



Cricklade Town Council

First Town on the Thames

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EXTRA-ORDINARY FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, 28th March 2011 at 7.30 pm at Ockwells

Councillors present:

Cllr D Tetlow (Chairman) Cllr B Beasley Cllr G Chapman Cllr M Clarke

Cllr P Colmer Cllr A Dentith Cllr L Forrester Cllr M Hatton

Cllr T Robertson Cllr R Szybiak

There was 1 member of the public present who left following the resolution on the exclusion of press and public.

The fire evacuation procedures were made known to all present before commencement of the meeting.

Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

MINUTES

10.155 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs B Atfield and R Case.

10.156 Declarations of Interest

None were received.

10.157 Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

10.158 Exclusion of Press and Public

Due to the special nature of the agenda item, the Chairman proposed the following resolution – 'That the following item is conducted under the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960 – therefore the public and press will be excluded.'

This was unanimously agreed by Members and the public left the Committee Room.

10.159 Town Centre Car Park

Members considered a report by the Town and Assistant Town Clerks about the development and funding of the Town Centre Car Park based on recommendations made by the Car Park Working Party which met on Monday, 14th March 2011. This report covered:

- Background to the project including the outcome of the consultation undertaken in December 2010 which gave the Town Council a mandate to go ahead with applying for a loan. Borrowing approval had subsequently been granted by the Department of Communities and Local Government
- Details of efforts to secure external funding including the unsuccessful bid to Wiltshire Council under its PRG grant scheme
- Tesco's offer of professional project management, quantity surveying and architectural services for all phases of the project based on existing plans and consultants reports and donated free of charge
- Options for how Members could consider taking the proposal forward including how it should be properly handled through the Town Council's Financial Regulations.

There was wide support for the Tesco proposal and the welcome savings it would bring

on overall professional fees and project costs. Main discussion points were:

- That Tesco was not able to offer funds for this from its charitable arm (the project did not meet criteria) and there was no budget for car parks for its small stores only for out of town developments. However, the company was keen to support the project and recognised the community need. It had not worked in this way with town and parish councils in the past – this was a first
- All project management would be handled by the company with regular liaison with the Assistant Town Clerk
- That any hold-ups would be largely due to delays with seeking planning permissions for any amendments (planning permission had already been granted with only minor amendments currently being considered by Wiltshire Council)
- Meetings had taken place with Tesco whose professional representatives had had sight of plans and consultants' reports. A proposed timetable had been drawn up which forecast completion in early autumn. It would be important to adhere to this
- Proposals around a ramp and safety barrier adjacent to The Club would form part of the overall project
- It was important for the Town Council to properly look at enforcement issues
- Liability issues should be discussed with Tesco for the duration of the project and following completion
- Communicating the collaboration between the Town Council and the company at a local level and more widely would have to be sensibly handled and an announcement made soon
- A public meeting would not be appropriate
- With interest rates rising it would be best to draw down loan monies soon after the start of the new financial year (Public Works Loan Board rates in October 2010 – 4.42% and March 2011 – 4.78%)

A written statement supporting the company's proposal was read out on behalf of Cllr B Atfield who was not able to attend the meeting.

Members **RESOLVED** that

- i) In line with the recommendation by the Car Park Working Party, Tesco manages the project to develop the Town Centre Car Park
- ii) Under Cricklade Town Council's Financial Regulations, Members invoke para. 17.3 whereby the Council can waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without competition for the reason that better value for money will be obtained and that in line with 17.5 the Council authorises Tesco as a professional organisation to act on its behalf in obtaining tenders for the same reason
- iii) A fixed rate loan is drawn down from the Public Works Loan Board soon into the 2011/12 year
- iv) Collaboration with Tesco is announced at the Annual Town Meeting on 11th April. Delegation is authorised for the Chairman and the Town Clerk to work closely with Tesco on PR issues and submit an article setting out collaboration with Tesco for the May edition of the Chronicle
- v) All other decisions relating to the development of the Car Park should be dealt with through the Car Park Working Party and the Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee.

Cllr P Colmer abstained from voting.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.13 PM