have contacted WC regarding CTC standing with listed monument repairs and maintenance responsibilities. They have requested photographs and a map with the locations of the damaged monuments – Information had been provided to Wiltshire Council.

09.73. Meer Stone Plaque

On the 6 Oct, it was **RESOLVED** to purchase a replacement bronze plaque. Proof received and accepted.

Fairview Field Ditch Clearance

A complaint was made regarding the large gap that has appeared in the hedge since the ditch clearance. It was agreed that the area would be checked – Cllr Colmer and Cllr Robertson have both looked at the area and thinks it is a legitimate gap as the ditch goes underground at that point and one can cross over. The cutting back of the brambles has contributed to the thinning out of the hedge, but they were growing out of the ditch and therefore needed to be cleared. The hedge will fill out again in time. Action: ATC to send letter to Resident. **CLOSED**

PQT – 1 December - Website

The website has been checked and amended – **CLOSED**

PQT – 1 December - Leisure Centres

Cllr Colmer highlighted the recent threat to Leisure Centres by Wiltshire Council – WC has decided to cut the youth services in rural areas, Cllr Colmer to contact WC for clarification of reports. ATC to write to prospective parliamentary candidates and ask for support for LC's in their manifestos. Cllr Colmer updated the committee - the Leisure Centre Committee had requested an extension to their lease with WC past the current date of 2016, WC is saying the LC lease etc will be considered as part of the Wiltshire Review. There is no written agreement from WC regarding the annual grant given to LC. Cllr Hatton felt we should be more worried about the grant than the lease at this stage. Cllr Tetlow agreed with both Cllr Colmer and Cllr Hatton, he said WC could extend the lease if they wanted to but they would wait until the review to decide. Part of the LC is leased back to CTC and that extends past 2016, which therefore makes things difficult and might influence the decision made at the review. Cllr Tetlow said there was a letter on file from Peter Jeremiah (NWDC) explaining the various leases and the complications. Cllr Chapman asked if there was any way we can get through to WC that the LC is an asset and waiting for the review will spoil the chances to apply for other grants. During a Suspension of Standing Orders – Bob Jones, representing the Leisure Centre Management Committee (LCMC) said they would like to get apply for significant grants to deal with the structure of the building which they are unable to do with such a short term lease, the support for grants is there if the LC could secure a longer lease. Cllr Robertson asked if the grant from WC has been secured for 2010-11, Cllr Colmer said an amount was allocated in the budget for next year, and Cllr Colmer **PROPOSED** that CTC continue the pressure jointly with the LC. All in Favour. It was agreed to highlight to the Area Board, Cllr Colmer suggested the Community raised it as an issue. Action: ATC to write to Chairman of Leisure Centre.

09.92 – Italian Market

The offer from WC to hold an Italian Market during May 2010 was considered. It was agreed to invite the market representative to Cricklade with CBA rep present. More information has been provided by WC. **Action: ATC to invite Officer to attend the next meeting.**

09.93 – Fairview Fields Car Park

Request to improve the car park and signage. ATC to seek advice and costings on possible improvements to the area and to work with ATC J Coole on signage. Advice received - raising the levels of the car park would sort the problem, but with out a level survey it is difficult to be sure exactly how much it would require raising, it could be as much as 225-300mm and cost in the region of £12,000+ for the stone alone. Raising the levels would also most likely worsen the situation of flooding on the mini roundabout is probably due to the existing storm drainage being surcharged and unable to cope with the volume of water until the rain eases off. Following discussions it was **AGREED** the ATC would look at the original plans and check the original requirement to see what the planning situation was at the time and if it has expired.

09.97 – Wayleave Agreement

The request from Open Reach (BT) to replace faulty cable on the Cricket field was agreed on 1st Dec. The agreement was signed and payment has been received. The work is due to commence w.c. 4 January provided the field has dried out enough.

09.103 Correspondence

- i) Parish Steward Programme for Jan – Mar, A change to the existing system of work allocation was discussed but it was AGREED that CTC will continue with current method.
- ii) Wilts & Berks Canal Trust – Noted
- iii) Letter from Resident – Christmas Lighting – A letter has been received from a Cricklade resident stating their disappointment in CTC as we have signed up to the Nottingham Declaration yet we are promoting a Christmas lights competition. The resident has also sent an email to M Wills MP who in turn has written to CTC asking for a constructive response in the matter. Cllr Hatton was disappointed that the Resident had not attended the meeting - Christmas is to bring joy and light to the town. Cllr Hatton explained to the committee the origins of the competition 'Cricklade was doing little to promote itself at Christmas time to encourage visitors, to promote tourism and trade to the shops'. Cllr Clements pointed out that the competition denotes lights not quantity. Cllr Hatton added that this was just 1 resident's opinion in a population of 4,500. Cllr Tetlow said the resident had a point and as CTC does support the Nottingham Declaration we should think of our carbon footprint and review the competition. This does not mean it should be stopped, but maybe we should conduct it slightly differently. Cllr Robertson said the Resident had recently been to a meeting of the Climate Change Action Network (CCAN). During this meeting the Resident had been made aware that CTC was trialling solar-powered lights, using LED lights jointly funded by Cricklade Business Association (CBA) and CTC and that the lights competition was started as a means to bring much-needed festive spirit into the community. It was also pointed out that CTC is committed to working with the community to tackle climate change and would welcome suggestions, ideas and support from the group for future Christmas's. Cllr Szybiak said global warming should be taken seriously, we should support power saving and take LED lighting into account. More people are lighting their homes at Christmastime and most new lighting is LED. During a Suspension of Standing Orders – Bob Jones, CBA – Stated that CTC through the 'in bloom' competitions have planted many trees in the last few years to enhance the town and these have also helped to offset our carbon emissions, we have replaced the Christmas lighting with LED and are now using 1/10th of the previous usage. He also pointed out that CTC did not sign the Nottingham Declaration Wiltshire Council did and CTC support the decision. Cllr Atfield said we should respond and tell him we may be moving slowly but we are trying. It was AGREED to send a constructive letter to resident & MP stating what Cricklade has already done regarding Christmas lighting, carbon offsetting and trialling of solar power. Also, that the Christmas lighting competition will be included in the Christmas festivities review.
- iv) Letter from Ministry of Justice - Noted
- v) The November edition of The Moonraker from the Campaign to Protect Rural England - Noted
- vi) Update from Sarah Howes- WC Youth Worker– Noted

09.104 Saxons Rest

The working party notes together with the Clerk's recommendations were considered.

- i) To pay costs of rectifying electrical faults (if necessary)
- ii) To allow memorial plaques x2 on each bench at a cost of £500 per plaque
- iii) To permit the planting of a tree to commemorate 100 years of Girl Guiding

The committee RESOLVED to accept the above recommendations and delegated the sourcing of top quality plaques to ATC and to the decision to the length of time the dedication of memorial plaque should be to the Working Party.

09.105 The Fiddlers Allotments

Consideration was given to the request from the allotment holders to enhance the entrance by removing the old gate, erecting green link fencing plant *Pyracanthus* in front of the fence and to renovate the existing shed and install water butts. It was AGREED to support the requests made providing the landowners were happy for the sheds to be repaired. Action: ATC to contact Landowners and write to Allotments Representative.

The Assistant Town Clerk's report from previous meeting was considered:

Flooding

Cllr Chapman asked for the Wiltshire Council – Land Drainage Water Engineers' views on the ditches. Feedback: *the ditches in the area around the allotments are very overgrown and would benefit from cleaning but he did not foresee any problems occurring to others if they were cleaned. The roadside ditch seemed to be completely filled for a short length alongside the downstream field and he felt this should be cleaned to allow free flow – there could possibly be a culvert here. The ponding in the allotments may not be cured following ditching works and the suggestion is that this low area be filled and crowned with soil to overcome the problem.* The community people are booked for 9th, 10th, 16th and 17th January to do the work

Security

I have spoken with the Police Reduction Officer who has promised to send me a written report, however he feels the area is too open to protect the allotments, he said best advice is for the Allotment holders not to keep anything of value on site and to leave their sheds unlocked. This is general advice offered to allotment holders as most allotments are not secure.

Plot 1

The resident has accepted the plot at the reduced rent.

ACTION: ATC to write to Mr New – Chairman of the Fiddlers Allotment Society and pass on the information as in report above.

09.106 Cricklade & Purton Youth Services

Cllr Colmer updated the committee on recent events – At the next Area Board (AB) - 27 Jan, there will be a presentation by Youth Officers, on their future plans for youth services in Wiltshire. A period of consultation with local parishes will take place, but in reality, the decision has already been made - WC is reviewing services and are rounding down to the lowest common denominator. The proposal is to cut services to Cricklade by one day - Sarah Howes (Youth Worker) has done a tremendous job in Cricklade and figures show membership has increased since she has been there. Cllr Robertson asked if Anti Social Behaviour had decreased since the number attending the Youth Centre has increased: ACTION: ATC to find out if ASB has been affected. Cllr Tetlow said that WC is in fact not reducing youth services they are just reallocating services to other areas in Wiltshire. It was felt this should be clarified with Officers, if done properly consultation should take place. Cllr Szybiak stated there was a trend building of cutting services to smaller areas and increasing them in the bigger areas and this needed to be addressed urgently. Cllr Robertson agreed with Cllr Szybiak regarding the cuts and said unless we do something about it we will always lose out to the bigger areas. Cllr Tetlow stated that Purton were equally affected by these cuts and we should contact them. ACTION: ATC to contact Purton Council. Following discussions, it was agreed to raise this issue at the next AB meeting. Cllr Clements PROPOSED that letters should go to AB members, WC Portfolio Holder and the Member of Parliament regarding the reduction in youth services, the fact it is going to larger centres, and that we were promised unity at all levels. ALL IN FAVOUR. Following further discussions It was AGREED that CTC would ask support from NCAP – ACTION: ATC to write to Chairman.

09.107 Cricklade Leisure Centre

Consideration was given to the request from Cricklade Leisure Centre (CLC) to the redevelopment of the tennis courts to include removal of trees, extension of courts by 2 metres and resurfacing with a synthetic material suitable for both tennis and football. CLC are working closely with Cricklade Tennis Club and the Youth Football Club to bring the project to fruition. The Committee AGREED to support the request. ACTION: ATC to check if permissions from WC are required.

09.108 Cricklade Bloomers

Consideration was given to the request from Cricklade Bloomers to plant suitable trees on the open space at Deansfield and at the entrance to The Dance. It was agreed to give permission to plant in both areas providing neighbouring householders were consulted and had no objections. ACTION: Bloomers to contact residents in areas affected and ATC to apply for Section 96 licences.

09.109

Working Party Update

Cricklade Country Way – Cllr Tetlow attending a meeting in December, issues still remain with the environmental statement, the costs to do the work and who is going to fund. There is a standstill on how to move forward. More promising news is that the Cotswold Water Park are looking at creating a green link to Swindon and the Terms of Reference are very similar to that of the Cricklade Country Way project. With regard to the railway Swindon are actively looking at

extending to Moulden Park.

Eastern Roundabout – Cllr Colmer updated the Committee –Detailed drawings of the infrastructure have been requested and following a visit to the area a list of defects have been noted - slow progress at the moment.

Meeting Closed at 8.47