



## Cricklade Town Council

First Town on the Thames

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### FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 7pm at Ockwells**

Councillors present: Cllr D Tetlow (Chairman)

Cllr B Beasley

Cllr R Case

Cllr G Chapman

Cllr M Clarke

Cllr L Forrester

Cllr J Harmer

Cllr A Jensen

Cllr J Norman

Cllr T Robertson

Cllr R Szybiak

There were also 21 members of the public present and a representative from the press.

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

**Public Question Time** - No questions received.

### MINUTES

#### 11.15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors P Colmer, A Dentith and M Hatton.

#### 11.16 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
Cllr M. Clarke	6 – Consultation on St Sampson's Infant and CE Junior School	Personal	LEA appointed governor to St Sampson's Infant School	Spoke and voted

#### 11.17 Chairman's Announcements

- i) The Chairman confirmed that the casual vacancy that had arisen following the death of Cllr Brian Atfield was currently being advertised. If no election was called then the co-option process would be followed.
- ii) Congratulations were passed to all nine community groups who had taken part in the RHS Its Your Neighbourhood campaign. The South West In Bloom Assessors spent a large part of the day in the town and were very complimentary of all the efforts put in by local residents.
- iii) Best wishes were passed to Cricklade Bloomers and all those working towards the Champion of Champions competition the judging of which was to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

#### 11.18 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Full Town Council held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011

were adopted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 11.19 Policing Issues

PC Lee Kuklinski updated Members about the most recent issues. These were that:

- As agreed at the last NPT Tasking meeting, the priority for Cricklade would be changed for the next quarter from theft (this had been successful with 2 arrests) to anti-social behavior
- Areas to be patrolled would include the Leisure Centre, Bath Road, the High Street, open spaces and residential areas.

During a Suspension of Standing Orders, Mr C Neville-Jones asked about patrolling of Green Gables Doctors Surgery. PC Kuklinski confirmed that this was patrolled by members of the NPT but had not been the subject of reported incidents for the last 2 years.

The Chair of the Cricklade Business Association, Bob Jones, asked whether any closures were planned in the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area as had been reported for Stroud, Gloucestershire. PC Kuklinski said that the move of response officers to Swindon would be a positive one as this would result in quicker response times for Cricklade.

Mr P Davies, a local resident living in Galley Orchard asked about the enforcement of the new 20mph speed limits in Calcutt Street. There had been some confusion about the different approaches to speed enforcement in 20mph zones and in speed limits. It was vital to order a metro counter to prove the need for speed enforcement soon as this equipment was in demand throughout the county.

PC Kuklinski and the Chairman assured Mr Davis that this was being followed up by the Town Council at the next meeting of the Area Board Highways and Transport Group by Cllr Harmer on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

The Chairman asked that the Town Council's congratulations were passed onto Sgt Martin Alvis on his recent long service award.

### 11.20 Consultation on St Sampson's Infant School and St Sampson's Church of England Junior School

Members **NOTED** a consultation document on a proposal to join St Sampson's Junior School and St Sampson's Infant School by forming a federation with one head teacher and one governing body by January 2012 leading to an amalgamation by September 2012.

The Chairman opened the item by reminding Members and the public (including parents, governors and teaching staff) that it was not for the Town Council to make a decision on the proposal but that it had been asked for its views as part of the consultation exercise. Also, that in addition to the consultation paper itself Members had been given the opportunity to read a list of objections compiled with input from 30 parents.

During a Suspension of Standing Orders various points were made by members of the public opposing and supporting amalgamation. Main points of discussion were that:

- The two schools performed well as separate infant and junior schools with good Ofsted reports
- There appeared to be no clear advantages to children's education to be brought about by amalgamation
- Disadvantages of amalgamation may include remote management in a larger school, a potential loss of the current high level of pastoral care, a dip in performance during a period of transition to an all-through primary, the physical difficulties of working as one school and inflexibilities of available space along with the threat to teaching assistant and administrative posts
- There were primary schools with fewer pupils than St Sampson's Infant School.
- Though recruitment of head teachers was difficult at national level, this had not been the case for filling positions at St Sampson's
- That roll numbers had remained flat with places also being taken by children from

- outside of the area
- Evidence showed that there were 328 children in both schools which, judged against national figures, was small.
- Due to housing expansion in Cricklade in the 1960s-70s the roll grew to 499 in 1979 and that school numbers had, in fact, reduced
- The trend nationally and locally was towards all-through primary education (Wiltshire has 9 infant and 9 junior schools and 180 primaries)
- The new Education Act and its funding implications would have a profound effect on education for the next 5-10 years and larger schools were likely to be in a more resilient position to handle changes
- Recruitment of good head teachers may be hampered as the scope of a stand alone infant or junior school could be limiting with the effect that many potential recruits would veer towards primaries
- A move to amalgamation may bring some protection to staff who should automatically transfer to an all-through St Sampson's Primary School

Members concluded that it was for the governing body to set the strategic leadership of the school and any decision must be centred on the best interests of local children not simply for the next 2 years but in the much longer term. It was important that the Local Authority, the Bristol Diocese and governors based their decision on the view of consultation respondents including those views put forward during the public meeting at Cricklade Town Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011.

Members **RESOLVED** that with some reservations, Cricklade Town Council was in favour of the proposal to join St Sampson's Infant School and St Sampson's Church of England Junior School by forming a federation with one head teacher and one governing body by January 2012 leading to an amalgamation by September 2012.

*(Voting among the 11 Members present was 7 in favour of the proposal, 2 against with 2 abstentions. No recorded vote was requested).*

## 11.21 Town Clerks Report.

Members noted the report as follows:

10.144	<b>Clerk's Report - Publication of Expenditure of £500 and above</b> – At the meeting on 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2011, Members noted a report that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had requested that all public bodies publish on their websites details of every payment made over £500. Published guidance was specifically aimed at principal councils. Advice had been received from Accountants DCK Beavers that Town and Parish Councils should not rush into publishing this data until there has been clear guidance provided as to how and in what form this data should be published. <b>Closed</b>
11.05	<b>Policing Issues</b> - At the meeting on 13 <sup>th</sup> June, Members agreed that the Town Clerk contact local resident Mr P Davis to arrange for a request for a metro counter to be submitted through the Area Board Issue Log to help ensure enforcement of the new 20mph speed limits in Calcutt Street. It was important that evidence was gathered to ensure that targeted enforcement could take place as soon as possible. This is being taken up through the Area Board Highways and Transport Group on 11 August. <b>Closed</b>
11.06	<b>Wiltshire Assembly of Local Councils (WALC)</b> – At the previous FTC following a presentation by WALC, it had been agreed that the Town Clerk submit a proposal to the next Full Town Council meeting about the possibility of Cricklade Town Council becoming a member of WALC – <b>SEE MINUTE No 11.26</b>
11.10	<b>Cricklade Development Plan</b> – At the meeting on 13 <sup>th</sup> June, Members resolved that the Plan be re-submitted to the PCT Committee with

	<p>delegated authority to issue the document before the close of the Core Strategy consultation (8<sup>th</sup> August) with the proviso that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) No maps showing boundary changes were included in the final version and references to them were removed</li> <li>ii) References to specific areas for expansion (under Local Development Framework) were removed</li> <li>iii) Paragraphs 3 and 4 covering housing for the elderly and the requirement for a retail strategy for Cricklade should be strengthened to reflect the evidence already gathered to support these requirements.</li> </ul> <p>This had been submitted to the PCT Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> June and the amendments made and subsequently passed to the Spatial Planning Team at Wiltshire Council and the Town Plan Steering Group. <b>Closed</b></p>
11.12	<p><b>Town Council Accounts</b></p> <p><u>Internal Audit</u> - Members had <b>NOTED</b> the Internal Auditor's report and comments that the Accounts for year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 were in good order. It was agreed that though not identified as a recommendation for action, the Town Clerk should submit a report to the P&amp;R Committee recommending some small changes to insurance cover. Recommendations had been made to P&amp;R on 5<sup>th</sup> July followed by a resolution that the Town Council should increase its Fidelity Guarantee to £500,000.</p> <p><u>External Audit</u> – Members approved both <b>Section 1</b> of the Annual Return - Accounting Statements for year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and <b>Section 2</b> – Annual Governance Statement for year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 which were signed by the Chairman and the Town Clerk. The Annual Return was submitted to the External Auditors (Mazars) with all relevant supporting documents ahead of the deadline laid down by the Audit Commission. <b>Closed</b></p>

#### 11.22 Correspondence

Members **NOTED** an item of correspondence from the Cricklade Festival Committee thanking the Town Council for its support around the 2011 Countryfest in June.

#### 11.23 Area Board Update

Cllr David Tetlow updated Members on the main outcomes of the most recent Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board meeting held at St Bartholomew's School in Wootton Bassett on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July. The meeting had been preceded by a demonstration about the closure of the swimming pool. Main points were that:

- The focus of the meeting centred on the proposed Campus for Wootton Bassett
- Wiltshire Council's plans for the Olympics 2012
- That there was insufficient time for one agenda item about the new waste and recycling arrangements
- There were no grant applications considered from Cricklade
- The meeting had been a good one with local people able to voice their concerns about local issues and was chaired well.

#### 11.24 Wiltshire Council Report

Councillor Colmer was not able to attend the meeting and Councillor Tetlow read out a report on his behalf. This was as follows:

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Brian Atfield - Many tributes had been paid to Brian Atfield, including from the Chairman of Wiltshire Council, the Leader of the Council, Leaders of the Opposition Groups and Cllr Colmer. This culminated in a minute's silence.

Credit Union - A motion with regard to the large number of companies offering credit at exorbitant interest rates was debated followed by unanimous agreement

to ask Members to support local credit union activity to combat what is described as 'loan sharking.'

*Town Councillors agreed that the Town Council has supported the Credit Union well for a number of years through the voluntary efforts of Cllr Case.*

Budget Meeting - There will be 2 Full Council meetings in 2012, - 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February with the latter dedicated to the 2012/13 budget.

Development Control - Much of the meeting had been taken up by debate on revised Development Control procedures, largely because these had not been through robust scrutiny.

Amalgamation of St. Sampson's Junior & Infant School - Cllr Colmer would be vetting the response to the consultation to ensure that the report to be compiled is a fair representation of responses. His role was to ensure that the process is transparent - an issue of concern to many residents.

Changes in the collection of waste - The first stage of the changes associated with the waste collection service was imminent and there would be extensive publicity to ensure a smooth transition.

Eastern Roundabout - The maintenance responsibility of the roundabout at the entrance to Cricklade from the A419, would soon be passed to Wiltshire Council and then to Cricklade Town Council via a Section 96 agreement. The legal consultation is in progress which should be finalised by 9<sup>th</sup> September, subject to there being no objections. After 4 years, this initiative was reaching fruition.

#### **11.25 Cricklade Town Council – Car Park Strategy**

Members considered a report by the Assistant Town Clerk (Planning, Conservation and Transport (PCT)) based on a recommendation by PCT that a draft Car Park Strategy was adopted and approved. The objectives of the document were written to make clear that currently there are no car parking charges but that circumstances could change so that that the Town Council may introduce charges, if necessary, in the future. Main points of discussion were that:

- The weight of public opinion around retaining a no charging approach
- Benefits to local economy including tourism
- Costs of parking enforcement
- Costs of car park maintenance when not self financing

During a Suspension of Standing Orders the Chairman of Cricklade Business Association commented that scope for the security of car parks needs to be included. The Chair responded that the Business Association has been involved in consultation around the early drafts of the document and that point five of the section dealing with off street parking was worded to reflect that the physical condition of all car parks would be monitored to ensure they are fit for purpose and meet expectations of users and that this would include physical security (CCTV requirements, lighting, etc).

Members **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the strategy as the Town Council's current policy on car parking. And **AGREED** that the Town Clerk amended the format appropriately and posted the policy on the website.

#### **11.26 Membership of the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC)**

Following a presentation by the Association Secretary at the Full Town Council Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011, Members **NOTED** a report from the Town Clerk about possible membership of WALC. And **RESOLVED** that Cricklade Town Council becomes a member of the Association for a trial period to March 2013 reviewing the option during the 2013/14 precept round. And **AGREED** that:

- i) The annual subscription for 2011/12 (offered at a reduced rate) should be paid from General Reserves and
- ii) The subscription for 2012/13 be included as part of the precept calculations for 2012/12.

#### **11.27 Olympics 2012**

Members **NOTED** a report by the Town Clerk about Wiltshire Council's plans for the Olympics 2012. Communities throughout the county were being encouraged to nominate torch bearers so that when the relay is in Wiltshire then the torch is held by someone actually from the county. The route would not be confirmed until November 2011 but it was clear that it may involve a number of Wiltshire's communities. (The Town Clerk had reminded officers at Wiltshire Council that Cricklade would be keen to be involved if the route passed through the town especially with its title as First Town on the Thames).

Members **AGREED** to pass suggestions for possible nominees to the Town Clerk by Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> July, who would make nominations via the Lloyds Bank campaign.

#### **11.28 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**

Members considered a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Community and Leisure (C&L)) recommending that, in line with a request from the C&L Committee through the Jubilee Working Party, funds were released from General Reserves to allow for the purchase of commemorative items and English wine with Diamond Jubilee labelling the costs of which would be recouped via sales. Points raised around insurance and VAT implications together with any potential risk on storage and unsold items would be discussed and resolved through the C&L Committee.

Members **RESOLVED** that up to £20,000 be made available from General Reserves to cover purchases costs.

#### **11.29 Committee Minutes**

Members approved the minutes of the following meetings:  
Planning, Conservation & Transport – 6<sup>th</sup> June  
Community & Leisure – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011  
Policy & Resources – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

#### **11.30 Town Council Accounts**

Members **NOTED** and **APPROVED** the Committee Receipts and Payments for the first quarter (June Month 3). Enquires about codes 1559 and 1584 would be followed through by the Town Clerk.

Members also **NOTED** and **APPROVED** the timetable for the precept planning process for 2012/13.

#### **11.29 Liaison with Outside Bodies**

Members gave verbal updates on the following organisations:  
Thames Hall Management Committee – Councillor Chapman confirmed that an on site meeting had taken place with the company providing remedial work on the floor. These works would take place during the summer months.

Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee - Councillor Case commented that the outcome of the prosecution against the former CEO of the Cotswold Water Park Society had been extensively reported in the press - the lead up to this had been a difficult time for former committee members.

Waylands Estate – Councillor Beasley confirmed that a meeting had taken place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June where 11 grant applications had been considered and 9 awards were granted. The next meeting was scheduled for February 2012. A sub-committee was looking at investment adjustments.

Cricklade Town Hall – In Cllr Dentith’s absence, Cllr Tetlow reported that the Town Hall accounts had been satisfactorily reviewed. The former Weighbridge (owned by the Town Hall) was ready for occupancy from September.

Operational Flood Working Group – Members **NOTED** a report prepared by Cllr Chapman. There had since been a change to the drainage proposals at Horsey Down.

Playing Field Management Committee – A meeting had been arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> August at the Town Council offices.

Neighbourhood Policing Team – The new priority was anti social behaviour which would be reviewed in the next quarter.

Shadow Community Operations Board – The consultation period around the proposed Cricklade Campus had begun and forms were included in the August edition of the Chronicle. This and other information gathering about what services local people would like to see in Cricklade was underway. Surrounding parishes were also being consulted and posters had been produced.

Members **AGREED** that the Campus proposal should form a standing item on future agendas alongside the Area Board update.

Area Board Highways and Transport Group – The next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> August would be attended by Cllr Harmer who would be raising a number of local issues with the group

Jenner Hall Restoration Committee – It had been disappointing that the grant application for funding from the Pilgrim Trust had been turned down. The hall had been awarded Hallmark Status which conferred professional management status on the hall committee.

Community Area Young People’s Group (CAYPG) – Cllr Case had been unable to attend the most recent meeting. There were clearly some links with the campus proposals. He commented that it was disappointing that more young people were not in attendance and that, hopefully, a change of timing would change this.

Cricklade Country Way Project – This would be discussed more fully at the next C&L meeting. A new Memorandum of Understanding was ready for signature. The railway’s input was important. The Project Team continued to look at both a westerly and easterly route for Cricklade but recognised the difficulties involved.

Heritage Trail – Councillor Tetlow informed Members that good progress had been made linked largely to the In Bloom judging on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Interpretation Boards were now at Sucé Place and the End of the Line. They would also be installed soon in the northern end of the High Street and at St Mary’s.

Town Plan Steering Group – Councillor Szybiak confirmed that no meeting had taken place since her last report on 13<sup>th</sup> June. It was important the Town Council offered support if it was needed.

Members **AGREED** that the Town Clerk contacts the Chair to discuss progress.

Cricklade Bloomers – Councillor Robertson confirmed that all was on target for the In Bloom judging on 2<sup>nd</sup> August with the snagging list attended to by the CTC groundsmen, Wiltshire Council and others. The process around the Eastern Roundabout adoption was at last being put in place though planning permission was not yet in place

**Meeting closed at 8.47pm**

