

# NORTHLEACH WITH EASTINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2012

**PRESENT:** Cllr N Fletcher (Chairman), Cllr A Wellman (Vice Chairman), Cllr N Blades, Cllr Mrs C Davies (until 8.00 pm), Cllr N Fisher, Cllr Mrs V Hewer, Cllr B Hulcup, Cllr Mrs P Rigby (until 10.00 pm), Cllr P Sanders, Cllr C Hancock (District), Cllr F McKenzie (County) and Mrs C Braidwood (Clerk), Mrs C Crompton and 2 members of the public.

### 1/12 **Public Question Time (2) - Standing Order 22 refers**

Mr G Green raised the following issues:

**Town Sewers** are overloaded and becoming blocked fortnightly. He has given the Thames Water contact to the Clerk and it was agreed to make enquiries.

**Action:**

**Deer Signs** are still not installed on the old A40 and it was agreed to chase Gloucestershire Highways.

**Action:**

**Town Sign** is in a dangerous condition and likely to fall over. The Chairman agreed to speak to a local contractor.

**Action:**

### 2/12 **Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

Duncan Turner (Personal) and Graham Stock (Personal)

### 3/12 **Acceptance and signing of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 November 2011**

**RESOLUTION:** **RESOLVED** to approve as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

### 4/12 **Declaration of Interests**

None

### 5/12 **To Discuss any Matters Arising from the above Minutes not included on the Agenda including:**

- **Richard King – Self Help Funding**

Details of the Hugh Westwood Trust and the Parish magazine have been passed on.

- **Grounds Maintenance Contract**

A meeting has taken place with the contractor and the contract is being updated.

- **Nuisance Complaint Procedure on CDC's website**

Circulated to Councillors following last meeting.

- **Arboricultural Report on Thuja Plicata in the Churchyard**

Mr J Mustoe and the Parochial Church Council have been advised of the Council's decision not to pursue this application with CDC. Cllr Fisher advised that the PCC is intending to apply to CDC's Tree Officer to fell the tree and replant with something more suitable for the position.

- **Traffic Mirrors for Farmington Road and East End (opposite Crail View)**

Both have been installed.

- **Winter Weather Arrangements for Highways and Footways**

Attached

- **Life Cycle Stands**

**Action:**

In hand. The Primary School is being consulted on the most suitable site.

- **Wildflower Sowing on Water Meadow**

This failed as the ground is not suitable and before trying again, the site should be grazed by sheep. To be pursued by PPMC.

- **Bench in East End**

The Bench has been installed opposite Northleach Court.

### 6/12 **County and District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr McKenzie (County) asked if anyone had any questions:

**Junction of A40 with the old A40 route by the Pusedown Inn** is dangerous and needs to be lighted and cats eyes placed in the road. Suggested that the Council emails her asking why the cats' eyes had been removed and not replaced during resurfacing work and canvas the support of Compton Abdale Parish Council. She also outlined GCC's

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- Action:** Highways Pilot scheme which could enable Parish and Town Council's to have work carried out if prepared to contribute to the cost.
- Rural Broadband.** Cllr Mrs P Rigby stated that she had received no information on the progress of the project and Cllr McKenzie agreed to make enquiries.  
Cllr C Hancock (District):
- Planning Application 11/04407/FUL** Erection of 10Kw rated wind turbine on 25m mast (28.6m overall height) at Cats Abbey Farm is to be considered by CDC's Planning Regulatory Committee.
- Drainage** – Cllr Hancock had inspected the stream through the Wellings with Mr R Wills and CDC Drainage Officer. Mr Wills had agreed to co-operate provided that the clearing work is carried out by CDC and Cllr Hancock agreed to ascertain if CDC has the required funding.
- 7/12**      **Police Report – Sgt Martin Jones**  
**Number of crimes** in Northleach have increased from 48 in 2011 to 52 offences in 2012 but despite these figures it has been reasonably quiet.  
There has been some damage to vehicles but no one has yet come forward with information.  
**Community Safety** meetings now take place in Northleach combining north and south Cotswolds but the group has reduced funding.  
**Staffing** - Lost approx. 120 Officers in Gloucestershire due to funding cuts and have not recruited for over 2 years. Experienced staff are retiring as the maximum length of service is 30 years. All Officers in North Cotswolds now work from Stow Police Station as Moreton has been closed and Bourton on the Water has been mothballed. Don't yet know if the Olympics will impact on work load or how Police Commissions will affect the Force. PC Gary Brewer's post secure till 2013 and PCSOs in the District are secure at the moment.  
Sgt Jones requested early notice of Jubilee events.
- 8/12**      **Finance**  
**8.1/12**      **Draft Minutes from the Finance, Funding and Grants Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 13 December 2011**  
Noted.
- 8.2/12**      **Report from the Chairman of the Finance, Funding and Grants Committee**  
Cllr Mrs Hewer confirmed that the Precept will be increased by 5% next year but the Council still needs to look at ways of saving and also making money. It was noted that the Council may have to cover the cost of salting local roads if the weather deteriorates.
- 8.3/12**      **Alternative Banking Arrangements**  
Proposed by Cllr Mrs Hewer and unanimously **RESOLVED** to open a deposit / savings account with the Co-operative Bank in readiness to maximise on interest rates once the first part of the precept has been paid.
- RESOLUTION:**  
**8.4/12**      **Reviewed Risk Assessment**  
Proposed by Cllr Mrs Hewer and unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the reviewed Risk Assessment.
- RESOLUTION:**  
**8.5/12**      **Bills for Payment for October, November and December 2011**  
Cllr Mrs Hewer queried the December payment of £332.00 + VAT to Bibury and the Clerk was requested to provide further details. It was then unanimously **RESOLVED** to pay the remainder of the Bills.
- RESOLUTION:**  
**8.6/12**      **Financial Statement and Budget Report up to 31 December 2011**  
Noted
- 8.7/12**      **Renewal of Membership to Gloucestershire Rural Community Council**  
It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to renew membership with GRCC in view of the support received.
- RESOLUTION:**
- 9/12**      **Planning and Tree Works**  
**9.1/12**      **New Planning Applications**  
**11/05871/FUL**  
**4 Bassett Road, Northleach, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 3QJ**

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## 2 storey side and single storey rear extension

Concern had been raised about the loss of parking and the over development of the site and Members were requested to pass their comments to Cllr Stock and the Clerk.

9.2/12

### Report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee

Not Available

9.3/12

### Feedback from meeting with Farmington Trust

The Chairman confirmed that discussions would be on-going and that the Trust's architect is putting some draft proposals together. He went on to say that the Town is in a unique position in that land surrounding the Town is in the hands of only 2 owners – Farmington Trust and Local Authority and that the Trust has the Town's interests in mind.

9.4/12

### CDC's response to request to progress a Neighbourhood Development Plan

It was noted that CDC have recorded the Council's interest in developing a Plan.

10/12

## Property and Premises Maintenance Committee

10.1/12

### Draft Minutes from the Property and Premises Maintenance Committee meeting held on Monday, 5 December 2011

Noted.

10.2/12

### Report from the Chairman of the Property and Premises Maintenance Committee

Nothing further to report.

11/12

## Westwoods Committee

11.1/12

### Draft Minutes from the Westwoods Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 6 December 2011

Noted

11.2/12

### To Receive a Report from the Chairman of the Westwoods Committee

Cllr Blades confirmed that whilst bookings may not quite make target this year, the Centre is holding up in the current difficult financial climate. Cllr Mrs Hewer enquired if the Centre is being fully utilised and well-advertised to which Cllr Blades confirmed that it is advertised locally and on the Town website although most bookings come by word of mouth. It was generally agreed that expensive advertising does not always result in quantifiable income but Cllr Mrs Hewer felt that the Centre is underutilised at the weekend.

12/12

## Working Groups, Projects and Reports

12.1/12

### The Old Prison Campaign – Cllr N Fletcher & Mrs Diana Ray

Mrs Ray advised Members:

- There is no news on Heritage lottery bid although it was due to be announced yesterday or today.
- Petition has been submitted to CDC with over 1200 signatures and another 35 have been received in the last few days. At least over 850 were qualifying.
- Mrs Ray has received no response or acknowledgement from CDC despite its policy stating that this should be done within 10 days. She had spoken to Nigel Adams at CDC and been told he was waiting to speak to Frank Wilson.
- She hoped that the issue would be included on the agenda for CDC's February meeting and that no sale decision will be taken on bids until after that despite the decision having been delegated to small group at their July meeting.
- Bid criteria has been requested but has still not been received. Deadline for bids is 31 January.
- Diana went on to describe the process that she had followed to obtain information from CDC.
- She asked for help with her presentation to CDC's meeting and stated that CDC had given no consideration to the economic impact on Northleach.
- Mrs Ray asked if the Council would lobby all District Councillors and also consider putting forward a request to CDC to put the sale of the building on hold for 12 months whilst the community puts together a bid for the property.

**RESOLUTION:**

Members congratulated Mrs Ray on her work and it was unanimously **RESOLVED :**

**Action:**

- To write to CDC supporting Mrs Ray's petition and requesting that no bid is considered until the matter has been re-discussed at a CDC meeting.
- To re-assess the situation once the outcome of the Conservation Board's bid to

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the Heritage Lottery is known and, at that time, decide if a public meeting should be held to assess public feeling in the Town after which the Council would decide what, if any, action should be taken.

- A provisional date of Wednesday, 8 February was set for the public meeting.

**12.2/12**

## **Rural Broadband**

Cllr Mrs Rigby encouraged people to complete the broadband survey in an attempt to raise the profile and put pressure on authorities. The closing date is 31 January.

**12.3/12**

## **Sly Family Trust**

Cllr P Sanders advised that the planning application submitted cannot be processed until a s106 agreement has been made.

**12.4/12**

## **Provision for Youth and Update on Grant Application to CDC**

Cllr B Hulcup advised that he has received not further information and does not know if the application has been successful. Cllr Hancock (District) agreed to make enquiries.

**Action:**

**12.5/12**

## **Bus Service Update**

Mr Green advised that the changes previously agreed are now in hand.

**12.6/12**

## **Floral Tribute for the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics**

Cllr Mrs Davies was unavailable to give an update.

**13/12**

## **Chairman's Report**

Attached.

**14/12**

## **Correspondence**

### **CDC – Advice of Cotswold District Council's Assets in Northleach.**

Noted.

**15/12**

## **Any Other Business**

### **Website**

Members asked if the website is being checked as much of the information is out of date. The Clerk confirmed that she had not had time to do this and asked if anyone was able to assist. Cllr Mrs Rigby confirmed that she will be contacting the website developer to find an easier way of managing the site.

**Action:**

**16/12**

## **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, 22 February 2012 at 7.00 pm**

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 10.10 pm