

A Meeting of the Town Council was held at the Memorial Hall, Lechlade
on Monday, 7th April 2008 starting at 7.30pm

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

CDC Cllr Palmer

2 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Seale and GCC Cllr Theodoulou.
2. Declarations of interest
Cllr Gould had declared an interest in item 4(b) the play area.
3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 3rd March 2008
These were approved and signed.
4. Matters arising from minutes of meeting held on 3rd March 2008
 - a) Cemetery
The Clerk reported that he had met another landscape architect, who would produce draft plans by early May. A fee for this work of less than £600 had been accepted by the Finance Committee. A sketch plan should be available for the annual parish meeting on 23rd April. The sale of the land was still being pursued by the solicitors. The Clerk said that the pruning of shrubs in the cemetery lane had been delayed because the CDC tree surgeon was on holiday.
 - b) Children's play area at Recreation Ground
The Clerk reported that he had received two quotations for complete removal of the equipment and suggested that he should meet with the Finance Committee to decide which to accept. One quotation had also included the removal of brushwood from the area. It was agreed that the Finance Committee should not accept a tender above £1200. A quotation for regrassing the area could also be obtained if necessary. The Clerk pointed out that the limited amount of asbestos in the

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vicinity was of a very low grade and there was no significant danger.

- c) **Market Place**
The Clerk had not yet received any feedback from his meeting with Highways about resiting the recycling bins, but there was unlikely to be any reason not to move them. CDC had undertaken to clean up the present recycling area. The Chairman said that a meeting would be taking place with Highways on 25th April about St John's Bridge and the resiting of the bins could also be raised then. The dimensions of the Market Place had been checked. There was a possibility of extra parking spaces being made available in St John's Street. Much concern had been expressed by residents about the loss of parking in the Market Place and the Clerk stated that the matter would be on the agenda of the annual parish meeting on 23rd April.
- d) **New road signs**
The design was awaiting approval from Highways. It was felt that the signs should be constructed of metal rather than plastic.
- e) **Cotswold Water Park**
Cllr Sullivan said that Lechlade had not submitted comments. The Chairman stated that he had met with Dennis Grant, who had suggested writing direct to him.

The Chairman reported that Londis are in discussion with their suppliers about removal of cardboard for recycling. It would then be possible to keep a smaller bin inside.

5. Meetings attended

A list of meetings attended by Cllr Jones and Cllr Mrs Seale had been circulated. Cllr Mrs Seale had attended a meeting of GMTF and had noted with interest that community radio would be a means of involving young people. Cllr Jones and the Clerk had met with a representative from Libraries and one option for increased use of the library would be to include a tourist information area. This would depend on volunteers coming forward. It was hoped to organise a trial period in the summer. The next meeting of Lechlade 2000 would include representatives from Libraries and the school to discuss library use. The question of extending library opening hours after school was raised.

Cllr Roberts reported that good progress was being made by the cycleway and footpath sub-committees. Cllr Cawsey reported that a Pimms 'n Jazz evening was being arranged again this year to raise funds for the Christmas lights. Cllr Sullivan had attended a local area police meeting in Fairford, which had similar problems to Lechlade. The police stressed that any incidents should be reported. Cllr Sullivan had also attended GCC's annual seminar for town and parish councils and mentioned the possibility of Lechlade becoming a Chartered Council. This could bring significant

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advantages and the Clerk suggested this matter should be placed on the next agenda. Hester Hunt from GCC was willing to make a presentation to the Council.

6. GCC Councillor

The GCC councillor was not present.

7. CDC Councillor

Cllr Palmer stated that the application for a flood resilience grant had been successful and the full amount applied for had now been granted. The Clerk had spoken to Tim Dowan, CDC Resilience Officer, to discuss how to progress matters. There would be a meeting with Hyder on 9th April. The Conservation Officer was investigating a property in the High Street, also Riverside House and a satellite dish at the Riverside pub. The recent Waste roadshow had been well attended and another roadshow would take place on 22 April. Planning were expressing concern about solar panels in the conservation area and this raised a possible conflict with climate change policy. The Clerk stated that planning permission was no longer required for solar panels as long as they were not in the Conservation Area. The application for 9 West Way would be referred to the Planning Committee. The planned extension fell within regulations but there were questions about restricting neighbours' light and views.

Cllr Palmer confirmed that the Waste team could see no problems with moving the recycling bins further along the A417. Work seemed to be taking place at John's Priory Park that might be preparation for a second exit onto the A417. Cllr Palmer agreed to look into this. A free defibrillator could be made available for the town if a suitable location could be found. Second-hand cars for sale taking up several parking spaces in Sherborne Street were still a problem. The Clerk stated that it is an offence to park three or more cars for sale on the road, but CDC do not seem to have taken over responsibility for enforcement of this from the police as part of civil enforcement of parking. Cllr Palmer agreed to take this up with CDC. A few residents of Sherborne Street had apparently been advised by CDC to put signs on cars stating 'residents parking only' but the majority of the street's residents were unhappy with the placing of these signs. Cllr Palmer undertook to look into this. There were two stone walls in the town that appeared to be unsafe and Cllr Palmer said that he would follow this up.

8. Planning applications and decision notices

The list was circulated. The Clerk mentioned ongoing problems with the online planning system. A three-year followed by a further two-year extension had been granted for reserved matters at the Old Station Site.

9. Correspondence

The list had been circulated. The letter from the scout leader referred to the boathouse, but this is a storage hut owned by the Council and the scouts had been given permission by the Council to store boats there. The Clerk would reply to the scout leader pointing out that his comments were inaccurate. Planning applications for a new boathouse had been withdrawn by Mr Lloyd and the agreement drawn up between him and the Council had never been exchanged. It was suggested that if the

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storage of boats continued to be a problem, the scouts should find somewhere else to store their boats, particularly as the new footbridge would affect this area.

10. All-weather surface

The Clerk had received two quotations for repairs, including one from the company that had carried out the inspection. It appeared that previous repairs had been of a poor standard and too much sand had been used. The Clerk said that Lechlade was one of the few towns that had an all-weather surface and it was an excellent facility. The Finance Committee should discuss this with the Trustees and it was possible that the Council could assist the Trustees by making a contribution towards the repairs but would insist on regular maintenance.

11. Website

Cllr Wilson reported that the number of visitors to the website was increasing. At the moment only the Clerk could amend the community information section as the database had been set up to assist with the organisation of the What's On events and contacting the various associations. The Clerk commented that the costs had not been raised at the precept meeting. The general view was that the town's website should be flexible and accessible by more than one person and that information should be presented in a more interesting way and kept up to date. Cllr Wilson proposed and Cllr Whistler seconded that the Community Information section should be renamed Clubs and Societies and this section should be set up by Mole so that it could be administered in the same way as the rest of the website at a cost of £400. This was agreed nem con. It was agreed that this should be placed on the list for the next precept.

12. Plastic bags

A resident had written asking the Council to approach Londis about the large number of plastic bags that they issued. However, it appeared that Londis now ask customers if they would like a bag and also sell environmentally friendly shopping bags.

13. Clerk to the Council

The Clerk indicated to the Council that he wished to retire at the end of September. It was agreed that the process for selection and appointment of a successor would be managed by the Finance Committee.

14. Matters outstanding

The Seven Stiles footpath had been diverted some years ago by the landowner and was frequently impassable after wet weather. The footpath was a major asset for the town but could not be used. PROW had written to the landowner stating that they reserved the right to take enforcement action in future, but they were not actually taking any action at the moment. Highways would not spend money on a footpath that was not on its correct line.

The Clerk confirmed that a replacement seat had been ordered for the end of Mount Pleasant. There were three deep drains on land behind houses in Fairford Road which

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were covered only by flimsy plastic covers and were dangerous. It was suggested that this should be reported to CDC. There had been little response for volunteers for the play committee. Advice was being sought about appropriate locations and types of playground to install. Water levels in the ditches at Downington were still very high after rainfall. The Chairman said that this should be taken up with the EA. The litter pick would take place on 26th April instead of 19th April. The Council's committee structure would be agreed at the annual meeting in May. The bank alongside part of the footway in Fairford Road had washed away and should be reported to Highways.

The Country Market stall outside the bank had been very successful and it was requested that this should be held more frequently. The Clerk stated that one-off events were acceptable, but regular events needed to be approved by CDC. Cotswold Water Park are taking over the lease of the riverside park until its purchase, likely to be completed later in the year. The Water Park intended to refurbish or rebuild the toilet block.

- 15. Date of next meeting
Monday, 12th May 2008

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