



Cricklade Town Council First Town on the Thames

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FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Monday, 28th June at 7pm at Ockwells

Councillors present D. Tetlow, Chairman

Cllr B. Atfield

Cllr B. Beasley

Cllr R. Case

Cllr G Chapman

Cllr Clements

Cllr M Dixon

Cllr L Forrester

Cllr M. Hatton

Cllr Szybiak

There were 3 members of the public present.

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

Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

MINUTES

10.30 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillors A Dentith, P Colmer and T Robertson and Sgt Martin Alvis.

10.31 Declarations of Interest

None

10.32 Chairman's Announcements

- i) The Chairman congratulated the organisers of this year's Cricklade Festival – *Cricklade by the Sea*. This had been another very successful event for the town. The Council had contributed £1,250 in grant funding towards it and this was an excellent way of supporting a local community project.

10.33 Minutes

The minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on Monday, 24th May 2010 were signed by the Chairman and adopted as a true record.

10.34 Policing Issues

As a representative of the police was not able to attend, the Chairman read out a short report issued by the local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). Main points were:

- Due to a decrease in criminal damage, the Bath Road area was no longer a high priority and would be part of normal patrol strategy
- There had been a number of break-ins (mainly opportunist thefts) where windows and doors had not been properly secured

- The Cricklade Festival had run smoothly and without incident with the exception of an assault after the close of the event in the evening
- The excellent start made by the NPT's new recruit – PCSO O'Halloran
- Incidents of Anti-social Behaviour continue to decrease (42 calls in April/May 2009 and 21 in the same period for 2010).
- There had been a decrease of 38.7% in all recorded crime.

Cllr Case had attended the recent Police Tasking meeting at Wootton Bassett where the above had been discussed together with general discussion about priority areas. It was also clear that the CCTV system at the Town Council was an important tool for the police in Cricklade.

The Chairman called for more volunteers to receive training and help with monitoring the CCTV system. Cllrs. Atfield, Chapman and Forrester all expressed interest in this.

10.35 Clerks Report

The Town Clerk's Report was noted as follows:

10.08/21	<p>Area Board – At the Full Town Council meeting on 24TH May, 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 now raised would move more quickly. The Town Clerk had drafted a letter to the Chair of the Area Board highlighting the importance of allocating time for local concerns at Area Board meetings. Closed</p>
10.23	<p>Capping of Council Tax - The Town Clerk was asked look into the current legislation governing any capping of local council tax (the precept). Research shows that capping applies to all Local Authorities <i>with the exception of Town and Parish Councils</i>. This means that Town and Parish Councils can raise the precept by whatever percentage they choose. This has led to some questions about the potential for off loading non-statutory duties to towns and parishes and the possibility of this leading to double taxation. The previous government issued a Green Paper* in 2000 addressing this. It is unclear how this has been taken forward. The Town Clerk has asked for an update from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Ongoing</p> <p><i>*A Green Paper is a government report of a proposal without any commitment to action. It may result in the production of a White Paper which sets out policy, action and clear intention of a government to pass laws.</i></p>
10.24	<p>Town Plan – A public meeting took place on Thursday, 10th June at the Town Hall. The meeting was well run by Marion Raynor, Community First but there was a poor turnout. That said a number of volunteers put their names forward for the Steering Group. The Town Council also ran a stall at Cricklade Festival on Sunday, 20th June (as suggested at the last Full Town Council Meeting). This was very successful and a large number of people participated in a consultation exercise. More volunteers also came forward. There was overwhelming support for the production of a Plan. The findings of this consultation will be collated and submitted to a future Town Council meeting. The next step is to bring the volunteers together and then ask Marion Rayner to guide the Steering Group forward. Ongoing</p> <p><i>Members expressed their appreciation of the additional work put into the public meeting, Festival stand and consultation exercise by</i></p>

	<i>all officers.</i>
10.25	Town Twinning – 20th Anniversary Celebrations – The event to welcome visitors from Suce-sur-Erdre took place on Friday, 18 th June. It was well attended with a programme that went to plan. Feedback from the French and the Twinning Association was good. Town flags were exchanged and each French visitor was given a small gift bag (containing information leaflets and Cricklade promotional items). The French party presented the Chairman with a commemorative glass plaque and a Magnolia tree. Closed <i>Members again expressed their appreciation of the organisation of this successful event by officers.</i>
10.27	Jubilee Clock - At the Full Town Council meeting on 24 th May, Members RESOLVED to pay £3,910.00 from General Reserves towards the funding of the restoration of the Jubilee Clock. The Assistant Town Clerk has sought relevant guarantees from the specialist contracted to take on the project. The contractor can offer a 2 year manufacturer's guarantee. However, he commented that the paint used is the best available and used on National Trust properties and other heritage projects. (His experience spans 29 years). There would always be a risk from chipping as the clock is located next to a busy road and will become dirty and dull looking but, simple cleaning with soap and water should rejuvenate it. Closed
10.29	Flooding Issues – The Town Clerk was asked to encourage local residents, via the Chronicle, to report flooding issues to Clarence – the best way to give a true reflection of flooding problems in the town. This will appear in the July issue. Closed

10.36 Correspondence

Members **NOTED** an exchange of correspondence between the Town Clerk and James Gray, MP.

10.37 Area Board Update

There had not been an Area Board meeting since the last Full Town Council meeting. However, Cllr Tetlow had attended a Community Planning Workshop on 22nd June at Lyneham. Around 20 people had attended and the outcome will be reported to the next Area Board meeting on 14th July at Lyneham Primary School.

10.38 Wiltshire Council Report

As Cllr Colmer was not able to attend the meeting a written report was read by the Chairman. The main points were:

- That Cllr Colmer was now the Deputy Leader of Wiltshire's Liberal Democrat Group
- The success with the refusal of the Sarsen Housing Appeal for the development at The Fiddle and that local community support at the hearing was an important influencing factor.
- That he would be working with the Area Board to see how its grant fund might support the continuance of the Cricklade Fire Cadets following withdrawal of funding by the Wiltshire Fire Authority for both the Cricklade and Ludgershall cadet forces.
- The more inclusive format of the Area Board
- That the consultation on Waste Management Harmonisation had now started and that it was important that the Town Council and public should participate in this.

- That he will be meeting with the relevant Service Director to determine a long term strategic solution regarding HGVs in Cricklade and affected parishes
- That there would inevitably be a round of cuts as announced by the coalition government. And that he would be fighting to ensure that funding for 'front line' services are maintained.

During a Suspension of Standing Orders a member of the public expressed concern at the withdrawal of funds for the Fire Cadets, a service that was clearly helping to ensure that firefighters were retained in future.

Members **RESOLVED** that a letter should be written to the Wiltshire Fire Authority expressing dismay at the withdrawal of funding for the Fire Cadets. Copies should also be sent to Cricklade's MP and Cllr Colmer as Wiltshire Councillor.

Members also **AGREED** that a response to Wiltshire Council's Waste Collection and Recycling consultation should be made by the Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee.

10.39 **Town Council Accounts**

Members **NOTED** the Internal Auditor's report and that those recommendations regarding both the Public Liability Insurance and the Fidelity Guarantee (identified by the External Auditors) had been increased. Also, that the Internal Auditor had commented that the Accounts for year end 31st March were in good order.

Members unanimously approved the Balance Sheet prepared by DCK Beaver Ltd for the External Auditor for year end 31st March 2010 and it was signed by the Chairman and the Town Clerk.

Members unanimously approved **Section 1** of the Annual Return - Accounting Statements for year end 31st March 2010 and the itemised **Section 2** – Annual Governance Statement for year end 31st March 2010. It was signed by the Chairman and the Town Clerk.

Congratulations were relayed to the Town Clerk and her team for proficient accounting throughout the past Financial Year.

10.40 **Committee Minutes**

The minutes of the Planning Conservation & Transport meetings on 10th May, 17th May and 1st June, those of Community & Leisure on 27th April and of the Personnel Sub Committee on 10th February were all **NOTED**.

10.41 **Liaison with Outside Bodies**

Members gave the following updates:

CAYPIG – Cllr Case reported that a temporary Youth Worker has been assigned to Cricklade Youth Centre and that sessions seemed to be working well.

Cotswold Water Park – Cllr Case had attended the Annual General Meeting at Cotswold District Council. There seemed to be confidence that financial problems would be resolved. There was nothing to directly affect Cricklade.

Heritage Trail Project – Cllr Tetlow confirmed that the partnership was working towards the production of Interpretation Boards for the town. A brief had been put together for the designer who had begun work. Further funding was being sought. A Heritage Trail with alternative walks would follow.

10.42 **Town Council Vacancy**

Candidates for the Town Council vacancy – Mr David Garrad and Mr Mark Clake both gave an account of why they would like to be considered for co-option to the Town

Council. A third candidate, Mrs. Margaret Anne Bergstrom who had also submitted nomination papers, did not attend the meeting.

10.43 Exclusion of public and press

Due to the special nature of the following items, 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.

10.44 Town Council Vacancy

Following discussion and a ballot, Members **RESOLVED** that Mr Mark Clarke be co-opted to the Town Council and be invited to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

10.46 Staff Matters

Members considered a recommendation from the Personnel Sub-Committee and **RESOLVED** that up to £4,275 should be drawn down from General Reserves to fund additional working hours for the part time groundsman to cover sickness absence for another member of the Grounds Team.

10.47 Liability Issues

The Chairman updated Members on a liability issue previously reported to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm