

A Meeting of the Town Council was held at the Memorial Hall, Lechlade
on Monday, 8th September 2008 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Jones
Cllr Gould
Cllr Lambert
Cllr Maskell
Cllr Roberts
Cllr Mrs Seale
Cllr Sullivan
Cllr Mrs Wilson

CDC Cllr Palmer
GCC Cllr Theodoulou

2 members of the public

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mrs Ginette James, who had been appointed Clerk to the Council with effect from 1st October.

Three very successful events had been held that were important in promoting the town. The Chairman thanked Mr Cawsey for organising the Flag Festival and Cllr Wilson for organising Summer Funtastic. The Gardening Club were thanked for arranging their 3rd Flower and Produce Show.

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllrs Coakley, Dover, Mannall and Whistler.
2. Declarations of interest
No declarations of interest had been received.
3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 7th July 2008
The minutes were approved and signed.
4. Matters arising from minutes of meeting of 7th July 2008
 - a) Cemetery
The Clerk reported that he had met with Planning Officers and also with the Landscape Officer, who had requested a planting plan. Plans required and the Environment Agency would need to check the water table levels. The Finance and Cemetery committees would meet to progress matters. An offer had now been received from New College. An extra metre of land had been granted but the access at the south end of the cemetery was not included. The Chairman stated that it was intended that the cost would be funded through a loan from the Public Works Board. The cost of moving and possibly

repairing the railings would be of the existing path would need to be re-Council's permission to accept the offer from New proposed and Cllr Maskell seconded that the offer accepted, subject to contract. This was agreed nem

considerable, and the surface laid. The Clerk asked College. Cllr Gould from New College be con.

b) New road signs

The Clerk confirmed that he had ordered the five signs. The design firm had queried the colours required and gold lettering on a dark green background had been agreed. In answer to a query, the Clerk said that on advice from Gloucestershire Highways, tourist symbols indicating the facilities available in the town would not be incorporated in these signs. They would be placed on separate brown tourist information signs underneath, after consultation with the Business Club, so that they could be amended in future if necessary.

c) Allotments

The Clerk said that a significant number of residents were interested in having allotments. The owner of Rough Ground Farm wished to diversify mentioned involvement in the and would offer allotments as a private arrangement. It was that residents wished the Council to have some provision of allotments.

5. Committees

a) Communications and Events

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th August had been circulated. Cllr Wilson reported that the committee were reviewing the website and also the design and production of the newsletter. They would liaise with the Business Club, who were launching their own publication. Following the success of Summer Funtastic, the organisation of an annual event in the town was under consideration.

b) Cycleways

There had been no recent meeting but Cllr Lambert reported that information on the ownership of the land adjacent to the railway line was still being sought.

c) Emergency Planning

The draft Community Emergency Plan was circulated and the Cllr Jones requested that comments should be sent to Cllr Coakley. A public meeting would be held on the evening of 14th October.

d) Planning

The committee now meets fortnightly and recent minutes had been circulated. Cllr Roberts reported that the points expressed in the letter from the Chairman of Chipping Campden Town Council to CDC were

strongly supported by the committee as comments made by the Town Council frequently do not seem to be taken into account by CDC. There was concern about the manner in which the decision on an application from The Wern had been taken as there were still issues over drainage to be resolved and the Hyder report had been critical of the arrangements. The Planning Officer's comments seemed to be inconsistent with the Hyder report. The Environment Agency is not a statutory consultee and so has little direct influence over planning decisions.

e) Playground
There had been no recent meeting, but Cllr Wilson reported that the Trustees had approved the proposed location of the playground. An application to CDC for a youth funding grant had been declined, but it had been suggested that an application should be made to GRCC. The Clerk said that he had received a quotation of approximately £4000 for repairs to the playground at Swansfield and he would discuss with the committee the suitability of wooden structures.

f) Traffic
The minutes of the first meeting held on 18th August had been circulated. Cllr Maskell reported that a resident had volunteered to assist with monitoring the speed and size of lorries. The Clerk stated that residents could be co-opted on to council committees provided that the chair and vice-chair are councillors and reports are made to the full Council. The focus of the meeting of Lechlade 2000 in December would be traffic matters.

It was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Maskell that the minutes of the above committees be accepted. This was agreed. The Clerk stated that minutes could be published on the website after acceptance by the full Council.

6. GCC Councillor
Cllr Theodoulou reported that a further government grant of £5.6 million for flood-damaged roads was available as well as £1.5 million from the European fund for flood relief matters such as clearing ditches. He confirmed that County do not own the ditch alongside Allcourt. Following his meeting with a senior police officer, the PCSOs would be patrolling more regularly along the riverside.

7. CDC Councillor
Cllr Palmer reported that the meeting to consider the licence application for The Adventuress had been postponed until 6th October to enable the police to make further enquiries. The Clerk confirmed that a town councillor would attend the meeting.

8. Planning applications and decision notices.
These had been circulated. The Clerk stated that the application for the Old Station site had been disposed as the planning life had expired.
9. Correspondence.
The list had been circulated. The Clerk confirmed that Lechlade had been granted Chartered Council status. There was general approval of the amended road signs and markings at St John's bridge, but this should be kept under review. Hopefully, similar actions would be taken on the Oxfordshire side of the bridge. Neither Gloucestershire nor Oxfordshire County Councils supported the provision of traffic lights.
10. Dog Bins
The Clerk reported that he had investigated with CDC and SITA the provision of bins on the Lechlade side of Ha'penny Bridge and at the end of the path in the Recreation Ground by Lodersfield. It had also been suggested that a larger replacement bin for ordinary litter should be placed at Ha'penny Bridge. The approximate cost of purchasing and fitting one dog bin was £250 and the cost for a larger ordinary litter bin was £415. The total cost for two dog bins and one larger litter bin would therefore be around £1000. The dog bin at Ha'penny bridge must be positioned in Lechlade to avoid collection difficulties. Following a suggestion from the Clerk, Cllr Gould proposed and Cllr Wilson seconded that two dog bins should be ordered now, but the provision of the larger litter bin should wait until the spring so that it could be included in next year's precept. This was agreed nem con.
11. Neville Ashford - long service award
The Clerk reported that Neville had completed 25 years' service at the end of May and suggested that this long service should be recognised. He requested permission to discuss the purchase of a suitable gift with the Finance Committee and this was approved.
12. Retirement of Clerk
The Chairman thanked Peter Godfrey for his long service over the last seven years. It was agreed that Mr Godfrey be appointed as independent internal auditor for the Council, and that he should continue to represent Lechlade on Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum.
13. Meetings attended
Lists of meetings attended by Cllrs Coakley, Jones and Wilson had been circulated. Cllr Jones had met with CDC and Hyder. A further revision of the Hyder report was awaited, together with an action plan. Cllr Sullivan had attended a meeting of the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee, where concern had been expressed about areas being leased to private individuals who might fence them off and prevent some access to permissive paths. He had also attended

a meeting of the East Cotswold Strategic Partnership, where the matter of whether district councillors could represent ECSP at meetings with other parties had been raised. The Clerk confirmed that ECSP was a partnership of local parish and town councils only. District councillors could attend ECSP meetings but they were not entitled to represent ECSP. He suggested that the group should draw up standing orders to clarify matters.

14. Matters outstanding

There had been several complaints that the recycling bins were not being emptied regularly and that non-recyclable waste was being left at the site. The Clerk confirmed that SITA cleared this waste daily.

15. Date of next meeting

Monday 6th October 2008 at 7.30pm.