

A Meeting of the Town Council was held at the Memorial Hall, Lechlade
on Monday, 5th November 2007 starting at 7.30pm

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

CDC Cllr Palmer attended later (item 7)

- 1 Apologies for Absence
GCC Cllr Theodolou.
- 2 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3 Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 1st October 2007
These were approved and signed.
- 4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 1st October 2007
 - a) Cemetery
The Clerk reported that he had met with Mr Clarke, solicitor. A purchase price of £20,000 per acre for agricultural land had been suggested and a letter had been sent to New College accordingly. The cost of the land purchase and cemetery development would be raised by a loan.
 - b) New Footbridge
The Chairman invited Charles Eatwell to speak to provide up-to-date information on the proposal for Councillors to consider. The matter would be raised again for discussion and decision at a subsequent Council meeting. Mr Eatwell said that the report had now been produced by Halcrow and the footbridge committee recommended this to the full Council. The committee had received positive feedback from key stakeholders, eg, GCC, CDC Planning, EA, Cotswold Water Park and English Heritage. A supporting note set out the

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topographical, geotechnical and ecological surveys now required, together with archaeological and access surveys. It had been mentioned that the Cotswold Water Park were in the process of purchasing the Riverside Park from New College and strongly supported the provision of a footbridge into the town. The design recommended by Halcrow was supported by the committee. The Clerk suggested that a special Council meeting be held to discuss the footbridge proposals as the December meeting already had a full agenda.

- c) Lechlade 2000+
The group had met with wider representation on 23 October. As the minutes were not available, the Chairman suggested that further discussion should take place at the next Council meeting. A meeting had been arranged with Gloucestershire Highways on 20th November to discuss various highways issues. A meeting with County to discuss footpaths and cycleways was also being arranged for January 2008.
- d) Alcohol along the riverside
The Clerk said that he and Cllr Gillard would be meeting with Inspector Williams on 9 November to discuss the possibility of a restricted alcohol zone.
- e) Library
It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk would write to GCC Director of Libraries in response to the consultation on library use. The emphasis was on making better use of library facilities, possibly by the provision of an information centre. This would require sufficient volunteer staff and Cllr Mrs Wilson commented that opening hours needed to be reviewed to cater particularly for schoolchildren and tourists. Cllr Whistler emphasised that the town needed an information centre and that visitors would use it. The analysis of the questionnaires was awaited.
- f) Children's Play Area at Recreation Ground
The Clerk reported that the company who would be repairing the play equipment would also replace the fencing and the work should be done shortly. Cllr Lambert referred to the report that he had produced on improving the play area and asked for Council approval to set up a sub-committee to develop ideas. Cllr Lambert and Cllr Mrs Wilson would sit on this sub-committee together with interested members of the public. Cllr Mrs Seale commented that problems were caused mainly by inappropriate use of the area by older children and teenagers. Cllr Lambert and Cllr Mrs Wilson stressed the need to encourage parents to take responsibility as this should improve behaviour. There would always be problems at night, but the presence

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of parents with young children during the day would deter the teenagers. Cllr Mannall suggested that County should be asked to provide examples of successful playgrounds. The Chairman thanked Cllr Lambert for his report and it was agreed that a sub-committee should be set up.

g) W I Seat

Cllr Cawsey reported that the WI would now prefer to make a donation towards the replacement of the seat on the corner of Allcourt. Confirmation was awaited from the WI.

5 Meetings Attended

The Chairman suggested that in future any Councillors who have attended meetings should inform the Clerk so that written details could be circulated rather than oral reports made.

Cllr Roberts had attended the Christmas Lights sub-committee.

Cllr Cawsey had attended the Christmas Lights sub-committee and had also met with a Southern Electric representative with the Clerk. He had also attended the Lechlade 2000+ group, a meeting at CDC about civil parking enforcement and the flood forum at Fairford.

Cllr Lambert had attended a meeting of the Market Place group. He mentioned that the next meeting of the East Cotswold Strategic Partnership would be held in Lechlade on 15th November

Cllr Sullivan had attended a meeting of the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee.

Cllr Jones had met with representatives from the EA and Atkins, Mr Napper from CDC Planning, Mrs Watkins from Gloucestershire Highways, Mr Mooney from GCC, GCC Cllr Theodolou and CDC Cllr Mrs Carter on 17th October in Downington. They had walked round the Butler's Court development and evidence of flooding was apparent, after recent light rainfall. CDC would discuss shortcomings in the works that the developers had carried out. Highways undertook to make improvements to the local highway drainage system. Cllr Jones had also attended the CDC flood forum on 1st November and had taken advantage of the presence of EA representatives to press the case for reviewing the situation in Downington. The EA agreed to investigate. He had also attended a GCC flood forum on 2nd November in Fairford.

6 GCC Councillor

Cllr Theodolou was away.

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7 CDC Councillor

Cllr Palmer spoke about the new proposals for dealing with waste and said that information had been sent to all residents and would also appear in the next edition of Cotswold News. A helpline was also available. Change was necessary because of the substantial increase in landfill taxes from approx £2m to £4m per annum, together with the ongoing drive to increase recycling. Cllr Mrs Wilson commented that most residents seemed to support the proposals but would like more explanation of the reason for the £30 charge for the green bins. Some people would prefer the retention of the fortnightly green waste collection with no extra charge.

Cllr Palmer reported that additional policing in the form of ad hoc patrols was now taking place along the riverside. Householders who had been forced to move upstairs or into caravans during the July floods had been offered payments. The Cotswold Leisure Centre in Cirencester would be reopening in 2008. Mr Napper, CDC Planning, had visited the Riverside but, as the sheds were not permanent fixtures, planning permission was not required. However, the Chief Executive would visit to see if further enforcement action was possible. It was pointed out that the sheds had been in place for many years. Cllr Palmer undertook to find out if change of use permission was needed at St John's Priory Park as the new owners were providing some caravans for holiday use.

Cllr Jones referred to the non-collection of waste on an occasion last winter when there had been fairly heavy snowfall. Cllr Palmer said that he thought SITA should be able to collect waste from main roads at least in such conditions. The dirty and unsightly appearance of the recycling site in St John's Street was mentioned. It was pointed out to Cllr Palmer that CDC were responsible for the site but County Highways owned the land. The safety campaign on the A417 had started.

Cllr Gillard asked why CDC had not queried the exclusion of Lechlade from the Cotswold Joint Character Area on which eligibility for European funding was based. Cllr Palmer undertook to raise this with CDC.

8 Planning Applications and Decision Notices

The Clerk went through the list, and there had been no objections to any applications.

9 Correspondence

The Chairman said that a record of correspondence received would be kept in the office. Cllr Lambert suggested that details should be circulated by email, and Cllr Jones said that he and the Clerk would consider this.

10 Market Place

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Cllr Jones reported that the amount of parking required was still being debated. The sub-committee needed agreement in principle from the Council to move forward and prepare definitive plans with a view to obtaining estimates for a survey. This was agreed nem con. There was a need for an accurate topographical survey of the area. It was possible that accurate drawings already existed and the sub-committee would look into this. Cllr Whistler commented that the Market Place was not attractive to visitors at the moment. Cllrs Gillard and Mannall stressed that the Market Place should not be considered primarily as a car park.

11 Parochial Charities

The Clerk asked Councillors if they were content for former Cllr Chase to continue to sit on the Parochial Charities committee. This was agreed nem con.

12 Code of Conduct

The Model Code of Conduct had been circulated and the Clerk stated that if Councils did not adopt this it would in any case be automatically adopted as from 1st October 2007. The Standards Board of England had now asked the Council to confirm the adoption of the Code of Conduct. Part 2, paragraph 12 item 2 stated that councillors could not take part in a debate if they had an interest in the topic. However, they could remain in the meeting and listen to the debate and answer questions. Cllr Dover proposed and Cllr Mrs Wilson seconded that the Code of Conduct including Part 2, paragraph 12, item 2 be adopted. This was passed nem con.

13 Cardboard Recycling

The Clerk queried whether a site in Lechlade for cardboard recycling was still required if cardboard was going to be collected at the kerbside. CDC Cllr Palmer said that he would find out if CDC still required a site. If CDC were still seeking a site in Lechlade, the Clerk suggested the road leading to Perrinsfield where green waste recycling had previously taken place.

14 Civil Parking Enforcement

CDC were taking over the enforcement of on-street parking from 5th November. Cllr Whistler mentioned that cars were sometimes parked on double yellow lines on the corner of St John's Street and the Market Place. This was dangerous and not permitted. Householders had no legal right to park outside their houses except for loading and unloading.

15 Cotswold Water Park

The Clerk reported that Cllr Sullivan had been co-opted on to the Joint Committee to fill a vacancy for a general parish representative, but a letter had since been received asking for nominations for the vacancy. Cllr Cawsey proposed and Cllr Whistler seconded that Cllr Sullivan be nominated. This was agreed nem con.

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- 16 Six month Expenditure
 The Clerk circulated the six month figures and stated that no significant over or underspend was expected. The precept meeting would take place at 7.00pm on Monday 3rd December.
- 17 Matters Outstanding
 The Chairman stated that he had received a reply from CDC in response to his query about the exclusion of Lechlade from the area eligible for consideration for European funding. Cllr Gillard commented that the Cotswold Joint Character Area did not seem to be clearly defined, the boundaries were probably set some years ago and CDC should be pressed to support redefinition of the area. The Chairman said that he had informed Geoffrey Clifton-Brown about the problem.
- Cllr Gillard said that the potholes on the corner of St John's Street had not all been filled in. Cllr Mrs Wilson said that some of the lighting near the Memorial Hall was not working. Cllr Whistler reported that Dennis Grant from the Cotswold Water Park Society would speak at the next meeting of the Business Club about how the Park's plans would affect Lechlade.
- Cllr Sullivan commented that some CDC representatives appear to think that the car park by the Memorial Hall is a public car park whereas it is in fact private. He said that the car park in Fairford has a notice stating that the car park is private but the public are allowed to use it at their own risk. Cllr Jones suggested that a legal view be sought on the status of the car park.
- 18 Date of Next Meeting
 Monday, 3rd December. Precept meeting at 7.00pm followed by normal Council meeting at 7.30pm.

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