

A Meeting of the Town Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Lechlade on Monday 2nd October 2006

Present: Cllr Jones
Cllr Cawsey
Cllr Dover
Cllr Gillard
Cllr Gould
Cllr Mrs Mabon
Cllr Roberts
Cllr Mrs Seale
Cllr Sullivan
Cllr Mrs Wilson
Cllr Whistler

CDC Cllr Mrs Eatwell

Reporter Tom Shepherd

2 members of the public

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Chase, Cllr Bennett, GCC Cllr Theodoulou, CDC Cllr Mrs Carter

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Approval of the Previous Minutes

These were approved and duly signed.

4 Matters arising from the minutes of previous meeting

a) Town Wharf.

The work had been completed on the slip and was as budgeted. Cllr Whistler had been on site and reported that there had been some vandalism to one of the memorial benches within minutes of it being installed. The damage had been repaired and the benches removed. It was suggested that the donors be approached about other suitable sites.

b) Cemetery

The clerk reported that he had been approached by one of the residents from the Spinney on behalf of those whose fences backed on to the cemetery. They were requesting that they might extend their fences to the edge of the boundaries. After discussion it was felt that this would be an advantage to

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both the residents and the Council. The Clerk was asked to write and agree the proposal but indicate that the fence height should not exceed that at present.

- c) Fosseway
The Clerk reported that he had discussed the various problems with the Chief Executive of Fosseway and some of the difficulties had already been resolved. It was hoped that the others would also be attended to. The triangle of land would be placed on a regular maintenance basis.
- d) Playground
The ground had been treated with weed-killer and the graffiti had been removed. There was one area that needed repainting. Mr Griffin had quoted for the repairs to the fence and work would start as soon as possible.
- e) Memorial Hall Kitchen
The works were now complete and the kitchen would be available. The dishwasher was awaiting a visit from the commissioning engineer. Invoices shortly would be due to the Trustees for the purchase of the machine and to the Council for the VAT and excess.
- f) Market Place
The Mayor circulated the updated plan for the Market Square and stated that Gloucestershire Highways were supportive of the details of the design. It was expected that costs would exceed £30,000 and that the monies needed to be raised for the work to be undertaken. After discussion it was agreed that close consultation would need to be made with the people living around the Market Square. Arising from the discussion was the need to keep the pressure on Highways to replace the black tarmacadam with the golden surface as promised when other minor works were made to pavements around the Square.
- g) Meetings Attended
Cllr Jones had attended a meeting with Gloucestershire Highways and also the opening of the Outpatients at Fairford Hospital where there was a planning issue regarding the proposed new site. This would be covered with the Press Release.

Cllr Cawsey together with Cllr Gillard, had attended the Heritage Trust AGM.

5 Planning Applications and Decision Notices

Permission had been granted for the new garages and boat shed at the Marina. It was confirmed that the agreement with Mr Lloyd was that no work would be undertaken on the dismantling of the existing shed until the new boathouse was ready for use.

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Application had been made for extension to the garage at Syringa Cottage which appeared to make overuse of the site but after discussion it was felt that this was not a valid planning objection.

Retrospective application regarding the lights and opening hours at Monica’s Plaice had been made and although it was felt that the lights were out of keeping with the conservation area, even if they were painted as suggested, they should be strongly resisted. The unofficial alteration to opening hours could be tolerated if they were amended to 11.30am to 2.00pm and 4.30pm to 10.30pm during the week and 11.30am to 10.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

The application by Hunter Page to have the condition, the removal of the railway bridge, should be deleted from the old railway site application. This was to be firmly resisted as over the years the change of use of the site had only been recommended with this condition. This was in the local area plan and had been approved by Highways who at various times had agreed that the proposed traffic light system would not be practical. Cllr Gillard had circulated a report on this matter and it was agreed that this should accompany the objections to CDC.

6 Correspondence

The list was circulated and the Tennis Club application would be considered under the appropriate heading. The letter from BRB concerning the railway bridge would also be attached to the objections sent to CDC. The quotation from Mr Griffin in the sum of £425 for the repairs to the playground fence had already been accepted. The letter from Mrs Land regarding the Library would be covered by item 9.

7 Newsletter

Owing to the change of compiler we had missed the October slot. The Clerk was requested to see if the newsletter could be delivered with the November What’s On. If not we would leave the publication until the December issue.

8 The Footbridge

Cllr Gillard introduced the report that had been prepared by Mr Eatwell and he asked that although the Council had been supportive of the project so far, they had not actually formally agreed to it. This would be necessary in the quest for obtaining funding in the first place to the feasibility study. The necessity of the new bridge was to make provision for disabled people to cross and also to provide better access for all tourists into the town. After discussion the following resolution was made “Town Council formally agrees that the new foot bridge project should be progressed”. This was passed nem con.

9 Library

Library hours are sometimes restricted due to lack of staff, but the question of permanent reduction in hours and the reason for the questionnaire in the Library were

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raised with GCC Theodoulou who had raised it with the budget holder. It had been stated that there were no proposals currently to reduce the hours, and this would be kept under review.

10 Tennis Court

The Tennis Club had requested that the Council made a contribution to the recent maintenance work carried out on the courts. Although the letter described the amount of monies involved, there was no confirmation of invoices. The Clerk was requested to write to the Tennis Club including the copy of application for grants policy and requesting that they provide copies of the invoices and also a copy of the last year's audited accounts. On receipt of these, the matter would be raised again. However it was stated in discussion that the Council had not at any time agreed to fully maintaining the open court.

11 Twinning 2007

The Mayor had been approached by the Twinning Association to discuss a major event proposed during 2007. It was decided to leave the matter until further details of the proposal were available but the Council was reminded that although they supported the twinning, no monies were to be used for the project.

12 CDC Councillor

It was reported that work during the month included planning applications at Riverside and also the fish shop. There had been a suggestion that there would be a meeting with Bob Austin, dates to be arranged which could be daytime with a possibility of a meeting in the evening. Members were also reminded of the budget consultation meetings, the local one being held on 7 November at Fairford. There also had been a new structure of various departments owing to the reduction in staff.

13 Matters Outstanding

There had been some flooding of the Wern, however several of the ditches nearby were dry. This would be raised at CDC. Cllr Gillard raised the situation whereby the waste bin adjacent to the seat in Oak Street had disappeared. A replacement would be obtained. Cllr Whistler raised the matter of the Chamber of Commerce and stated that it was going to combine with Fairford Chamber of Commerce to form a business club which would probably have a salaried professional to organize it. The matter of the parapets on the bridge near the vets' surgery was again mentioned and would be taken up with Highways. Cllr Cawsey observed that the skateboard park would shortly need resurfacing and that consideration for the monies should be made. Cllr Sullivan asked why the two footpaths adjacent to the Wern site were still closed and the matter of the difference in levels between Moorgate and the Wern site. Questions would be asked of PROW at County.

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14 Date of Nest Meeting will be 6th November 2006.

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