

A Meeting of the Town Council was held at the Memorial Hall, Lechlade  
on Monday, 2nd June 2008 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Jones  
Cllr Coakley  
Cllr Gould  
Cllr Maskell  
Cllr Mrs Seale  
Cllr Sullivan  
Cllr Whistler  
Cllr Mrs Wilson

CDC Cllr Palmer  
GCC Cllr Theodoulou

4 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence  
Apologies were received from Cllrs Cawsey, Dover, Lambert, Mannall and Roberts.
2. Declarations of interest  
Cllr Gould had declared an interest in item 4a.
3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 12th May 2008  
The minutes were approved and signed.
4. Matters arising from minutes of meeting of 12th May 2008
  - a) Cemetery  
The Clerk reported that discussions were ongoing with New College. The Clerk would be meeting the landscape designer again and it was anticipated that plans would be available for the next meeting. Brushwood would be cleared away after the bird-nesting season.
  - b) New road signs  
The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting the required colour artwork. At this point the dirty and unsightly appearance of the present entrance signs was raised and the Clerk said that he would look into the matter.
  - c) Tourist information  
So far there had been no volunteers and the Chairman said that he had approached the Lechlade and District Society. Leaflets and other information could be acquired from commercial companies as well as library resources, and Cllr Maskell volunteered to pursue this.

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- d) **Appointment of Clerk**  
 An advertisement had placed in the Standard at a cost of £250 and details would also be circulated electronically via GRCC, GMTF and the Town Council website. It was anticipated that interviews would take place at the end of June and a recommendation for appointment brought to the next Council meeting.
- e) **Highways**  
 The Clerk reported that he had met with two representatives from Highways. The potholes in Burford Road and at the St John's Street/Wharf Lane junction were being repaired. Highways would look again at the Market Place road surface and would also consider placing direction signs on the ground to prevent cars driving out the wrong way. Vegetation overhanging footways could not be cut back until the bird-nesting season was over. Residents of Perrinsfield were divided over whether or not to cut back vegetation. Highways would look into the safety issue of the school bus stopping on the wrong side of the road. In answer to a question on the position of all the bus stops, the Clerk said that these are marked out by Highways. Highways would also be looking into the possibility of placing bollards round the Market Place signpost. It was reported that the Thames Street junction traffic lights were out of phase again. The Clerk said that he had also asked Highways to liaise with CDC over moving the recycling bins. Ballast piled in the lay-by near the Trout would soon be used for resurfacing.
- f) **Safer Cotswolds**  
 The Clerk had attended a recent meeting. Pharmacists had been asked to check that known drug users were exchanging needles properly. He reported that the police had patrolled the Roundhouse area several times. It had been suggested that the Environment Agency should be approached to assist. At this point the Chairman thanked Cllrs Coakley and Wilson for organising the recent litter pick.

## 5. Committees

Cllrs Coakley and Seale had attended a very helpful CDC presentation on emergency planning. Householders should take steps to prepare for possible emergencies on a self-help basis. It had been suggested that residents of Downington should clear out ditches and drains. However, residents felt that Highways or the Environment Agency should do this. The Clerk said that as the EA had upgraded the Ditch, this was more likely to be their responsibility now. It was mentioned that all the drains in Mount Pleasant were blocked. The Chairman said that money was available to spend and plans were now needed from the committee. Tim Dowan, CDC, was willing to be involved. Although CDC and GCC were involved, local people were also required as they were immediately available to deal with an emergency. The CDC template provided a useful basis for organisation, and there was a need to allocate responsibilities and identify

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vulnerable residents. It was suggested that advice should be sought from Fairford as they had already drawn up plans as part of the CDC pilot scheme. Cllr Palmer said that flood relief grants were available from the British Red Cross, but he had only recently been made aware of this.

6. GCC Councillor

Cllr Theodoulou reported that initial discussions had taken place with the developers about the adoption of the Butlers Court roundabout and the adjacent road, but it was not clear whether this would stop lorries parking inappropriately. Gravel spillages seemed to be a problem in many areas. He was going to meet with the police and asked for issues to raise. The Chairman mentioned antisocial behaviour at the Roundhouse field and bridge. GCC Public Rights of Way are responsible for the bridge. Catseyes on the road to Fairford had been removed for the resurfacing work and would be put back, possibly with a new design.

7. CDC Councillor

Cllr Palmer said that he had spoken to Lechlade garage and they had undertaken to park only two cars with For Sale signs in the Sherborne Street spaces. CDC had not suggested that Sherborne Street residents should put 'residents parking only' notices on parked cars. Londis had agreed to recycle cardboard instead of incinerating it from July and CDC would be monitoring this. The Clerk said that GCC had written about the green bin to Londis, who were considering its removal inside. GCC would monitor this. Cllr Palmer said that the CDC engineer had inspected the stone walls at Sherborne House and by Greystones Gallery. He did not consider them to be dangerous, but would continue monitoring them. The Clerk confirmed that the playing field was available for the Summer Fantastic event on 23rd August. In answer to a question Cllr Palmer said that the cardboard recycling facility would be installed when the recycling bins were moved. The delayed household waste and recycling arrangements would be implemented later in the summer.

8. Planning applications and decision notices

These had been circulated. The Clerk said that it had not been possible to print out the recent application for Coln Park as there were so many documents attached. The Chairman said that CDC should automatically send out bulky applications by post. The Clerk commented that Councils should have easier access to officers and CDC Customer Services should distinguish between telephone enquiries from parish and town councils and those from the general public. The Chairman said that the Bowmoor footpath temporary closure could be extended at six-monthly intervals until construction finished. It was mentioned that the developer could provide an alternative route but did not wish to do so.

9. Correspondence

The list had been circulated. The Clerk said that he had taken up the matter of the request for an extra cemetery plot with the funeral directors concerned. The accident to a resident in one of the ditches in Downington was raised. Highways

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had contacted the resident and Cllr Theodoulou said that GCC solicitors were trying to ascertain the ownership of the ditch as responsibility was unclear at the moment. A resident had enquiry about the provision of a dog bin on Ha' penny bridge. The Clerk pointed out that the collection of waste would be a problem as the dog bin would be in Wiltshire, who did not collect regularly on the edge of the county. CDC would not be able to empty the bin as it was not in their county. The Trustees would need to be approached about the provision of black bags and the use of the wheelie bins at the Memorial Hall for depositing rubbish collected from along the river. Hopefully matters would improve when the Water Park took over the riverside park.

10. Allotments

The Clerk reported that a group of residents had enquired about the provision of allotments. As at least six residents had enquired, the Council was required by the Local Government Act to investigate the possibility. Suitable land would need to be identified, then rented or purchased, and the land would need to be fenced, provided with a water supply and made as vandal-proof as possible. The set-up costs were likely to be considerable. The Clerk pointed out that allotments provided in the 1970s had eventually become neglected. There were currently vacancies in Faringdon and Fairford. It might be possible to arrange a scheme whereby people who were no longer able to manage large gardens could be put in touch with people requiring extra land. This would need careful organisation and the drawing up of appropriate agreements. It was proposed by Cllr Whistler and seconded by Cllr Maskell that the Gardening Club should be approached and the possibility explored of putting people with large gardens in touch with people who need more land. It was agreed that the Clerk should approach the Gardening Club.

11. Meetings attended

Cllr Jones had attended a meeting about the forthcoming Air Tattoo. Similar traffic arrangements to previous years would apply. As the police no longer have powers to enforce parking regulations, this matter would need to be taken up with CDC. It was suggested that parking should be prohibited in Hambidge Lane during the Tattoo, and Cllr Jones had stressed at the meeting that Hambidge Lane should be an emergency route only and not a preferred route. The Queen would be visiting the Tattoo on 11th July. Cllr Jones had also attended a flood meeting at Bourton-on-the-Water and had a sample of the new sandbags. Cllr Whistler reported that the Business Club was going from strength to strength with a membership of over 50. The Clerk had attended a Safer Cotswolds meeting. There were insufficient funds for lighting along the Faringdon Road, but joint funding by CDC, GCC Highways and the Town Council might raise its priority.

12. Matters outstanding

Builders' rubble had been deposited in the hedgerow near St Birinus and the Clerk said he would report this to Highways. Youths were congregating under the railway bridge in Hambidge Lane where the presence of scaffolding was a safety

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concern. In answer to a question the Clerk said that he was awaiting confirmation from GCC of Chartered Status for the Council.

- 13. Date of next meeting  
Monday, 7th July 2008 at 7.30pm.

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