

CAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD WEDNESDAY 7th APRIL 2010 AT 6.30PM IN THE COUNCIL SHOP

PRESENT:

M Clifton (Chair), B Whatling	Upper Ward
J Tyndall, D Andrewartha, J Fowles	Lower Ward
B Powell, J Daniel, J Hudson	Central Ward
N Ledoux, D Pritchard, J Sherman	Woodfield Ward

APOLOGIES: M Poole, M Nolder

IN ATTENDANCE: S Hanman (Clerk)

10.1. Chair's announcements

Coffee Morning – The Chair announced that, despite poor public attendance, the recent Coffee Morning had raised £36 for Cam & Dursley Young Carers. It was agreed that consideration needed to be given to finding ways to encourage better attendance for future events.

Energy Neighbourhood Project – It was noted that the Project had recently received a prestigious European award for its contribution in reducing household energy use.

10.2. To Receive and Accept Apologies for absence

Apologies and listed above were received and accepted

10.3. To Receive Declarations of Interest

None made

10.4. To receive any questions, statements or submissions from members of the public in attendance or from any Councillor in respect of any agenda item in which he/she has a Prejudicial Interest

None received

10.5. To note Casual Vacancy arising in Upper Ward and arrangements for Co-option to fill Casual Vacancy in Central Ward

It was noted that a vacancy had arisen in the Upper Ward due to Jane Pearce being unable to meet statutory attendance regulations. The vacancy had been notified to the District Council and advertised. The deadline for electors to call an election would be 23rd April. Thanks for her input and best wishes for the future had been passed to Miss Pearce.

As there had been no call for an election in respect of the Central Ward vacancy, advertisements for applicants for co-option had been placed, with the intention of co-opting at the May Council meeting. It was agreed that, if there is no call for an election in respect of the Upper Ward vacancy, it might be possible to also co-opt for this at the same meeting.

10.6. To Approve and Sign Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd March 2010 as a True and Correct Record

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

10.7. To Note Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered by agenda items (for information only)

None raised

10.8. To note general correspondence received

The following were noted:

- **Glos Wildlife Trust** – Magazines and information on Walk 4 Wildlife event
- **GAPTC** – March Update
- **Clerks & Councils Direct** – Newsletter
- **NALC** – Local Council Review Newsletter
- **Alzheimer's Society** – Spring Newsletter
- **NHS** – Invitation to public participation event on 26th April re. new hospital – Cllrs Clifton, Daniel, Hudson and Sherman would attend if possible
- **Dursley & Cam Child Contact Centre** – Invitation to Open Day

10.9. To Receive Minutes of Meetings of the Following Committees

The following were received and noted:

Recreation & Leisure – 10th March

Planning & Highways – 3rd March, 17th March

Development & Premises – 24th March

Finance & General Purposes – 31st March

10.10. To adopt revised Standing Orders for Council

All Members had received a copy of the Revised Standing Orders, based on a new Model from NALC. With the addition of a comment at the beginning pointing out that references throughout to 'he' should be taken to refer to 'he' or 'she', FGP Committee's recommendation was that the new Standing Orders be adopted by Council. It was now RESOLVED to adopt the revised Standing Orders on this basis. Copies would be forwarded to all Members.

10.11. To adopt Code of Practice for dealing with the media

It was RESOLVED that this Code of Practice (referred to in Standing Orders) be adopted.

10.12. To discuss ways of improving communication both within the Council and between Council and Community

It was agreed that it is very important to ensure that all Councillors are as engaged as possible in the work of the Council, and that communication with the general public is as good and as effective as possible. It was noted that the use of email had made it possible to communicate information between almost all Members much more quickly and easily, but stressed that this could be enhanced by such things as Members ensuring that they send Read Receipts for every message they receive, replying where appropriate and using 'Reply All' to stimulate discussion. Currently only one Member was without email access – she was happy with the methods being used to keep her informed. There were some concerns about security when sending confidential or sensitive information via email – Cllr Tyndall would discuss with the Clerk ways to improve this. It was also felt that the Council website could be better used to make information available, including an online calendar, which would contain details of all meetings etc. Work was already in hand on this. It was also suggested that there could be a secure area on the website for

Councillors, which could contain Policy documents and so on, and could also be used for more sensitive information.

It was agreed that enhancements currently being considered for the website would also improve communication links with the general public. Better use of notice boards other than the one outside the Council Shop would also help. Further consideration would be given to ways to make the regular Coffee Mornings more attractive to local people, as it was felt that these represent a good way for people to be able to discuss Council issues in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

10.13. To confirm arrangements for the Annual Parish Assembly for 2010

The Back Room at the Memorial hall had been booked for Monday 17th May, starting at 7pm. Reports would be sought from the Chair and Chairs of Committees, as well as District and County Councillors. It was agreed that NHS representatives should again be invited to attend to provide an update on plans for the new hospital. Arrangements would be made to provide refreshments if possible.

10.14. To consider application for financial assistance from Shrubberies Holiday Playscheme

It was agreed that this provision is very important for children with profound learning difficulties, who are unable to engage in other holiday activities. As there was a small surplus in the Grants budget for 2010/11, it was agreed to make a grant of £100 this year. However, the organisation would also be reminded of the Council's normal grants procedures and invited to make application at the usual time for funding for 2011.

10.15. To note training opportunities available and confirm attendance

The following opportunities had been notified:

Chairmanship (the development of Chairmanship skills) - Thursday 17th June – Highnam – 9.30 – 4.30 - £80

Time Management – Wednesday 16th June – Gloucester – 9.30 – 4.30 - £90

Larger Councils Mini-Conference – Monday 28th June – Churchdown – 1.30 – 4pm (with lunch) – Free

LCASA Annual Seminar – 14th July (Melksham) or 15th July (Cardiff or Banbury) – 9.30 – 1.15 – 1 free place, rest £30

Members would advise the Clerk if they wish to attend any of these events.

10.16. To Receive Monthly Report from Neighbourhood Warden Service, note Crime & Disorder issues and discuss possible actions

a) **Warden's Report** - circulated

b) **To note any Crime and Disorder issues and consider any necessary action** – It was noted that there had been a number of informal mentions of local burglaries recently, which were not apparently being reported to Police. As this could make crime statistics misleading, the situation would be drawn to the attention of the Police at the next CADA meeting.

10.17. To Discuss County Council Matters and Receive Report from County Councillors (if any)

a) **To receive reports from County Councillors**

Cllr Andrewartha reported –

Financial situation – There had been some improvement with receipt of Government funding for road repairs, which should cover approx. one third of the cost of repairing weather damaged roads. It was estimated that it would be 6 months before roads are back to their Sept/Oct 2009 condition.

Highways - Locally, Box Road had been scheduled for extensive repairs and the end of the current financial year, as had Woodfield Road. A meeting was planned with the new Highways Stakeholder Manager to tour the local area to highlight problems. Concerns about the quality of highway repair works had been raised and had been put on the agenda for Scrutiny.

10.18. To Discuss District Council Matters Affecting the Parish and Receive Reports from District Councillors (if any)

a) To receive reports from District Councillors

Cllr Hudson reported:

Following concerns raised about the future of Care & Repair under new County-wide arrangements for the Home Support Agency, further work was being done to try to find ways to maintain the important support offered by this Agency. As proposals were for an equality of services across the County, it appeared that the Stroud area, because it already had a provision with a higher level of service, could suffer.

Cllr Fowles reported:

The Audit Committee had recently met with the District Auditor.

Issues concerning animal welfare had been under discussion recently, where it had been agreed that hunting would not be permitted on District Council owned land. A question had also been raised regarding Council Policy on the use of battery eggs, but this had not been discussed.

10.19. To approve accounts for payment, sign cheques and Note Additional Payments Made

Personal Interests in respect of Grants payments were declared by Cllr Andrewartha (wife involved with Brownie Group) and Cllr Whatling (member of managing committee of ATC Squadron).

It was RESOLVED that payments as per the attached list be approved and cheques signed.

Payments made at the year-end, as approved by FGP Committee, were also noted.

10.20. To appoint internal controls Member for April accounts

This would be undertaken by Cllr Whatling

10.21. To note items for information or referral only

It was noted that the Council Shop premises would be used by the ATC Squadron on Saturday 10th April for First Aid training.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.30pm.