

A meeting of the Town Council was held at the Memorial Hall, Lechlade on
Monday, 8th June 2009 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Eatwell (Chair)
Cllr Adey
Cllr Coakley
Cllr Dover
Cllr Gould
Cllr Jones
Cllr Maskell
Cllr Pritchard
Cllr Roberts
Cllr Sullivan
Cllr Wilson

GCC Cllr Theodoulou
CDC Cllr Carter

Clerk to the Council

5 members of the public

15.09 Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Seale.

16.09 Declarations of interest
None were declared.

17.09 Approval of minutes of meeting held on 11th May 2009
The minutes were approved and signed.

18.09 Matters outstanding
18.1.09 Emails received in the office will be forwarded to the relevant committee chairs for action.
18.2.09 Council agreed that all draft committee and working group minutes will be published on the website and copies put in the library and Town Council office folders before being approved by the full Council. This will enable members of the public to access information in advance of the meetings. Draft minutes will then be replaced with the approved minutes.
18.3.09 The developers of Coln Park have requested a twelve-month extension to the temporary closure of the footpath round Bowmoor Lake for reasons of public safety. It was agreed that all Councillors should attend the Planning Committee on 15th June to discuss the matter.

19.09 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 11th May 2009

19.1.09 Election process for new councillor

As no one has requested an election, the Clerk described the process for the co-option of a new councillor. It was agreed that this procedure should be followed. Applications will be reviewed by councillors on 24th June.

19.2.09 Revised membership of committees

The membership has been revised so that councillors are normally members of no more than four committees or working groups. The list of committee members will be published on the website. It was agreed that councillors will be able to collect Council meeting papers from the Town Council office on the Wednesday (12 noon – 3pm) or Thursday (9.15-12.15) before Council meetings. Alternatively, papers can be collected from the Chairman.

19.3.09 Village of the Year competition

The judges will visit Lechlade on a date to be agreed. The emphasis will be on community involvement.

19.4.09 Bell Lane – fly tipping

The Clerk reported that all the rubbish has now been removed.

20.09 GCC Councillor

Cllr Theodoulou reported that, following the recent elections, Cllr Barry Dare remains Leader of GCC. As the Conservative party now has a substantial majority, they hope to make significant progress with a number of projects.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Theodoulou for his help in expediting the repair to the stile and bridge on footpath BLE05.

CDC Councillor

Cllr Carter reported that the owner of Lechlade Marina has been served with a notice to clear up the site by 16th June.

Coln Park development is looking for ideas from Lechlade for the proposed country park at Thornhill.

21.09 To consider a Farmers Market for Lechlade

The Chairman said that many residents are enthusiastic about a market selling locally grown produce. Faringdon and Fairford hold successful markets, which attract people to those towns. It was agreed that the Chairman should make further enquiries.

22.09 Miss Watson's driveway

This matter had been discussed at the November 2008 Council meeting and had been refused for safety reasons. As six months have passed, Miss Watson resubmitted her request, with the driveway and dropped kerb being moved further away from the main road.

After discussion it was proposed that a private legal agreement should be drawn up between the Town Council and Miss Watson to permit a dropped kerb from 2 The Shrubbery on to the roadway in the revised position. This will be a private arrangement with Miss Watson for the duration of her tenure at the property. At the end of her tenure at 2 The Shrubbery the kerb will be raised again. Miss Watson will be liable for all legal costs involved in drawing up and implementing the agreement. This will also include costs to restore the kerb to its original position.

The proposal was carried by a majority vote.

23.09 Committees

23.1.09 Finance

The committee had met on 3rd June and the minutes had been circulated.

The committee has recommended that Mr Ian Selkirk, who has experience in auditing other local town and parish councils, should be appointed internal auditor.

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Coakley that Mr Selkirk should be appointed.

This was agreed unanimously.

It was agreed that the minutes be accepted.

23.2.09 Communications

23.2.1.09 Data Protection

Cllr Wilson circulated a list for councillors to sign agreeing that their contact details could be published on the website.

23.2.2.09 Christmas Lights

The working group had met on 28th May and the minutes had been circulated.

SEC have advised that the lights on the main tree and the lime trees need replacing for safety reasons. The group are considering the replacement of lights on the lime trees this year and on the main tree next year. More fundraising is necessary: a Jive Evening and a Big Band Night are being arranged.

It was agreed that the minutes be accepted.

23.3.09 Planning

The committee had met on 1st June, minutes and the list of decision notices had been circulated.

The Coln Park developers have appealed against the Environment Agency's refusal to permit an on-site sewage treatment plant. This will be discussed at the Planning meeting on 15.6.09.

It was agreed that the minutes be accepted.

23.4.09 Highways

The committee had met on 18th May and the minutes would be available soon.

23.4.1.09 Policy for advertising local businesses with A frames

A frames are being measured and photographed to gather information.

23.4.2.09 Ownership of trees in Lechlade

The Clerk will be meeting with Highways to discuss trees whose ownership is unknown. Locations include Perrinsfield (railway bridge to Rough Grounds Farm); lime trees in Oak Street which do not belong to the Town Council; outside the medical centre; overhanging trees adjacent to the traffic light-controlled crossing in Oak Street; cherry trees in Roman Way; Centenary trees by the path from the Recreation Ground to Lodersfield.

23.4.3.09 Footbridge

It was agreed that a new working group should be set up with Cllr Eatwell as Chair. Cllrs Maskell and Pritchard agreed to be members, and David Mannall will be invited to join as an interested member of the public.

23.5.09 Environmental Works and Services

23.5.1.09 Play and Recreation

The working group had met on 3rd June and the minutes had been circulated. An application for funding will be made to the CDC Community Project Scheme. Council agreed to send a group member to a training seminar on 2nd July at a cost of £30. The open events on 18th and 20th May were very successful, and a final design will be available soon.

It was agreed that the minutes be accepted.

23.5.2.09 Cemetery

No meeting had taken place.

23.5.3.09 Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum meeting

Cllr Seale had attended the meeting and notes will be available soon.

23.6.09 Emergency Response and Flood Action (formerly Emergency Planning)

The committee had met on 19th May and the minutes had been circulated.

The delivery of sand and bags has been arranged for 13th June.

CDC have agreed to pay for the modelling of the Lemhill catchment.

CDC have agreed to review the line of the flood alleviation ditch as the gradient is insufficient to clear water from Downington to the Thames and there is a 90° turn after Green Farm.

It was agreed that the minutes be accepted.

24.09 Correspondence

The Clerk will forward correspondence to the relevant Lead Councillor for action or information, but any significant correspondence will be brought to the full Council

24.1.09 Planting of flower tubs

In 2010 Mrs McNaught will have planted and maintained the flower tubs on a voluntary basis for ten years. A request for a volunteer to continue this work will be put in the newsletter.

24.2.09 Market Cross damage

Filkins Stone Company have enquired about possible repairs to the cross, which was damaged by a vehicle. It was agreed that the Highways Committee should review the position of the cross.

25.09 Meetings attended.

Details had been circulated.

26.09 Date of next meeting

Monday, 13th July 2009 at 7.30pm.