



Cricklade Town Council First Town on the Thames

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FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Monday, 24th May at 7pm at Ockwells

Councillors present D. Tetlow, Chairman

Cllr B. Atfield

Cllr D Avenell

Cllr B. Beasley

Cllr R. Case

Cllr G Chapman

Cllr P. Colmer

Cllr Clements

Cllr L Forrester

Cllr M. Hatton

Cllr T. Robertson

2 members of the public and 1 representative from the press were present.

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

Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

MINUTES

10.16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillors A Dentith and R Szybiak

10.17 Declarations of Interest

None

10.18 Chairman's Announcements

- i) The Chairman thanked all Members for their confidence in electing him as the Chairman for a fourth term. He also congratulated Cllr Chapman following her election as Vice Chair and recorded his thanks to the outgoing Cllr Colmer for all his excellent work during his tenure as Vice Chair.
- ii) The Chairman reminded Members about the Public Meeting for the Town Plan taking place on Thursday, 10th June 2010 at 7pm at Cricklade Town Hall.
- iii) Members were all invited to attend the civic reception to welcome the French visitors from Sucé-sur-Erdre on the evening of Friday, 26th July at 6.30pm at Cricklade Town Hall. This was part of the Cricklade & District Town Twinning Association's 20th Anniversary celebrations.
- iv) The Cricklade Festival would take place on Sunday, 20th June along the theme of *Cricklade by the Sea*.

10.19 Minutes

The Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on Monday, 12th April 2010 and of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 17th May 2010 were signed by the Chairman and adopted as a true record.

10.20 Policing Issues

Sgt Martin Alvis of the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) updated Members on recent police activities. The main points were:

- That there had been 2 reports each of criminal activity and anti social behaviour and 9 stop searches
- That the 3 tier approach to cannabis possession continued (1. Warning, 2. £80 fine, 3. Arrest/custody).
- Problems around a licensed premises in the town has lessened and the police enjoyed good liaison with the Licensee and Area Manager
- The NPT was working closely with Westlea Housing to solve issues around individuals gaining unauthorised access to Heberden House
- The next Tasking Meeting to set police priority areas in the Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Community Area would be on 24th June at Wootton Bassett Police Station at 3pm.

In answer to a question around how, in spite of promises of budget reductions, there had been a rise in Council Tax collected on behalf of the police, Sgt Alvis confirmed that it was unlikely that there would be any reduction in front line staff. There has been investment in specialised technology such as mobile computers helping to reduce the time spent by officers at their desks. There was to be no cut in the number of patrol cars. All represented good value for money for the Council Tax payer.

During a Suspension to Standing Orders, a member of the public asked about inappropriate and unsafe riding of motorcycles on the play park at Bath Road. Sgt Alvis was not aware of this incident and agreed to look into it. A second member of the public asked whether speeding had been an issue in recent months. Sgt Alvis confirmed that there had been no speeding offences to warrant tickets.

10.21 Clerks Report

The Town Clerk's Report was noted as follows:

10.06	Policing Issues – At the Full Town Council meeting on 12 th April, the Town Clerk was asked to liaise with the NPT for information about how the rise in Council Tax collected on behalf of the police by Wiltshire Council will be reflected at a local level. This was covered by Sgt Alvis – See Minute 10. Closed.
10.08	Area Board – At the Full Town Council meeting on 12 th April, the Town Clerk was asked to submit an Issue Sheet highlighting the lack of time allocated for local concerns at Area Board meetings. This was soon to be added to the Issues Log. Progress on all issues could be viewed at www.wiltshire.gov.uk Ongoing <i>Cllr Colmer commented that the current Community Area Manager (CAM), Karen Scott had resigned which had left a period of time without a dedicated staff member and that a replacement, Alison Sullivan, had just moved into the position. Issues raised though the Issues Log would be dealt with quickly.</i>
10.12	Committee Minutes – The Town Clerk was asked that Wiltshire Council and Highways Officers be thanked for the recently completed improvement works at Purton Road. This request had been passed to the Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee. Closed

10.13	Town Council Accounts – At the Full Town Council meeting on 12 th April, Members agreed those 2009/10 budgets to transfer to Ear Marked Reserves for 2010/11. This list had been submitted and agreed at the Policy and Resources meeting on 4 th May. Closed
CCTV - Update	Update - Following a request from the Town Council, the Fire Service had installed mesh around the bottom of the Training Tower at the Fire Station in Bath Road. All cameras were working well and, as reported by the Chairman of the Business Association, the Town Council is working with the police on a recent incident captured on footage.
Town Council Vacancy- Update	The co-option process had begun. Posters had been displayed in the town and information posted on the website. Nomination forms should be with the Town Council offices by Friday, 18 th June and will be submitted to Members for decision at the Council meeting on 28 th June.

10.22 Area Board Update

There had not been an Area Board meeting since the last Full Town Council meeting. However, Cllr Tetlow encouraged Members to attend the next meeting on Wednesday, 26th May at 7.pm at Cricklade Town Hall. The Town Council had submitted an application for a Performance Reward Grant. (This needed the support of the Area Board prior to being considered by a panel at Wiltshire Council in July). An application under the same scheme had also been submitted by Cricklade Leisure Centre.

The meeting itself would be preceded by a drop-in session for those wishing to comment on suitable Gipsy and Traveller sites. (This was not a session dealing with enforcement issues). Cllr Chapman would be attending to represent the Town Council.

Both Cllrs Atfield and Hatton asked that there apologies were passed on for this meeting.

10.23 Wiltshire Council Report

Cllr Colmer updated Members on the following:

Area Boards – Some dissatisfaction about this process remained. A new Chair and Vice Chair had been elected for the ensuing year – Cllrs Peter Doyle and Lay. This decision was made during Full Council but will be made at an Area Board meeting from 2011 onwards.

Youth Services – There were some important issues to resolve. It was clear that a funding shortfall for provision of youth services in Cricklade would not be met by Area Board funding.

Sarsens Housing Appeal – The outcome of this Hearing was expected in approximately 6 weeks. It was felt that the Inspector had been fair and inclusive.

Wiltshire Council Responsibilities – In addition to his other committee responsibilities, Cllr Colmer also now sat on the Environment Select Committee.

Delegation of Services to Town and Parish Councils – A number of trials were taking place and the results of these were awaited. (Cricklade was not part of this pilot stage). There appeared to be a stepped approach and the model emerging was that there was likely to be a 25% reduction in funding each year over the course of 4 years for those services passed on to parishes.

Outlook on Future Funding – Central government funding to Local Authorities was likely to reduce by 20%. It is likely that there will be a freeze on Council Tax though it is not clear whether this will also drill down to town and parish precepts. The overall effect will be that services will be cut.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk look into the current legislation governing any capping of local council tax (the precept).

10.24 Town Plan – Public Meeting

Members **NOTED** a report updating Members about progress on a public meeting to promote the production of a Town Plan and identify a group of volunteers to drive it forward. All were encouraged to attend this on Thursday, 10th June at 7pm at the Town Hall.

It was **RESOLVED** that if a further exercise to gauge public views on the production of a plan is needed that

- i) the Town Council Front Office is opened one Saturday morning in line with the library opening times (with a member of staff and Councillor) to enable people to pass on their views and also
- ii) That the facility is offered once to the Steering Group should they need a venue to hold a drop in consultation session

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk investigates the possibility of taking on a stand at the Cricklade Festival as an option for further consultation with local people.

During a Suspension of Standing Orders the Chairman of the Business Association asked whether the business community would have input into the process including those not resident in the town. This was the case as a strong business community was an important element of a vibrant local economy.

10.25 Town Twinning – Civic Event

Members **NOTED** a report updating Members about the event to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the twinning of Cricklade with Suce-sur-Erdre. All Members were encouraged to attend and further details would be circulated nearer to the event itself.

During a Suspension of Standing Orders the Flag Master (Robert Jones) asked if a short ceremony could take place involving the hoisting of both town flags. This decision on this would be for the Town Twinning Association. However, there was unlikely to be sufficient time to allow for this.

10.26 Committee Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of Planning Conservation & Transport Committees on 29th March and 19th April and the Policy & Resources Committee of 15th March were all **NOTED**.

10.27 Funding from General Reserves

Members **NOTED** a report submitted by the Assistant Town Clerk recommending that a payment is made from General Reserves to cover the shortfall in budget funding for much needed restoration work to the Jubilee clock. A great deal of research had been undertaken to obtain comparative quotes. The main points of the discussion were:

- The clock was an important feature of the town
- That the work had to be undertaken by a specialist
- Some form of guarantee should be obtained with regard to the standard and life expectancy of the work
- A number of payments from General Reserves had already been agreed during the precept round and that it was important to keep a level of these reserves in line with the auditor's recommendation of 25-50% of the precept. After this

payment the level would still be well within this recommendation.

It was **RESOLVED** to pay **£3,910.00** from General Reserves towards the funding of the restoration of the Jubilee Clock and that the Assistant Town Clerk seeks relevant guarantees from the specialist contracted to take on the project.

10.29 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

Members gave the following updates:

Thames Hall Management Committee – Cllr Beasley had attended the Annual General Meeting on 21st May. He reported that the new floor in the hall had been poorly laid. In spite of repeated requests from the Chair of the Management Committee, no action had been taken by the contractor.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk looks into guarantees attached to the work to judge whether there had been a breach of conditions. Findings should be reported to the Policy & Resources Committee.

Cllr Beasley also confirmed that the old and inefficient gas boiler should be renewed (money had already been ear marked for this). He also reported that there were some damp problems and that there may be a need to remove internal walls.

CAYPIG – Cllr Case would be attending a meeting on Thursday, 27th May 2010

Link – Cllr Chapman had attended the Annual General Meeting. The good work of the scheme continued.

United Charities – The nominations for trustees had been processed by the Town Council. A grant meeting was scheduled for the coming weeks.

Heritage Trail Project – Cllr Tetlow confirmed that the partnership bodies had met and the project had now started. It would be discussed further at the Community & Leisure Committee.

Operational Flood Working Group (OFWG) – Cllr Chapman had attended an OFWG (North) in Trowbridge. Only parish representatives from Dauntsey and Cricklade had attended. Cricklade was fourth on the list for flooding related works. (This is based on Clarence reports for internal flooding in houses since 2006). A bid for DEFRA funding had not been successful and a further bid would be submitted.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should encourage local residents through the Chronicle magazine to report flooding issues to Clarence.

Meeting closed at 8.12pm