

A Meeting of the Town Council was held at the Memorial Hall, Lechlade
on Monday, 7th January 2008 starting at 7.00pm

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

1. The meeting was held to set the Precept for the year 2008/09.
2. The Clerk presented draft proposals and explained details of the estimates. Reasons for expenditure comprised necessary costs, Section 137 costs and other costs.
3. There were increased costs for salaries due to an additional member of staff, increased pension costs and statutory increases. The matter of the reduction in grass cutting was raised by Cllr Lambert. In reply the Clerk stated that although we were going to tender, the amount that County paid the Council for acting as agent had increased by £540. Cllr Cawsey queried whether the figure for the cemetery should be increased to allow for land purchase for the extension. The Clerk said that the amount required and the timing were unknown but in the next year could be met by funds. Cllr Whistler said that the Chamber of Commerce would no longer be making an overall contribution to Lechlade in Bloom as individual shops would be making their own arrangements. He pointed out that Health and Safety constraints would lead to increased expenditure for the Christmas lights. Cllr Cawsey proposed and Cllr Roberts seconded that £1000 should be added to the figure for Christmas lights and this was agreed.
4. The Clerk suggested that money for the tennis court and seed money should come out of the reserves rather than the precept. Cllr Gillard asked about funding for the new town road signs and the Clerk suggested that

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this money should come out of the reserves, although quotations were still awaited.

5. Taking the additional costs above, the proposed precept is £57,621. Cllr Cawsey proposed and Cllr Mannall seconded that this Precept be accepted. 11 Councillors voted for the motion. There was one abstention.
6. The Cricket Club had applied for an unspecified amount of funding. The Clerk suggested that money should be taken from the youth reserves as the club's proposals were for the benefit of the youth. Cllr Cawsey proposed and Cllr Gillard seconded that £500 be taken from the youth reserves for youth cricket. This was agreed.
7. It was agreed that the request for funding from the Citizens Advice Bureau was declined as no service had been provided in the town for some years and there was no longer even a service in Cirencester.

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Cllr Gould
Cllr Lambert
Cllr Mannall
Cllr Roberts
Cllr Mrs Seale
Cllr Sullivan
Cllr Whistler
Cllr Mrs Wilson

CDC Cllr Palmer

2 members of the public

- 1 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Maskell.
- 2 Declarations of Interest

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There were no declarations of interest. Cllr Gould had declared an interest in one planning application and had therefore made no comments on this application.

3. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd December 2007**
The minutes with the suggested amendments made by Cllr Lambert were approved and signed. There was comment made about councillors making amendments and circulating them electronically. The majority felt that it was the Clerk's duty to circulate any amendments that were to be suggested and this should not be done by individual councillors. The Clerk will provide guidance on how councillors should comment on the draft minutes. The objective is to receive any comments on the minutes in advance of the subsequent meeting.
4. **Matters arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd December 2007**
 - a) **Cemetery**
The Clerk had received a letter from New College enquiring about the type of fencing to be used and he had suggested animal-proof fencing. There was a possibility that a loan could be raised from the Public Works Loan Board. GRCC would look over the application before it was sent off. The Clerk asked the Council to set up a sub-committee including Cllrs Jones, Sullivan, Gould and Dover to pursue this matter.
 - b) **New Footbridge**
Cllr Mannall asked for an update on the purchase of riverside land by the Water Park. Cllr Jones said that this was imminent and Cllr Cawsey commented that there was no doubt about the funding being provided. Cllr Mannall requested that Swindon Borough Council should be approached about the unsightly state of the height restriction gate.
 - c) **Children's Play area at Recreation Ground**
The Clerk confirmed that the play equipment had been repaired. He was still awaiting a quotation for replacement of the fencing. Cllr Lambert reminded the Clerk that he had suggested that a quotation should be obtained for a smaller area of fencing. The insurance inspection was due on 8th January. Contractors would be repairing the stone wall on behalf of Anchor Staying Put and they had permission for access across the site.
 - d) **Market Place**
The Clerk reported that he had obtained a map from Highways based

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on the National Grid map, but this was not sufficient. He suggested that a surveyor should be asked to carry out a proper survey. He confirmed that various potholes in the area were on Highways repair list.

e) New Road Signs
The Clerk said that he had not yet received any quotations. Cllr Whistler said that the artwork had recently been completed and quotations would be available soon.

f) Bollards at Corner of Sherborne Street
The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted Highways and they had agreed to replace the missing bollard.

5. Meetings Attended
Cllr Cawsey had attended a meeting of the Sunhill Action Group.

6. GCC Councillor
The GCC Councillor was not present.

7. CDC Councillor
Cllr Palmer said that CDC would be inviting groups to participate in the 2008 Spring Clean. Applications for resilience grants for emergency planning had to be submitted by the end of January. There was a need to identify priority areas for remedial work after the flooding. CDC were looking at what additional work could be done in Downington. He confirmed that the changes taking place at St John’s Priory Park were in order and were outside the Ancient Monument area. Two CDC officers and a Cabinet member had visited the Marina area and the Head of Planning would be visiting soon. The CDC Conservation Officer would be contacting the owners of the New Inn and the antiques centre about the appearance of the listed buildings. Any other listed buildings that were becoming eyesores should be reported to the Conservation Officer. Cllr Palmer said that he was still awaiting a response from the Environmental team about cardboard burning by Londis. It would still be possible to have a cardboard recycling site in the town although kerbside collection of cardboard would be starting in April. The Clerk suggested that the layby on the A417 towards Mill Lane be considered for an alternative site for the recycle bins. The Clerk would talk to CDC about the position. Cllr Whistler said that there were still problems with drainage in Downington. A channel was blocked by piping and some ditches had still not been cleared. The Londis bin had still not been moved and Cllr Jones said that this was still being pursued. Cllr Palmer said that the report on emergency

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planning from the Fairford pilot scheme was still awaited.

8. **Planning Applications and Decision Notices**
The Clerk went through the list. These were discussed and agreed.

9. **Correspondence**
The Clerk went through the list. It appeared that many households in the town had not yet received a copy of the GCC Flood Guide and Cllr Cawsey undertook to pursue this with GCC. The Clerk reported that the Declaration of Interests form had been amended and CDC had requested that new forms were completed. The appropriate forms were distributed to councillors for signature.

The Clerk referred to the letter from GCC about the County Council Tax increase. It was generally agreed that a reply should be sent from the Council expressing concern about the ineffectiveness of the consultation process as there would be little general awareness of the options and the response would be minimal.

10. **Sunhill Planning Application**
Cllr Cawsey said that the previous application had been refused on the grounds of increased traffic, dust, smells etc. The new application was likely to cause similar problems on an even larger scale. GCC had already identified sufficient sites for their recycling programme and Sunhill was not included. Waste would therefore not come from Gloucestershire but from a wider area. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to GCC expressing the Council's objections to the application.

11. **Flood Fund Application**
The Chairman said that a letter from the Council had been written to CDC in December asking for £10,000 and then CDC had then written to councils saying that they could apply for up to £10,000. He suggested that he, Cllr Cawsey and the Clerk should prepare a submission before the 31st January deadline and invited other councillors to join the group.

12. **Matters Outstanding**
Cllr Cawsey asked if the Council wished the Flag Festival to take place again in 2008. If so, he suggested that the Council took over the requests for approval from Planning and Highways. This was agreed.

A resident from Perrinsfield was given permission by the Chairman to speak. He expressed his concern about the deteriorating appearance of the northern

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end of the town with overgrown shrubbery, poorly cut grass, litter, roads swept infrequently, damaged road signs etc. The Clerk commented that there were problems over the ownership of the land but Highways had agreed to cut back vegetation overhanging paths. Residents disagreed on how the other vegetation should be dealt with. The Chairman said that damaged signs should be reported to Highways and the litter could be dealt with during the Spring Clean. The Clerk said that the grass cutting would be going out to tender.

Cllr Whistler said that he had been contacted by Bowmoor Sailing Club about their application to the Cotswold Biodiversity Programme for a hedge at their site. Cllr Cawsey commented that the exact position of the hedge should be identified as vehicular access should be maintained and Cllr Sullivan said that clarification should first be obtained about the footpath round Bowmoor. Should the Sailing Club require support to an application this should be discussed further with the planning committee and, if appropriate, signed by the Clerk

Cllr Whistler said that there was an accumulation of leaves in the cemetery lane and the shrubs and trees needed pruning. The Clerk said that he was aware of this.

Cllr Whistler reported that some people were having difficulty accessing the business pages on the website. Cllr Mrs Wilson undertook to look into this. Cllr Gillard said that the VAS was still not working and the Clerk confirmed that he had raised this with Highways. Cllr Mrs Wilson had been asked by residents if something could be done about a dead tree by the old telephone exchange and the tree at Allcourt. The Clerk said that Highways were looking into the ownership of the land. Cllr Sullivan mentioned rubbish in Gypsy Lane.

The Chairman mentioned that the next meeting of Lechlade 2000 on 15th January would focus on footpaths.

13. Date of Next Meeting
Monday, 4th February 2008.

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