



# Cricklade Town Council

## First Town on the Thames

The Council Office  
Ockwells, 113 High Street, Cricklade Wiltshire SN6 6AE  
Telephone: 01793 751394 – Fax: 01793 752515  
E-mail: [admin@cricklade-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@cricklade-tc.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.cricklade-tc.gov.uk](http://www.cricklade-tc.gov.uk)

---

### COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 25 May 2010 7pm at Ockwells

#### Councillors present:

Cllr T Robertson– Chairman  
Cllr A Clements

Cllr B Atfield  
Cllr P Colmer

Cllr B Beasley  
Cllr D Tetlow

Cllr R Case

4 Members of the public

#### The fire instructions on the entrance door were pointed out.

**Public Question Time** – Bob Jones, Vice-Chairman of Cricklade Bloomers asked if Councillors were aware of the recent spraying activities of Wiltshire Council, they have sprayed around all the signs and the grass verges killing off all of the grass. CTC and Bloomers met with Wiltshire Council in February and asked for this work not to take place this spring. ACTION: ATC to follow up with WC contact. Bob also confirmed the judging date for the national Britain in Bloom competition as 2 August 2010.

#### MINUTES

**10.17 Apologies for absence** – Cllr G Chapman, Cllr M Hatton and Cllr R Szybiak

**10.18 Declarations of Interest** – None Declared

**10.19 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 27 April 2010 and 17 May 2010 were signed by the Chairman and adopted as a true record.

**10.20 Clerks Report from 27 April**

**08.10 - Long Close**

The Town Clerk has written to the MD of Taylor Wimpy (TW) regarding the transfer of land and the current state of the area. TW are speaking with employees who were in post with McLean Homes before the merger, CTC have obtained copy deeds from a North Wall Resident to see if historical ownership can be identified.

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

History: An informal proposal from Colin Brown (WC) to take ownership and responsibility to the three areas above was considered. Cllrs were happy to consider a formal proposal from WC when made. ATC to prepare list of other WC areas – new areas identified include the Leisure Centre and a field on the Chelworth Road (which may be suitable for use as allotments). WC have new procedures in place for transfers – ATC to follow up - information requested but not yet received.

**Cllr Robertson asked members if in view of the discussion held at the FTC meeting on the 24 May, regarding the reduction in services and funds by Wiltshire Council, should we consider listing all of our potential commitments, once an overview has been established we would be able to prioritise in order of preference. We may find we do not have the resources or funds to take over the responsibilities, if offered. Following discussion it was AGREED for the Officers to compile a list of those areas and services CTC are interested in - across all committees. The list, to be split between those interests that fall within a transfer of assets and those that are a delegation of services, is then to be considered by each relevant committee for approval.**

**09.18 - Exclusive Rights of Burial** was considered by Cllrs who agreed to consider a formal proposal (once made)  
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.

**09.72 – Closed Churchyards/Cemetery Maintenance**

WC contacted English Heritage (EH) as LBC is required to dismantle the tombs, the tombs are Grade II and St Sampsons Grade I, EH will not support an application to dismantle and lay flat. EH provided possible sources for grant funding not successful. Advised to contact. John Earney, WC - Inspection and adoption for Closed Churchyards in Sth Wilts was provided with further information on 16 April and a request for grant advice was made as the EH recommended sources of grant funding cannot be accessed by local councils. EH have supplied other possible grant streams which have been contacted - awaiting replies. Cllr Robertson has spoken with Mr Hickman regarding recently restored tombs; the work was completed with a grant from Cotswold Churches. **ACTION: The ATC to follow up to see if a similar scheme in Wiltshire.**

**09.92 – Italian Market**

Cllrs and the CBA support the idea to hold the market on Friday 2nd July, this date is not the preferred date but we will go with this. Information has not been forthcoming despite several attempts to contact the organiser and the deadline for the Chronicle has now past. It is the responsibility of CTC to advertise and promote the market. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to cancel the market by four votes to one, with two abstentions. All Cllrs agreed to see if it was possible to hold next year on a more appropriate date.

**09.93 – Fairview Fields Car Park**

Resurfacing of the car park has taken place - **CLOSED**  
Signage: sample sign considered but to incorporate distance. Pictogram Regulations 1997 to be taken into account. **ACTION:** ATC to source signage – contact made with WC, CTC cannot put up their own signage on the Highway, and WC has noted our request and will give it consideration later in the year. **CLOSED** to follow up in July

**09.106 – Cricklade & Purton Youth Services**

WC is reviewing services and there are plans to cut the service to Cricklade & Purton.  
**ACTION:** From 30 March C & L Meeting - ATC to investigate the terms of the existing lease with particular regard to whether or not the lease is a full maintenance and repairing lease, any provisions relating to opting out of the lease and anything in the lease that gives rights to any other parties. Also to investigate the potential legal and any other costs should the lease be cancelled and a new one issued in favour of the Cricklade Leisure Centre, without a condition being applied that the building would only be for youth provision. Finally, also to investigate the position should the lease terminate regarding the ownership of the building (our assumption being that it would in any event belong to Cricklade Town Council in 2026 when the lease expires until the end of the 90 year lease we have with Wiltshire Council on the land, but this is to be checked, as is the position on early termination of the lease.) **FEEDBACK** Included with **AGENDA ITEM**

**09.114 - Pollarding St Sampsons Trees**

Planning consent has been granted. A certificate of approval from the Diocese of Bristol has been received, however, we need to apply for a faculty – apparently a faculty has never been required before. **ACTION:** ATC to follow up – Bristol Diocesan contacted and the Registrar has given details of The Archdeacon of Malmesbury who may give permission without a faculty. Details sent

**Waylands – Dog Waste**

There are two bins but no signage relating to dog waste. Cllr Hatton asked it to be **NOTED** that a resident has spoken to him regarding the state of the Sustrans track. Cllr Robertson said the question of dog waste had also been raised at The Annual Town Meeting on 26 April, Cllrs discussed areas of concern. Request for Seb Williams, WC Dog Warden to attend C & L, confirmed to attend 22 June meeting. **CLOSED**

**PQT – 30 March**

Request for an adopted footpath between Stones Lane and West Mill Lane and removal of brambles. **ACTION:** ATC to investigate the possibility. WC has been contacted and they will send someone out to visit the area. WC have been contacted no feedback received

**09.133 -Fairview Fields Ditch Maintenance**

Due to a tree the bank on the River Thames is breaking up and the water is flowing up the nearby ditch. The tree needs to be removed, the bank rebuild and replanted, the existing ditch filled in and another one created further down angled to flow with the river. The EA are offering to provide funds to do the work with a small contribution from CTC. ACTION: ATC to investigate if any permission required as ridge & furrow. Cllrs AGREED with the request from EA to obtain quotes for relaying the ditch. I have made enquiries re permission and received no response as yet, I have contacted a company regarding the ditch work and they are arranging a visit. Company to visit area with David O attending.

**10.10 Christmas Lighting**

Working Party formed to take forward the project forward. ACTION: ATC to contact other local authorities to find out how they address the situation .Item CLOSED as covered under Working Party Update..

**10.21 Correspondence**

- i) Letter and newsletter received from The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust offering to talk on safety issues with local groups and organisations, especially those who work with the elderly. NOTED
- iii) Wiltshire Care Services Directory 2010-11 is available in the offices – NOTED.
- ii) Letter & poster from WC supporting & promoting Bike Week 2010 (10-27 June). NOTED
- iii) Newsletter & members guide received from Campaign to Protect Rural England. NOTED

**10.22 Youth Centre Lease**

Cllr Colmer welcomed Gary Walker – Manager of the Cricklade Leisure Centre to the meeting. The report prepared by the ATC following the C & L meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March was NOTED. Cllr Colmer updated the Committee on recent events, and drew their attention to the notes of the meeting held on 14 May between Cllr Colmer, members of Wiltshire Council Youth Services and Gary Walker laying out short term and long term issues/actions. This enables a method in which Youth Services could work in conjunction with the Leisure Centre to ensure the youth service provision in Cricklade is maintained/enhanced by utilising the under used building. The proposal put forward by Cllr Colmer is to amend the current lease between Cricklade Town Council and Wiltshire Council by means of a side letter. A number of existing clauses need to be deleted, to give other users access to the building (not just youths). Stage One is to write to Wiltshire Council informing them of our decision to remove the offending clauses with immediate effect. Stage Two is the reassigning of the Youth Centre Lease to Cricklade Leisure Centre with effect from 1 April 2011, subject to CTC being satisfied that a legally binding service level specification regarding the provision of youth services in Cricklade together with acceptance of the legal costs regarding the reassignment and that the building to be reinstated to an acceptable level are borne by Wiltshire Council. By issuing a side letter there will be no solicitors fees to cover and any other legal fees would be met by Wiltshire Council. Cllr Atfield pointed out that the existing lease is a full repairing lease and we must ensure the building is taken on in good repair and the Leisure Centre Management Committee must understand it will become their responsibility to maintain the building in the future. Stage Three is to pursue the transfer of the land associated with the Leisure Centre to CTC. Cllr Robertson said the current rent payable by Wiltshire Council under the terms of the lease must be considered in the negotiations. The proposal was discussed at length, Councillors AGREED the proposals should be taken forward. **ACTION: ATC to prepare letter to Wiltshire Council with Cllr Colmer's input.**

**10.23 Eastern Roundabout**

The report from the Town Clerk was considered. The request to transfer responsibility to the Policy & Resources meeting was not agreed. Councillors wanted all action points raised in the report brought back to the C & L Committee for decisions. **ACTION: ATC to discuss with TC.** Any issues requiring Policy & Resources input will be passed on by the C & L committee. During a Suspension of Standing Orders, Bob Jones – Cricklade Bloomers, stated under the health and safety section of the report it refers to Chapter 8 of the Road Safety Manual (Working on the Highway), Bob pointed out workers would not be working on the actual highway- therefore this ruling does not apply and all the correct signage is already available to work on the roundabout.

**Cllr Colmer left the meeting at 7.50**

**10.24 Waylands**

A request has been received from Mrs I Bayton, Secretary of the Footpaths Group requesting the removal of a stile on Waylands and replacing it with a gate. The installation of a gate would enable local people unable to climb the stile access to the footpaths in this area. The group would like

support from CTC and for CTC to take the request to WC. During a Suspension of Standing Orders, Mrs Iris Bayton said she has spoken with the Rights of Way Officer, Steve Leonard and he has said that if Wiltshire Council would fund the gate (£123) he would cover the labour costs. Councillors AGREED with the request. **ACTION: The ATC to write to WC on behalf of the group.**

#### 10.25 **Dance Common**

The report prepared by John Barratt and John Nevill was considered. The report came as a result of a request to tidy up the Dance Common area by Cricklade Bloomers. Cllr Tetlow thanked them both on the excellent piece of work they had achieved, resulting in the identified responsibilities of the common. The conclusions are as follows:

- i) Dance Common has no owner and is subject to protection under Section 9 (Protection of Ownerless Common Land) of the 1965 Act. This gives the local authority rights to ensure the area is not harmed.
- ii) No one including the Town Council has any obligation to maintain Dance Common
- iii) Cricklade Manorial Court through its Hayward managed Dance Common for 42 years until at least 1972

iv) Cricklade Manorial Court can legally meet to manage the common land of Cricklade.

There are properties within Cricklade that have grazing rights on Dance Common but they do not have ownership or maintenance rights. Dance Common covers a larger area than generally thought as it is on both sides of the road. Options to consider are the formation of a Commons Council led by the community but this does not appear to be sensible when we already have the Cricklade Manorial Court who may be prepared to manage the area. The Cricklade Manorial Court could exercise its legal powers arising from the Administration of Justice Act 1977 to manage Dance Common and seek funding for the maintenance of Dance Common through an environmental stewardship scheme similar but on a lower level than the one in place for North Meadow. Natural England would then be involved to guide on the initial clearing programme and the future maintenance. The Community Pay Back Team and the Canal Trust could be invited to help clear the land. As there is no identified owner the responsibility for the ditches lies with Wiltshire Council. Councillors considered and AGREED with the proposal put forward by John Barratt and John Nevill to approach the Cricklade Manorial Court with the request to take on the responsibility of managing Dance Common and to seek funding for its future maintenance and that Cricklade Town Council will endorse any grant applications made by Cricklade Manorial Court in relation to Dance Common. **ACTION: The ATC to draft a suitable letter to the High Bailiff requesting that the Cricklade Manorial Court take an active role in maintaining Dance Common.**

#### 10.26 **Purchase of Plaques**

The report from the Assistant Town Clerk was considered, Councillors agreed with the surcharge increase in copper prices being passed on with immediate effect. Councillors all AGREED that if any future surcharges are made Officers can automatically pass on the increase rounded up to the nearest £5 without returning to Committee for approval.

#### 10.27 **Skate Park**

Councillors considered the report from the Town Clerk produced following the meeting with the skateboarders. The Skateboarders raised a number of concerns and suggested ways in which these concerns could be addressed. Councillors AGREED with their suggestions and the following purchases were agreed, pour in filler to fill in the gaps at the bottom of the ramps (Cost approx £55 from Code 2212), the replacement of the existing grind rail with a safer design (cost approx £200 from code 2147), additional safety signage placed in a more prominent position (cost approx £75 from Code 2147). Councillors also considered the recommendation from the Town Clerk to apply for a match funded grant for the replacement of the existing fence with a higher chain link fence which would stop animals, toddlers, litter and debris from endangering the boarders. Councillors AGREED to release a maximum sum of £2500 from code 327 EMR Play Equipment. During a Suspension of Standing Orders, Mr Chris Morley, representing The Red Lion Charity Fund, reminded Councillors that the Red Lion had agreed to make a donation to the skateboarders for the Skate Park in 2009 and that is was available whenever it was required. Cllr Robertson thanked Chris for the reminder.

#### 10.28 **Cricklade Heritage Trail**

A letter has been received from the Cricklade Heritage Trail Partnership requesting CTC manage the finances relating to the group and allow the group usage of the Council Chamber to hold meetings. Cllr Tetlow updated the committee on the preferred locations and the descriptions of the proposed boards - funding has already been secured for 5 of the 16 boards. Cllr Tetlow

explained the reasoning for the requests and following discussions it was concluded that as a partner of the group and under Section 144 of the LGA 1972, CTC have delegated statutory powers to encourage visitors to the area and could provide banking and meeting room facilities. Councillors were all in favour of the proposal and unanimously AGREED to the request. **ACTION: The ATC to write letter to Chairman**

**10.29**

**Working Party Update**

Christmas Lights: NOTED

Tree of Remembrance: NOTED

Meeting Closed 8.32