

A Meeting of the Town Council was held at the Memorial Hall, Lechlade  
on Monday, 2nd March 2009 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Jones (Chair)  
Cllr Miss Coakley  
Cllr Mrs Eatwell  
Cllr Dover  
Cllr Gould  
Cllr Mannall  
Cllr Maskell  
Cllr Roberts  
Cllr Mrs Seale  
Cllr Sullivan  
Cllr Mrs Wilson

GCC Cllr Theodoulou

Clerk to the Council

6 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence  
Apologies received from CDC Cllrs Palmer and Carter
2. Declarations of interest  
Cllr Jones declared an interest in item 5b.
3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 2nd February 2009  
The minutes were approved and signed.
4. Matters outstanding
  - a) The Chairman reported that a letter of resignation had been received from Cllr Whistler and thanked him for his work for the Council and town over many years. Mr Whistler would continue to chair the Lechlade and Fairford Business Club. A notice of vacancy had been posted.
  - b) 1st Lechlade Scout Group had been awarded £100 towards racking for their canoes. Council agreed that the Clerk should enquire as to the Scouts' insurance arrangements for their canoes as they are being stored in a Council-owned building.
  - c) As no one had requested an election to fill the vacancy left by Cllr Lambert, Council will advertise the vacancy and anyone interested will be asked to submit a brief letter or CV. A closed meeting will be held on 19th March for councillors to review the applications.
  - d) Londis have moved and painted both noticeboards. It was agreed that the Finance Committee would obtain quotes for replacement boards.

Signed.....

Date.....

5. Matters arising from minutes of meeting of 3rd February 2009

a) Chestnut tree in Sherborne Park  
CDC would not inspect the tree as it did not have a protection order on it. It was agreed that the Clerk should approach a qualified and insured tree surgeon.

b) Lechlade and Fairford Business Club  
The Clerk received a letter from Cllr Roberts (Fairford), who was concerned that Lechlade Town Council had decided not to give financial support in the current financial year. It was decided that the Business Club could approach the Council for support in the next financial year.

6. Committees

a) Communication  
Cllr Wilson circulated the website statistics.

b) Cycleways and Footpaths  
The committee had discussed a multi-use path (footpath, cycleway and possible bridle path) with Emma Shibli, GCC. The main focus of the project was a link between Lechlade and Fairford, and also with the Water Park.

c) Emergency Planning

- After recent flooding, a blocked culvert in Downington was removed and the landowner undertook to keep the stream open. Cllr Roberts thanked Cllrs Jones and Coakley for their prompt response.
- St John’s Priory Park water supply failed one evening but was quickly reconnected by Thames Water.
- There had been a positive response to the appeal for Flood Wardens.
- Cllr Theodoulou confirmed that landowners in Whelford Lane do have responsibility for keeping ditches etc clear. CDC have responsibility for land drainage and have powers to request landowners to clear drains and ditches, although Highways actually carry out the work. Highways are responsible for keeping roads clear and maintaining gullies and culverts which affect roads.

d) Planning  
The committee had met on 23rd February and the minutes had been circulated.

- CDC are meeting with developers at The Wern to investigate the efficacy of the drainage. Objections to the Coln Park application had been submitted by the planning committee as there had not been time to bring this to the full Council. CDC ward councillors advised that this application should be dealt with by delegated powers. It was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Coakley that the Council should write formally to the CDC ward councillors requesting that this application should go to the CDC Planning Committee for decision. This was agreed unanimously. It was agreed that the minutes be accepted.

Signed.....

Date.....

- e) **Playground**
- The project has been selected to receive funding from GCC. The amount will be confirmed towards the end of March. Consultation with around 330 young people in the town had started.
  - The Clerk received a request for minor repairs to the skateboard park. She suggested that money should be put aside on an annual basis for planned maintenance of all recreational facilities.
- f) **Traffic**
- The first meeting of the newly amalgamated committee had taken place on 18th February and points raised at the Lechlade 2000 meeting in December 2008 had been discussed.
- The title of the committee would now be Highways.
  - Free cycle racks are available from GCC and suitable sites are being investigated.
- It was agreed that the minutes be accepted.
- g) **Christmas Lights**
- The committee had met on 17th February and the minutes had been circulated.
- The Big Band Night had been very successful and the profit of approximately £1000 would be divided between the Lions and the Christmas Lights.
- It was agreed that the minutes be accepted.
- h) **Cemetery**
- Cemetery regulations will be redrafted.
  - The extension planning application will be submitted soon.
- i) **Footbridge**
- Cllr Mannall will be meeting Dennis Grant, Cotswold Water Park on 4th March to ascertain their intentions for the riverside area.
- j) **Hall and Recreation Trustees**
- The Finance Committee had met with the Trustees on 3rd February to clarify responsibilities. The Town Council will draft a service level agreement outlining its responsibilities.
  - The trustees intend to increase their reserves annually to enable planned maintenance of facilities. Replacement of the All Weather surface is a major project, and the Heritage and Development Trust have been approached to help with funding.
- k) **Finance**
- The committee had met on 25th February and the minutes had been circulated.
- The Clerk circulated revised cemetery charges to take effect from April 2009. It was agreed that Exclusive Right of Burial should continue to last for 100 years.
- It was proposed by Cllr Dover and seconded by Cllr Wilson that the new charges should be adopted. This was agreed.
- It was clarified that Mr Cawsey will continue to organise the Flag Festival, supported by the Council (item 5).
- It was agreed that the minutes be accepted subject to amendment of item 5.

Signed.....

Date.....

7. Cotswold Tree Project  
The project will be encouraged via the newsletter. The Clerk will approach the Gardening Club and the Tree Warden, Mr Oliver, to see if they wished to be involved with the organisation.
8. Allotments  
The Clerk reported that several residents had requested that the Town Council should become involved with the allotments at Rough Ground Farm. Cllrs Mannall and Roberts volunteered to investigate the feasibility and practicality of Council input. Mrs Lewington, local resident, offered to assist.  
It was proposed by Cllr Eatwell and seconded by Cllr Coakley that Cllrs Mannall and Roberts should take the matter forward. This was agreed.
9. GCC Councillor
- Cllr Theodoulou reported that the GCC portion of the Council Tax will increase by 2.9%. GCC councillors have agreed to freeze their allowances.
  - All roads are being surveyed to prioritise repairs of potholes and erosion caused by the recent bad weather. The Town Council is responsible for purchase of salt bins from CDC but GCC Highways are responsible for filling them. Cllr Theodoulou was asked to seek advice from GCC about liability for clearing roads and paths.
10. CDC Councillor  
Cllr Theodoulou reported in the absence of CDC councillors.  
Tribute was paid to Mr Bob Austin, former CDC Chief Executive, who died recently.
- The CDC portion of the Council Tax will increase by 2.9%. CDC councillors have agreed to freeze their allowances.
11. Correspondence
- a) People for You – Local Befriending Service for Older People  
Councillors are invited to attend the launch 13th March.
  - b) Pavement advertising boards  
It was decided that the Town Council Highways Committee should draw up guidelines in consultation with the Business Club.
  - c) Calor Village of the Year  
It was agreed that the Communications Committee should take this forward.
  - d) Lechlade & District Society AGM  
All councillors are invited to this meeting on 25th March.
12. Meetings attended  
Details had been circulated. Cllr Seale attended an RAF Fairford Liaison meeting.
13. Councillor training and workshop (closed session)
- Councillors discussed the arrangements for the day.

Signed.....

Date.....

- The Clerk reminded councillors about the members Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest.

14. Date of next meeting  
Monday, 6th April 2009 at 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....