

A Meeting of the Town Council was held at the Memorial Hall, Lechlade
on Monday, 6th October 2008 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Jones
Cllr Miss Coakley
Cllr Dover
Cllr Mrs Eatwell
Cllr Gould
Cllr Lambert
Cllr Maskell
Cllr Roberts
Cllr Mrs Seale
Cllr Sullivan
Cllr Whistler
Cllr Mrs Wilson

GCC Cllr Theodoulou

Mr Godfrey – Items 9 and 12
Mrs James - Clerk to the Council

3 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed the new town councillor, Mrs Eatwell.

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Mannall and CDC Cllr Palmer.
2. Declarations of interest
No declarations of interest had been received.
3. Neville Ashford- Long Service Award
The Chairman presented Neville with an engraved watch in recognition and appreciation of his 25 years of service with the Council.
4. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 8th September 2008
The minutes were approved and signed.
5. Matters arising from minutes of meeting of 8th September 2008
 - a) Allotments
The owner of Rough Ground Farm had recently met with residents who were interested in pursuing his offer to provide allotments on his land. This would be a private arrangement, independent of the Council. However, many residents had expressed a wish that the Council should provide allotments. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate further and also ask the Gardening Club for the list of names of interested residents.

- b) Swansfield Playground
The Clerk reported that further damage had occurred since the quotation of approximately £4000 for repairs had been obtained and a revised quotation would be requested. The Police had informed the Clerk that they were planning to discuss concerns about anti-social behaviour with residents of the area.
 - c) Dog Bins
The Clerk confirmed that bins would be ordered and installed in the two locations agreed at the previous meeting.
 - d) Other matters
The Chairman confirmed that the total cost of the new entry signs would be funded by the Council as agreed at a previous Council meeting.
6. Committees
- a) Communications
Cllr Wilson reported that folders had been placed in the library and in the Town Council office. These contain copies of information available on the website, such as minutes of Council and committee meetings and contact details for Councillors. The information would be updated regularly.
 - b) Cycleways
Cllr Lambert reported that there had been no recent meeting.
 - c) Emergency Planning
Cllr Coakley reported that an informal meeting had been held with interested groups such as the Lions and the WI. The public meeting to be held on 14 October at 7.00pm would be a joint presentation by the Town Council and CDC. The draft Emergency Plan would be available in the Council office and the information folder in the library.
 - d) Planning
Cllr Roberts reported that the committee had met on 22 September and none of the planning applications considered had been contentious. There were significant concerns about the development at Coln Park and a meeting with the developers had been arranged for 17 October.
 - e) Playground
Cllr Lambert reported that the proposed site had now been measured to enable drawings to be produced and a list of possible suppliers would be drawn up. It was suggested that the Heritage and Development Trust should be approached to assist with funding. Cllr Eatwell was invited to join the Playground committee.
 - f) Traffic
Cllr Maskell reported that there had been no recent meeting, but the focus

of the Lechlade 2000 meeting in December would be traffic matters.

- g) **Christmas Lights**
Cllr Wilson reported that the committee had met on 25 September and the minutes had been circulated. It was proposed by Cllr Coakley and seconded by Cllr Dover that the minutes be accepted. The date of the Christmas Lights switch-on was Saturday 29 November. It had not been necessary to purchase additional lights this year. There would be a joint fundraising event with the Lions on 28 February 2009.
 - h) **Town Centre**
Cllr Whistler reported that there had been no recent meeting. He circulated notes for discussion and felt that the immediate priority was to resurface the Market Place. This would then enable Highways to improve the road markings and prevent vehicles being driven in the wrong direction. Properties around the Market Place need to be properly maintained to improve the appearance of the town centre and attract potential new businesses. These improvements should act as a catalyst for further development of the area. Cllr Whistler undertook to move one of the flower tubs that was preventing access to the dropped kerb. The Clerk informed the Council that she would shortly be meeting with Jenny Watkins, Highways, and suggested that Cllr Whistler should join them.
7. **GCC Councillor**
Cllr Theodoulou reported that more had been spent on roads last year than previously. £550,000 had been spent on the A417 between Fairford and Lechlade. He expressed concern about the safety issues in the Market Place and agreed to contact Highways. There was likely to be a £6 million shortfall in County's capital budget for three years' time, mainly due to falling property values, but measures were in hand to cover this.
 8. **CDC Councillor**
Apologies had been received from the CDC Councillor.
 9. **Cemetery**
Mr Godfrey had been asked to continue with this project and had prepared a report which included quotations and estimates. It was agreed that the cost of an archaeological survey should be added. It was generally felt that, in view of the significant costs involved, a more detailed financial proposal should be prepared, to include the impact on the precept. It would be possible to apply to the Public Works Board for a loan to cover the cost. It was agreed that more detailed information should be provided for discussion at a future meeting and that the project should proceed by phased development.
 10. **Planning applications and decision notices**
The list of decision notices had been circulated.

11. Correspondence
The list had been circulated. The Clerk drew councillors' attention to the Waste Challenge Week at the end of January 2009, and also to the possibility of setting up a Youth Town Council. It was agreed that Claire Dowan, CDC Youth Officer, should be invited to make a presentation to the January 2009 meeting. It was also noted that the Lechlade Action Plan in response to the summer 2007 floods had been received from Hyder.
12. Half-yearly finance report
Mr Godfrey presented the financial report, as he had been Clerk during this period and confirmed that expenditure was in line with the Precept.
13. Meetings attended
Lists had been circulated from Cllrs Jones, Wilson and Seale. Cllr Mannall had attended a meeting of the Cotswold Canals Trust. Cllr Coakley had attended the informal Emergency Planning committee, Safer Cotswolds, and a People for You presentation. Cllr Maskell had attended a meeting of the Twinning committee.
14. Matters outstanding
Council representation at the various police committees was fragmented and the Clerk suggested that one councillor should attend all meetings and report back to Council on a quarterly basis so that priority issues for discussion with the police could be agreed.

The Clerk circulated a note of the new office opening hours and a schedule of dates of future Council meetings and deadlines for receipt of relevant documents.

The issue of the relationship between CDC councillors and ECSP was being pursued.
15. Date of next meeting
Monday 3rd November at 7.30pm.