

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

5TH JUNE 2007

Present:

Councillors:

Peter Allen (in the Chair)	Vice-Chairman
Rob Ellis	Joanna McVeagh (to 9.35 p.m.)
David Iliffe	Glenn Simpson
Clark Miller	

Also Present:

Councillor Paul Massey	Cheltenham Borough Council
Stephen Holley	Clerk of the Council
Three members of the Public	

Apologies:

Hugh Evans	Chairman
Colin Green	

07/063

CHAIRMAN

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Peter Allen, took the Chair because the Chairman had sent apologies for his absence.

PUBLIC SESSION

Planning Application for Workshop Extension - Mitsubishi (Village Cars) site, Tewkesbury Road

Mrs and Mrs Edwards and Mrs James of Glynbridge Gardens expressed their concerns over the planning application to extend the workshop at the above site. They explained that they already suffered from noise and nuisance generated by the existing premises, and were concerned that the proposed extension would make matters worse. They also informed the Council that they had made a number of complaints about the existing car wash and thought it would be used more if planning permission was granted for the extended workshop.

Members stated that the car wash was not part of the current application so, strictly, it was not a relevant issue for the Council. However, the residents' comments would be forwarded to the Borough Council.

The Clerk stated that planning permission might not have been required for the car wash if it was an ancillary part of the workshop premises; whereas a commercial car wash open to the public was likely to require permission.

The Chairman explained that the residents' comments would be considered by the Council under 'Planning' later in the Meeting (Minute 07/068.1 refers).

07/064 APOLOGIES

Received from Councillors Evans and Green.

07/065 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

07/066 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING (8TH MAY 2007)

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting, held on 8th May 2007 were approved.

Arising thereon:

(i) Traffic and Highways. Renault Arriva Garage, Manor Road (Min 07/058.2)

It was reported that the garage was now positioning vehicles for sale on the public verge which did not display a road tax disc. Also, in order to position the vehicles on the verge, they had to be driven on the highway.

It was also noted that the garage had parked four vehicles in such a manner as to completely obscure the view from the visibility splay.

The Clerk would report both issues to PCSO Gordon and to the Highways Enforcement Officer.

(ii) Any Business Allowed by the Chairman as Urgent (Min 07/062.1 (ii))

Borough Councillors Paul Massey and Peter Allen had both investigated the matter of 1 Boleyn Cottages having been left vacant for a number of years. They had learned that Cheltenham Borough Homes had been assessing its vacant properties and would be submitting a report to the Borough Council recommending which properties should be subject to refurbishment. Funds were to be allocated to 1 Boleyn Cottages, but it was not yet known how highly it would be prioritised.

The Council noted that Boleyn Cottages were a rare example of post-Second World War 'flat pack' housing and asked Borough Councillors Massey and Allen to request that the refurbishment be given a high priority. It was unclear whether No. 2 Boleyn Cottages was in private ownership.

07/067 ADMINISTRATION**1. Correspondence**

1. Cheltenham Borough Council – 17 May. Mr Baker, Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer. Information on the new Code of Conduct for Councillors and Training on its provisions (attached). Members are encouraged to attend one of the three training events to be held Thursday 5th July (2.00pm to 4.00pm OR 6.00pm to 8.00pm) and Friday 6th July (10.00am to 12.00 midday). Replies to Sheila Dean on 01242-775112 or sheila.dean@cheltenham.gov.uk.

2. Cheltenham Borough Council – Forward Plan, Cabinet June to September 2007.

3. Cheltenham Borough Council – 18 May. Richard Gibson, Corporate Policy Manager. Notice of the 'Community Pride' grants. Up to £5,000 is available to

each of the five parish councils in Cheltenham on a 50% match funding basis. It had been suggested that the replacement Village Sign could be a suitable project. Councillor Allen (leading on the Village Sign project) would contact Members of the Council for ideas to be discussed formally at a future Meeting.

4. Cheltenham Borough Council – 18 May. Jennie Ingram, PA to the Mayor. Invitation to join the Mayor, Councillor John Rawson, at St. Mary's Church, Cheltenham on Sunday 17th June 2007 (Mayoral Sunday).

5. Cheltenham Borough Council – 23 May. Richard Gibson, Corporate Policy Manager. Invitation to attend a seminar on Neighbourhood Policing on Wednesday 11th July at 5.00pm in the Municipal Offices. "This is a significant initiative being undertaken by the police which will see the introduction of safer community teams in 14 areas across Cheltenham which will provide the opportunity for enhanced partnership working and augmenting service delivery of key agencies including CBC and parish councils." Councillor Miller has accepted the invitation.

6. Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils – Newsletter, May 2007.

7. Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils – (1) Notice of elections to the County Committee, to take up post at the AGM on 13th October 2007 (2) call for resolutions for the AGM (3) Notice of various training events.

8. Gloucestershire County Council – Mr Williams, Highways. Request to update Parish snow warden and snow plough operator details.

9. Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association – "The Playing Field" newsletter, Spring 2007.

10. Standards Board for England - ten copies of 'The Code of Conduct: Guide for Members' and 'The Code of Conduct: Pocket Guide'

11. Sue Ryder Care - Two posters for display, advertising Coffee Mornings over the summer and a fund-raising event at Cerney House Gardens.

07/068

PLANNING

1. Planning Applications received for observations

07/00329/ADV - Former Furniture Land Store, Tewkesbury Road - Display of internally illuminated M & S Home signs on south and east elevation of the building to replace existing. DEFERRED to allow the plans to be circulated for a longer period.

07/00516/FUL - Mitsubishi Motors, Tewkesbury Road - Extension to workshop. OBJECTION on on the following grounds: (1) Glynbridge Gardens residents were already disturbed by noise from the existing premises and they believed the proposal would make things worse; (2) The site already appeared to be overcrowded by vehicles. The loss of external space could create problems and increase the number of vehicles on the verge. The proposal was for an exit through the petrol station. This existed, but the passage through the parking area was packed with cars and it was difficult to see how it will work. (3) The proposed development was very close to residential housing. The height of the extension would be 4m, more than twice the height of the boundary garden fences and would adversely affect the amenity value of the gardens of Glynbridge Gardens householders. If the application should be approved, the route in/out should be kept separate from the petrol filling activities.

As a separate issue, the Clerk was requested to inform the Borough Council that residents of adjoining properties had also complained about noise and nuisance caused by the car wash facility. The Council believed extending the workshop was likely to increase use of this car wash facility, which may not conform to the necessary requirements for the disposal of contaminated water.

07/00642/CONDIT - KFC Restaurant, Centrum Park, Tewkesbury Road -

Variation of condition 12 imposed on planning permission reference 02/01615/FUL (granted following call-in inquiry ref. APP/B1605/V/03/1126733) to allow drive through restaurant to open until 01.00hrs on seven days per week. OBJECTION on the following grounds: (1) The attraction of a late night restaurant with a large car park was likely to attract boy racers/cruisers at anti-social hours to a location close to a residential area. This nuisance needed to be a principal consideration; (2) the premises were closer to residential properties than the established McDonalds restaurant, which was restricted to closing at midnight for residents' protection; (3) it was premature to consider the extension of opening times for a facility yet to be constructed. The application should not be allowed until the effects of the approved facility had been established. If the application was to be permitted, vehicle barriers should be installed to prevent the use of the site by boy racers/cruisers, as was already experienced in neighbouring car parks.

2. Comments on Planning Applications previously submitted to the Borough Council

07/00558/FUL - Longleat, Swindon Hall, Church Road - Construction of garage and workshop. OBJECTION. The proposal would be overdevelopment; of excessive size compared to the existing bungalow; and out of keeping with the Conservation Area. If the development was to be permitted, then care should be taken to ensure that an adequate turning circle was provided to the rear of the bungalow. The Council also sought confirmation that the development would not be detrimental to any of the remaining trees on this property or the adjacent properties.

07/069

TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS

1. Kingsditch Lane roundabout improvements

The approved plan for the improvements to the two mini-roundabouts had been received. It would be circulated for Members to comment upon.

2. Bus shelter in Quat Goose Lane

The Clerk had been advised by the County Council's Integrated Transport section that the resident of No. 36 Quat Goose Lane found it difficult to safely exit his property because the wooden bus shelter obscured his view of the road. He had asked for the shelter to be removed.

The Council sympathised with the need for vehicle safety, but felt that removal of the shelter was inappropriate. It was AGREED that the Clerk should inform the Officer concerned that the Council would prefer to see the shelter replaced by another model, of a design similar to that installed outside the School. This was a fully-glazed design with no end walls to obscure vision. The Clerk should also state that the Council would not wish to see an 'Adshel' type of shelter.

3. Highway works associated with the Centrum Park development

(i) It was noted that the Princess Elizabeth Way / Kingsditch Lane roundabout was due to be rebuilt as part of the development of Centrum Park (the former Indalex site). The Highways Engineers realised that the situation would be 'chaotic' for the twenty-four weeks of construction.

(ii) Kingsditch Lane would be surfaced between this roundabout and the two mini-roundabouts.

4. Advertising signs on the pavement, Manor Road

Councillor Simpson reminded the Council that a large advertising sign with a concrete base advertising "Tiles" was often positioned in the middle of the pavement near Sainsbury's.

There was also a sign advertising "0% Finance" (which did not state the business offering the deal) which was usually positioned near the "Tiles" sign.

The Clerk would inform the Highways Enforcement Officer.

5. The 'D' on Hyde Lane

A number of Hyde Lane residents had complained about the poor condition of the 'D'. The Clerk would inform the Highways Department.

6. Parking on the verge of Wymans Lane

A number of residents had complained about the number of cars parked on the verge of Wymans Lane during sporting events on the Swindon Playing Field. Pedestrians were forced to walk on the road in order to pass. The Clerk would ask the Highways Department to investigate.

7. The 'Walking Bus'

Borough Councillor Paul Massey informed the Council that the Swindon Village Primary School 'Walking Bus' was very well supported. It was hoped to extend its use to five days a week, but additional adult supervisors were required. Anybody interested should contact the School.

8. Gloucester Parkway Proposal

Borough Councillor Massey reported that the proposal to create a Gloucester Parkway railway station would not proceed.

07/070 MANOR COURT AMENITY AREA

The Clerk was unable to report a start date for the embankment repair project.

07/071 FINANCE

1. Accounts Approved for Payment £

W L Langsbury - Village News, April		162.00
Clerk's Salary, (May)	236.07	
Expenses	<u>29.86</u>	
		265.93
CiLCA Registration fee		70.00

CiLCA 'Fast-track' training fees	160.00
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2. Receipts		£	£
NALC - Clerks Training Bursary Fund (CiLCA training)			195.00
Cheltenham Borough Council (Precept for 2007/08)			9850.00
Village News Advertisements	- Reglaze	10.00	
	- Heathcott	15.00	
	- Hunter	10.00	
	- Whittall	<u>5.00</u>	
			40.00
Allotment Rent (2006/07)	- Wiggall	12.00	
	- Upton	12.00	
	- Jackson	<u>44.00</u>	
			68.00

3. Local Council Insurance

3.1 Clerks Fidelity Insurance

(i) The External Auditor had commented on the last Annual Return that the Council's insurance policy required the Clerk's Fidelity Insurance to be amended to cover the balances plus half the precept. The current policy allowed Fidelity cover for £5,000 only. The year end balance at 31st March 2007 was £13,444 and the precept for 2007/08 was £9,850. The sum required to be covered by the Fidelity Insurance therefore required to be amended to £18,500 (to the nearest £500).

(iii) The Council noted that Allianz Cornhill, the Council's insurers, had advised that the cover could be increased to £10,000 immediately, with no extra premium. The Clerk had instructed them to proceed with this. Increasing the cover over £10,000 required the Clerk to complete a form detailing the Council's financial procedures in order for the insurers to calculate the premium. The Clerk was awaiting this form and would advise the Council when the revised premium has been invoiced.

3.2 Premium Calculation

The Council noted that the Allianz Cornhill policy and premium had been based on a population below 1,000. The current Electoral register showed an electorate of 1,509, so the population figure was probably nearer 2,000. In addition to correcting the Fidelity cover, this would also result in a revised premium. The Clerk had asked the Borough Council and County Council if either could provide an accurate figure for the population.

4. Allotment Rent, 2006/07

With the exception of one tenant, all rents due in 2006/07 had been received and banked. This one tenancy appeared to have been missed from the records when management of the Allotments transferred to the Clerk from the former Allotments Manager.

Also, the Clerk had sent a rent demand to a former tenant who stated that she had given up her tenancy some eighteen months previously; this also was at the time of the transfer of records. It was noted that the site appeared to be in good order, so the Clerk would investigate whether it was being cultivated by a new tenant whose details were unknown at present.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Chairman

Unconfirmed