

A Meeting of the Town Council was held at the Memorial Hall, Lechlade  
on Monday, 3rd March 2008 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Jones  
Cllr Cawsey  
Cllr Dover  
Cllr Gould  
Cllr Lambert  
Cllr Mannall  
Cllr Maskell  
Cllr Roberts  
Cllr Mrs Seale  
Cllr Sullivan  
Cllr Whistler  
Cllr Mrs Wilson

CDC Cllr Mrs Carter  
CDC Cllr Palmer  
GCC Cllr Theodoulou

3 members of the public

The Chairman announced that Cllr Gillard had submitted his resignation. Ex-Cllr Gillard had made a most valuable input to the Town Council and to the community in very many ways and the Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Gillard for all his work and wished him well for the future,

1. Apologies for absence  
There were no apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of interest  
There were no declarations of interest.
3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 4th February 2008  
The Clerk stated that minutes did not need to be verbatim, but any decisions made must be recorded. Cllr Mannall said that the minutes should give the sense of any discussion and any voting matters must be clarified. Cllr Cawsey made a strong objection that a seconder had not been requested for a proposal made by Cllr Gillard and it was not mentioned in the minutes. Also, there was no reference to the plans previously drawn up by Wittons. Cllr Cawsey said that Cllr Gillard had resigned because his proposal had been ignored. At this point Cllr Cawsey left the meeting. The Chairman stated that when decisions are made about financial matters, these items must be on the agenda. Any decisions made cannot be discussed again for six months.

Cllr Dover proposed and Cllr Whistler seconded that the minutes be amended

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to state that Cllr Gillard had proposed that money should not be spent on drawing up plans before alternative parking spaces had been identified and checked. As this was not a specific agenda item and therefore could not be voted on as due notice had not been given, the matter was not pursued. This amendment was unanimously agreed.

The minutes were then approved and signed.

4. Matters arising from minutes of meeting held on 4th February 2008
- a) Cemetery  
The Clerk said that he had arranged three meetings with landscape architects with a view to drawing up plans. Plans were needed because planning permission would be required. The Clerk also said that he had contacted the CDC tree surgeon about the shrubs that needed attending to in the cemetery lane and was awaiting action from him.
  - b) Children's play area at Recreation Ground  
The Clerk reported that there had been more vandalism and the fence would be repaired soon. Discussion followed about whether repairs should continue to be carried out or whether the facility should be removed as the play area was little used by young children. Cllr Lambert proposed and Cllr Mrs Wilson seconded that the playground at the Recreation Ground should be closed and the site cleared pending relocation of the facility. The Clerk would seek quotations for this work and stop the new fence being erected. This was agreed nem con. Cllr Whistler pointed out that the site had not been left tidy by the contractors repairing the wall. The Clerk said that he would check this matter and arrange any necessary work.
  - c) Market Place  
Cllr Jones reported that there had been no further developments. The Clerk had met a Highways representative to discuss alternative parking.
  - d) New road signs  
The Clerk reported that one company had been approached to provide a quote and he would try to obtain another quote once he had details of the proposed signs.
  - e) Gravel deposits at Downington  
A lorry watch had been undertaken. It was suggested that Hanson's might be able to assist, although their lorries were not at fault. The Clerk said that pits must keep the roads adjacent to the pits clear. The Chairman thanked Cllr Maskell and his helpers for carrying out the survey.

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At this point the matter of the bin outside Londis was raised. The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted CDC. Cardboard should be recycled, not burned, and then perhaps the bin could be placed inside.

5. Meetings attended  
A list of the meetings attended by Cllr Cawsey had been circulated. Cllr Lambert had attended GRCC Positive Workshops about funding. Cllr Jones had attended a meeting of Lechlade 2000+ where there had been a presentation from Scott Wilson about plans for the Water Park. The emphasis was on the western end of the Water Park. Cllr Jones encouraged councillors to express their opinions on the plans via the Water Park website.
6. GCC Councillor  
Cllr Theodoulou reported that County's portion of council tax would increase by 4.9% on last year. This included a special ring-fenced charge for flood damage alleviation. It was also hoped to get some funds from the EU Sustainability Fund to assist with clearing up. The Sunhill application had been rejected by CDC's Planning Committee and would go to the GCC Planning Committee in May. The Canal project was £6 million short as British Waterways had pulled out. Protests had been organised about the proposed post office closures. Road works would shortly be taking place along the A417/A361. This would cause severe traffic problems. HGVs would be banned at certain times.
7. CDC Councillors  
Cllr Mrs Carter reported that the Cricket Club had been awarded a £15,000 grant, provided that other groups could use their facilities. The CDC portion of council tax would increase by 3.5% on last year. Charles Church had agreed to deal with the remaining drainage problems at the Butlers Court development and Highways would then go ahead with adoption of the road. Plans were available for the refurbishment of the toilets in Lechlade. The fire brigade were giving away free smoke alarms. The leisure centre in Cirencester had reopened on 1st March. In reply to a question, Cllr Carter said that she was awaiting the Enforcement Officer's report on the New Inn and antiques centre. Cllr Palmer mentioned that the CDC climate group was looking at housing. Cllr Carter confirmed that Lechlade had been awarded a flood resilience grant of £4,600. The Clerk mentioned difficulties with electronic planning consultation. Some plans on the website were illegible and there was a long delay in sending paper plans.
8. Planning applications and decision notices  
The list was circulated. The Clerk mentioned that applications for solar panels were being received. The application for Butler's Court Barn had been refused.

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9. Correspondence  
The list had been circulated. Cllr Sullivan would be attending the Parish and Town Councils seminar.
10. All-weather surface  
An inspection had been carried out in October 2007. The Clerk said that he had not received the report commissioned by the Trustees until the previous Friday. The report stated that the surface was in a dangerous condition. The company that had carried out the inspection had quoted to replace the surface. Discussion followed about how responsibilities for the various facilities were divided between the Trustees and the Council. The Chairman felt that positive action should be taken with the all-weather surface in the light of the closure of the play area. The Clerk was requested to obtain further quotations for replacement of the surface. The Finance Committee would look into the question of the general management of the facilities. The Clerk commented that he had not been officially informed that the surface was closed. Notices had been put up stating that anybody using it did so at their own risk.
11. Street lighting and lighting saving.  
The Clerk asked for clarification of the Council's views on lighting saving. It was confirmed that the Clerk should write to Highways saying that lights should not be turned off.
12. St John's Bridge  
The Chairman said that a letter had been sent to Highways about pedestrian safety on the bridge. The matter had also been raised with the MP by a resident. Highways had responded that the number of pedestrians using the bridge was low compared with other areas, even taking into account the increased numbers in the summer. Also traffic speeds were not considered to be fast. Highways would cut back growth on the eastern side. Cllr Roberts felt that GCC were trying to apply urban standards in a rural area. The Chairman said that he and the Clerk would write again to Highways, with a copy to the MP.
13. Appointment of new Council representative on Trustees  
The Chairman stated that he had asked Cllr Maskell if he was willing to be the new representative. All agreed that Cllr Maskell should be appointed.
- At this point Cllr Whistler said that he was the new Council representative on the Allcourt Meadow Trust but the previous appointment had not been cancelled by the Council. The Clerk apologised to Cllr Whistler and would make further enquiries.
14. Website  
Cllr Mrs Wilson circulated a paper showing the high number of visits to the website. The cost of maintaining the website was low. Cllr Wilson would

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present a proposal for updating the community information section at the next meeting.

15. Youth Club  
Cllr Mrs Wilson had met with Mrs Debbie Jones, leader of the Youth Club. The club had 57 members who were enjoying many worthwhile activities and had been awarded Youth Opportunity funding . Cllr Wilson suggested that Mrs Jones should be invited to make a presentation to a future Council meeting. Cllr Jones said that a future meeting of Lechlade 2000+ would be looking at youth and sport issues.
  
16. Use of Council logo by other organisations  
The Clerk reported that the Cricket Club had asked to use the Council logo. It was agreed that it would be more appropriate for them to use the new town logo, which would be used on the new entry signs.
  
17. Councillors' expenses  
The matter of increased costs incurred in printing off the increasing number of documents sent electronically had been raised at a previous meeting. The Clerk said that the standing orders referred to claiming subsistence or travel expenses only, and an amendment would be needed to include printing costs. The Clerk stated that if there were any multi-page documents in the future, they would be circulated electronically. However, if any councillor requested, they could be delivered in hard copy.
  
18. Matters outstanding  
The Chairman said that he would discuss committee vacancies with individual councillors and bring a draft committee structure to a future meeting for discussion. The Clerk suggested that this should be the annual meeting in May so that the structure could be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.  
  
Cllr Maskell said that he would try to organise a survey of overlength lorries using Ha'penny Bridge over the next few weeks.
  
19. Date of next meeting  
Monday, 7th April 2008.

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