



## Cricklade Town Council First Town on the Thames

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### FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009

7pm at Ockwells

Councillors present D. Tetlow, Chairman

Cllr B. Atfield

Cllr B. Beasley

Cllr Mrs M. Boulton

Cllr R. Case

Cllr G. Chapman

Cllr A. Clements

Cllr P. Colmer

Cllr Mrs A. Dentith

Cllr Mrs L. Forrester

Cllr Mrs T. Robertson

Cllr Mrs R. Szybiak

8 members of the public were also present

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

**Public Question Time** – There were no questions asked.

### MINUTES

#### 09.47 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillors Mrs D. Avenell, M. Dixon and M. Hatton.

#### 09.48 Declarations of Interest

None received.

#### 09.49 Chairman's Announcements

- a) On behalf of the Town Council, the Chairman expressed appreciation to the whole Cricklade community for its support towards the opening of Saxons Rest on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009 as well as special thanks to Val Bourne for her attendance at the event.
- b) Congratulations were passed to Cricklade Bloomers and other voluntary groups for their success at the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) South West in Bloom 2009 competition – another impressive achievement for the town.
- c) The Chairman also passed his thanks to local residents who had attended the Northern Area Planning Meeting at Monkton Park, Chippenham on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October to support the refusal of a planning application for affordable housing at the Fiddle. This development was outside the development framework and the decision by Wiltshire Councillors not to grant permission was a good result for the town and particular thanks went to Cllr P Colmer for making a strong, evidence-based case for refusal.

#### 09.50 Presentation by Cricklade Bloomers

An audio visual presentation was made by John Barratt followed by an overview, update and outline of the future plans of Cricklade Bloomers by Anita Barratt and Bob Jones. Main points were:

- The outstanding achievements gained by Cricklade at this year's South West in Bloom competition leading to a place in the 2010 national competition
- That the RHS's competition was not focussed entirely on floral display – it included community effort and environmental improvement too
- The important link between the visual impact of the town and promotion of tourism

- leading to a more vibrant local economy
- The importance of partnership working between the Town Council, Cricklade Bloomers and other voluntary groups
- That voluntary work totalling 600 hours in the lead up to the 2009 competition equated to the work of 2 full time groundsmen
- The huge impact made when the Town Council employed an additional gardener in the summer months and the increasing workload of the existing 2 groundsmen
- That improvements should include a better approach on supply of water, gutter clearance, a stop on inappropriate chemical spraying, better signage (particularly on the Thames Path)
- That future plans included improving the Eastern Roundabout and Dance Common as entrances to Cricklade, Long and Hill Close, a community orchard and pond restoration
- The need for better publicity for Cricklade through media coverage and publicity focusing on the town's success in Britain in Bloom and its Saxon history.

### Minutes

The Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 were signed by the Chairman and adopted as a true record.

### 09.52 Clerk's Action Report

09.38	<p><b>Policing Issues</b> - Following a resolution around various policing issues, the Town Clerk had</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) passed contact details to the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) for Cllrs Atfield, Avenell and Beasley following a resolution that they would shadow local police officers of the beat. The police will contact Councillors direct</li> <li>ii) liaised with the NPT about trialling a joint surgery between the Police and the Town Council for one Saturday morning each month at Cricklade Police station. The first 3 dates would be:  <b>Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010</b>  <b>Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2010</b>  <b>Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010</b></li> <li>iii) All times: 10am-12pm. A rota of volunteers would be drawn up made enquiries with Wiltshire Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Officer about and Anti-Social Behaviour Fund. This offered small grants of between £100-£200. Past awards had included, for example, funding towards activities for young people.  <b>Also see Minute 09.54 for Police Update</b></li> </ul>
09.40	<p><b>Area Board Update – Issue Sheets.</b> The Town Clerk is liaising with the Community Area Manager for feedback on those Issue Sheets already submitted. Further sheets currently being prepared. <b>Ongoing</b></p>
09.42	<p><b>Illumination of War Memorial</b> – It was agreed that the possibility of removing an adjacent street light or changing its switch on times be investigated and reported to the Community &amp; Leisure Committee. Assistant Town Clerk liaising with Wiltshire Council's Street Lighting Team on this. <b>Closed</b></p>
09.44	<p><b>Precept Planning</b> – It was resolved that the Town Clerk obtained a table of precept payments for Wiltshire. This will be presented as a reference document at November scheduled Committees where budget forecasts are to be discussed. <b>Ongoing</b></p>

### 09.53 Correspondence

A letter from the Great Western Ambulance Service and its Annual Review were noted.

### 09.54 Policing Issues

Sgt Martin Alvis of Wiltshire Constabulary gave a verbal update confirming:

- a continued reduction in both anti-social behaviour and crime rates in Cricklade in comparison to those reported in 2008
- the importance of the community working with the police encouraging more residents to come forward with details of incidents

- that anti-social behaviour was top of the police agenda including disability hate crimes – highlighted recently in the national press
- how local officers had re-started covert, plain clothes work in Cricklade
- that arrangements were being made for nominated Town Councillors to shadow police officers on the beat
- that PCSO Jon Pontefract had resigned to take up a post at Stroud District Council and that he would be replaced firstly with a PCSO currently working with the NPT at Ashton Keynes and Minety. A permanent officer dedicated to Cricklade would be appointed in January.

During a suspension of Standing Orders the Chairman of the Cricklade Business Association pointed out the reduction in police officers stationed in Cricklade over the past 5 years. Sgt Alvis responded by confirming that though fewer officers were now in Cricklade and more were based at the main hub in Wootton Bassett, crime rates in the town had fallen, 12 response officers were available to the Community Area, smaller more specialised teams dealt with some crimes, the new police 0845 number dealt with calls more quickly and efficiently and that improved community liaison through the Neighbourhood Policing Team had all led to improved policing.

A new Task Group was to be established in the Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Community Area. These quarterly meetings would bring town and parish councils, members of the community and the police together to set priorities for the area. These were already taking place in the Malmesbury Community Area. The first meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 2.00pm at Wootton Bassett Police Station.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Tetlow and Councillor Case attend this and future meetings of the Task Group.

#### 09.55 **Wiltshire Council Report**

The Wiltshire Councillor outlined his work since the last Full Town Council meeting and highlighted the following:

**Planning Application at the Fiddle** – The large turnout of local residents at the Northern Area Planning meeting at Monkton Park had been welcome and had undoubtedly influenced the decision to refuse the application (with firm planning and highways reasons). However, the decision will go to Appeal. Councillor Colmer would be issuing a letter to residents

**Play Builder Scheme** – Marston Meysey had been successful with its bid for new play area equipment under the scheme administered by Wiltshire Council

**Waste Collections** – There would be a public consultation on the weekly/fortnightly collections

**Gravel Extraction at Ampney** - A liaison group to pool expertise is being established comprising representatives from Down Ampney, Marston Meysey and Latton. Cllr Colmer will participate in this

**Homes4Wiltshire** – A useful meeting attended by officers and local residents had taken place at the Town Council on 8<sup>th</sup> October where the Head of Homes4Wiltshire had spoken about the new Homes Based Letting System

**Chief Executive** – The name of the new Chief Executive for Wiltshire Council would shortly be announced

**Youth Council** – Councillor Colmer would continue work with local young people although the general enthusiasm for a Youth Council was not yet clear

**Eastern Roundabout** – some progress had been made towards adoption of the roundabout. The legalities dictated that the process would be slow and expectations needed to be managed.

#### **09.56 Area Board Update**

Councillor Tetlow thanked those Cricklade groups and residents who had attended the Area Board meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September at the Town Hall. The planning process had been the main feature on the agenda, main points being that there would be a review of the call-in procedures and that a public consultation on the Local Development Framework (LDF) would take place in Wootton Bassett on 30<sup>th</sup> November. *(In the days following the meeting it was agreed that a consultation session would also take place in Cricklade).* Other main points included:

- a presentation by Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service confirmed that more retained firefighters were needed in Cricklade
- an application for funding by the Cotswold Canals Trust for funding for an Interpretation Board in Cricklade was successful. (This application is match funded by Cricklade Town Council)

It was important that the Cricklade community attend future Area Board meetings which will be held throughout the Community Area.

Due to an inconsistent approach to Area Boards county-wide, the Market Towns Group (at a separate meeting) agreed to review them over the coming weeks

#### **09.57 Naming of the Community Area**

At the request of the Northern Community Area Partnership (NCAP), Cricklade Town Council along with other town and parish councils and various community groups had been asked to contribute to a consultation exercise about the name of the Community Area known under the new Unitary Authority as the Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Community Area. It was **AGREED** that:

- i) The name of the Community Area is a fundamental issue that needs to be resolved
- ii) That the name should be (in order of preference):  
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett  
Northern Area (or North Eastern)  
Wootton Bassett & Cricklade  
Wootton Bassett

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk returned the questionnaire and reiterate the historical reasons for the Town Council's preference as already set out in a previously submitted Issue Sheet to the Area Board.

#### **09.58 Christmas and New Year Opening Hours**

Members agreed suggested opening hours at the Town Council offices over the Christmas and New Year period. It was **RESOLVED** that future decisions on the opening hours for the Town Council offices during public holiday periods be delegated to the Town Clerk and presented to Members to note.

#### **09.59 Schedule of Meetings for 2010**

Members agreed the draft schedule of meetings for 2010. It was **RESOLVED** that future decisions on the annual meeting schedules be delegated to the Town Clerk and presented to Members to note.

#### **09.60 Committee Meetings**

The minutes of the Planning, Conservation and Transport and Committee meetings of 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September and Community Leisure Committee meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> August were noted.

#### **09.61 Town Council Accounts**

Members noted the interim Internal Report for 2009/10 passing on their appreciation to staff for a good report from the Auditors. Recommendations for more of S137 grants have already been followed through. Also noted was the Committee Receipts and Payments report for Month 5. It was **RESOLVED** that that future monthly reports capture detail on any variances within the body of the report.

**Meeting closed at 8.22pm**

