



**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 12th March 2024**

Present: Cllr Foxall Cllr Roberts Cllr Stroud Cllr Sanford
Cllr Dutton Cllr Harrison Cllr Thornhill
Cllr Baker Cllr Rymer Cllr Shankland

In attendance: Roz Morton (Clerks), District Cllr Vann, County Cllr Morris

- 221 23/24 To consider and agree to appoint a Chairman and a Mayor until the Annual Town Council meeting in May.**
Cllr Foxall agreed to take on the role of Chair and Cllr Stroud agreed to take on the role of Mayor until the end of this Council year, proposed Cllr Thornhill, seconded Cllr Shankland, all in favour.
- 222 23/24 To receive and accept apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr O'Connell, District Cllrs Mansilla & Wilkinson.
- 223 23/24 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda**
None.
- 224 23/24 To approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 13th February 2024**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 13th February 2024. Proposed Cllr Thornhill, seconded Cllr Shankland – 10 in favour, 2 abstentions.
- 225 23/24 Clerks'/Chairman's report –**
The Clerks report covered the following items:
- CDC having obtained 10 + requests for an election, therefore an election will be called.
- Works to Trees on Milton Street will take place in April.
- Permission given to remove trees in burial ground.
- Works to New Burial ground which includes removal of whips and replanting and installation of water supply will take place this month.
- Electric charging points – posts have been installed. GCC are waiting for confirmation of connection to grid before completing the installation.
- Town crier competition – invitations to Cryers have been sent out.
- 226 23/24 To agree to adjourn the meeting for Public Participation – there is a 10-minute time limit) if members of the public are present. N/A**
- 227 23/24 To agree to reconvene the meeting following Public Participation, if applicable. N/A**
- 228 23/24 Chairman's Announcements**
None.

229 23/24 To consider correspondence received (for information only emailed). Nil of note.

230 23/24 To receive report from District Councillor/County Councillors (e-mailed).

Cllr Morris reported on the following:

- Thank you to those Councillors who have stepped down for their service to the community.
- Apologies for not being able to attend meetings recently.
- £3k is available for youth services in Fairford and can be accessed via the Build Back Better fund.
- Ongoing issues around Hannington Bridge that may or may not be **RESOLVED** before RIAT. The hope is for a semi-permanent or long-term temporary solution.
- The EV charging points have been installed but not yet hooked up to the grid. Date tbc.

Cllr Harrison noted that Highways Development Services are often not available to speak to about planning concerns, and rarely attend CDC planning committee meetings.

Cllr Morris agreed that they are not always available, and suggested that when we want their input, we should cc him on the email so he can push for a response.

Cllr Roberts asked for an update on the lighting on Cirencester Road.

No update was available as the ecological surveys are ongoing.

ACTION: Clerk to send an email to chase for an update.

Cllr Vann reported on the following:

- The proposed development at East Glos Engineering will be debated at CDC Planning on Wednesday 13th March.
- There is nothing that can be done regarding the decision by Thames Water to increase the number of homes that it can serve at the Hatherop Road development before any upgrade from 35 to 50 as it is outside of the control of either District or County Council.
- An application for houses behind the Co-op is likely to be submitted shortly following pre-application advice.
- There will be a change in ward boundary effecting the two councillor ward of Fairford South, Lechlade & Kempsford.

231 23/24 To receive other reports: -

Project Working Groups: -

- **Community Building** – no report
- **Transport Plan** – Cllr Shankland presented the Fairford Way to Council prior to the meeting. A copy of the presentation will be made available on the website.
- **Fairford to Lechlade Path** - The Coln Trail launch is 23rd March. GCC Highways will commence clearing the vegetation along the 600 metre stretch of Longdoles Lane that they have funding for on the 18th of March. After Easter the potholes will be filled and the 3 metre path created. £25K funding awarded from the Rural Prosperity Fund which is to be used for design work on the other end of Longdoles Lane where it joins Dudgrove Lane. The Sustrans Phase 2 report will be recirculated as a couple of errors have been corrected.
- **Burial Ground** – still waiting on the lawyers to complete the transfer.
- **CHS playing field** – still waiting on legal matters to be **RESOLVED**.

232 23/24 To receive reports from meetings attended or any other reports. N/A

FINANCE

233 23/24 To receive report from Chair of Finance Committee. No report.

234 23/24 To approve retrospectively payments for February 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments for February as presented. Proposed Cllr Stroud, seconded Cllr Rymer, all in favour.

235 23/24 To consider and agree Reconciliation Report end February 2024
It was **RESOLVED** to agree the reconciliation report for February as presented. Proposed Cllr Shankland, seconded Cllr Thornhill, all in favour.

236 23/24 To receive Income & Expenditure figures at end February 2024
Received without comment.

237 23/24 To consider and agree in principle a grant for the Palmer Hall
The Palmer Hall is in need of external renovation works and its trustees are applying for a grant. The application requires 20% match funding to be secured. The Palmer Hall has asked whether the Town Council would support their application and offer the match funding. The funding required from FTC is likely to be in region of £1 – 1.5k. The Council **RESOLVED** to agree in principle to providing the match funding as described, proposed Cllr Foxall, seconded Cllr Dutton, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to add to a Finance Committee Agenda once further details on quotes and the grant application are known.

PLANNING

238 23/24 To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 20th February and 5th March (unapproved).
Received without comment.

239 23/24 To receive report from Chair of Planning

Cllr Harrison circulated a report which will be filed with these Minutes. The report covered:

- Application 23/01048/FUL on the former East Glos Engineering Site has been referred to the CDC Planning Committee (13th March) because of issues related to access and what we think is an unreasonable condition recommended by the Highways Authority.
- Meeting with District Councillors re Planning Process Issues including changes to the Planning Protocol, and an apparent new restriction on access to the older planning history files at CDC – Cllr Harrison has written to James Brain who has referred to the new Senior Development Management Officer Adrian Harding for response, which is awaited.
- Problems with levels on Lakes 103 and 103A, with Mark Savage’s team covertly installing new connecting pipes from Court Brook and to the Waterski Lake (105), “Pipe-gate” – This has been referred to the Flood Authority as unlawful without licences. A new Flood Risk Assessment is required to cover the proposed changes.
- Comments submitted on the CDC Housing Strategy Consultation and are now looking in detail at the consultation on the updating of the Local Plan.
- Objected to a new (Full) planning application on the plot of land at Faulkner’s Close, which we hope to get referred to the CDC Planning Committee this time so that the policy specific issues can be properly considered.
- Issues with sewage flooding, ‘bungs’ and tankering from properties in Lakeside in Horcott are on-going – “Bung-gate”. A list of detailed questions to Thames Water has been submitted, including about the methodology for assessing the connections from the new developments, to which we hope they will provide answers by the next meeting of the Joint Working Group on 25th March.
- A letter has been sent to Natural England querying Thames Water’s interpretation of section 4 of the Water Industry Act 1991 regarding the protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) from pollution via flows from the river.

WORKS & EVENTS

240 23/24 To receive the Minutes of the Works & Events Committee meeting held on the 27th February 2024 (unapproved).

Received without comment.

241 23/24 To receive a report from the Chair of the Works & Events Committee

No report available.

242 23/24 To re-consider creating parking bays in the car as a result of information received from contractor.

Discussion took place. The Clerk reported that contractors have advised that line marking, and stud demarcation are not possible due to the existing surface. A proposal to shelve this project was made, proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Sanford, 4 in favour, 6 against therefore the proposal was not carried. It was agreed that Cllrs Baker & Dutton would look for a sustainable and cost-effective solution and report back to W & E in due course.

243 23/24 Update on youthwork project.

The Door has recruited a youth worker, Maddie, who started on 4th March.

244 23/24 To consider and agree recommendation from W & E to take a maintenance contract for the Solar lights at skatepark for a 3 year period (£1650) commencing at end of initial guarantee period.

It was **RESOLVED** to take the maintenance contract as stated above, proposed Cllr Baker, seconded Cllr Stroud, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to place the order

245 23/24 To consider and agree recommendation from W & E committee to accept quote for grasscutting for 2024 (£11015).

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote as stated above, proposed Cllr Baker, seconded Cllr Stroud, all in favour.

246 23/24 To consider and agree recommendation from W & E Committee to accept quote from C J Events Warwickshire to provide stalls for the Christmas Market 2024 (£1690).

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote as stated above, proposed Cllr Baker, seconded Cllr Stroud, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to place the order with C J Events

247 23/24 To consider and agree to place order with Greenfields, for toddler area equipment, as chosen supplier following public consultation (£40k).

The Council has already earmarked £30k for this project. Grants have been received so far of £2750 with two more donations pending, value tbc. The Council **RESOLVED** to agree to place the order and fund the shortfall as required. Proposed Cllr Foxall, seconded Cllr Baker, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to place the order with Greenfields.

248 23/24 To consider and agree to authorise payment of a CCTV camera for the youth room as part of safeguarding measures for sole workers (youth worker), funds to be taken from grant obtained from Police & Crime Commissioner (£442).

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise payment and order the CCTV camera.
Proposed Cllr Sanford, seconded Cllr Stroud, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to place the order for the CCTV camera.

OTHER MATTERS

249 23/24 To consider and agree to approve the following policy - Whistleblowing Policy 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the whistleblowing policy as presented, proposed Cllr Foxall, seconded Cllr Dutton.

ACTION: Clerk to add policy to the website and to the next procedures meeting for review.

250 23/24 To consider and agree any actions that might be taken regarding river pollution & sewage (Cllr Dutton)

Cllr Dutton requested the support of the Town Council to set up a campaigning group to raise awareness of river pollution in the Coln, along similar lines to WASP (Windrush Against Sewage Pollution), and to lobby Thames Water to stop discharging into the river. Discussion took place and it was agreed that Cllr Dutton, with input from the Planning Committee, should write up a proposal and bring the idea back to Council. It was acknowledged that the ongoing discussions with Thames Water, at the joint working group, should not be jeopardised by alternative actions.

ACTION: Clerk to add to Planning Agenda for further discussion.

251 23/24 To invite Cllrs to join the working group set up to organise and lead on the Town Crier competition.

Cllrs Baker, Rymer & Stroud agreed to work with the Town Crier and the Clerks to put this event on.

ACTION: Clerk and Cllrs to arrange a meeting with Andy Stopka to make plans.

252 23/24 Anything the Chair considers urgent. Nil of note

253 23/24 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 9th April 2024

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman.....

.....2024