



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

15 September 2020

Tel: (01285) 623210 or 623236
e-mail - democratic@cotswold.gov.uk

COUNCIL

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Full Council to be held remotely via Cisco Webex on **Wednesday 23 September at 6.00pm.**

Christine Gore
Interim Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Council

Due to the current social distancing requirements and guidance relating to Coronavirus Regulations 2020 – Part 3 – Modification of meetings and public access requirements this meeting will be conducted remotely using Cisco Webex.

Members of the public will be able to follow the proceedings through a broadcast on <https://www.facebook.com/CotswoldDC/> (You do not need a Facebook account for this).

Recording of Proceedings - The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know prior to the date of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest from Members and Officers, relating to items to be considered at the meeting.

3. Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meetings of Council held on **15 July and 29 July 2020**.

4. Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Interim Chief Executive (if any)

5. Public Questions

To deal with questions from the public within the open forum question and answer session of fifteen minutes in total. Questions from each member of the public should be no longer than two minutes each and relate to issues under the Council's or Committee's remit.

Any member of the public wishing to ask a public question is requested to contact Democratic Services by no later than 5.00pm the working day before the Meeting.

6. Member Questions

The following questions have been submitted:-

(i) From Councillor Juliet Layton to Councillor Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Could Cllr Forde please update the Council on the re-opening of the Corinium Museum and the leisure centres in Cirencester, Bourton-on-the-Water and Chipping Campden. Were they reopened as and when described in the papers for Council on 29 July 2020? How have the leisure centres and the museum performed since their re-opening? What feedback have you and officers received about the re-opening

(ii) From Councillor Nick Maunder to Councillor Mike Every, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

What is the current position regarding financial support for the operation of our leisure centres and museum? How does this compare with the forecasts presented to Members on 29 July? Can Cllr Every please update the Council on what, if any, financial support for them we expect to be available from the Government. If required, when will Members be asked to approve any further financial support for our contractor?

(iii) From Councillor Robin Hughes to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

The Liberal Democratic administration scrapped the Multi- Storey car park in Cirencester when they took over control of Cotswold District Council. At the time parking was becoming a serious issue and it was becoming more and more difficult to find a parking space. At the moment shops and businesses in Cirencester are suffering because of Covid and parking is not a problem. When things get back to normal parking will become a major problem again, especially with the additional 2000 or so houses that are going to be built. Shops depend on footfall and easy accessibility for shoppers, parking is a critical part of that. What solution do you have for town centre parking that allows shoppers to park close to shops and businesses enabling everyone to benefit ?

(iv) From Councillor Julia Judd to Councillor Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling

The previous Conservative administration appointed Kevin Lea on a two-year contract to oversee and manage fly-tipping in the Cotswolds. Our experience is that this important service has been well managed, it has been well rolled-out, easy to report and responses have been fast and reliable; some culprits have even been apprehended. Is it this Council's intention to retain this dedicated officer in the role on a permanent contract in light of the excellent service he has provided?

(v) From Councillor Julia Judd to Councillor Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling

In November 2019 Council approved the spending of £220,000 on In-Cab technology using GPS to track routes and eliminate missed collections. This technology was supposed to speed-up collections, eliminate the need for return journeys, prevent human error, enable unfamiliar drivers to follow exact routes and much more importantly, save money. Has the technology been fitted? If so when and in how many trucks and more importantly does it work?

(vi) From Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

I am aware that CDC proposes to replace all street sign names that are in poor condition or damaged on an ongoing basis with new ones which would incorporate the Council Logo and the name of the relevant ward.

If the current administration is entering discussions with Stroud and Cheltenham to investigate creating a new unitary council with them or indeed if a single unitary for Gloucester was formed as a result of the Government's White Paper on local government reform it is possible that these new signs would soon become a historic memento of the Cotswold District Council.

In these circumstances would it be sensible not to implement these new branded CDC street signs before resolving how local government will be organised in the future?’

(vii) From Councillor Gina Blomefield to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

During Storm Francis trees all over the Cotswolds were severely affected by the strong winds, losing their branches and in some cases the whole tree toppling over. Many of these were ash trees which provide 30% of the tree cover in this part of the country and are increasingly suffering from ash dieback which makes them brittle, and therefore vulnerable in high winds, before eventually killing them. Many of them are alongside roads and other public places including footpaths so present a danger to road traffic and pedestrians.

I understand that many landowners have been taking action by inspecting their trees in such places and where necessary felling them before they become dangerous or preferably where possible just reducing them in height as recommended.

Has CDC carried out a survey of the ash trees on the land that they own to check which are healthy and which require remedial action?

(viii) From Councillor Richard Norris to Councillor Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

In its meeting 29th July this Council approved a grant in the sum of £222,140 to be paid to SLM, a Limited Company registered at Companies House. This grant was to support the opening of Cotswold Leisure Centres for the period August to October. It was also approved that SLM requirement to pay the Council a monthly management fee should be waived for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st October 2020 representing a loss of income to the Council of £61,411.

During the debate on an amendment proposing that these sums should be covered by a Loan from the Council to SLM rather than paid as a Grant, it became clear that you were unclear if support was being given to a Limited Company registered at Companies House or to a Charity, also described in the report as a “not for profit Trust”. Following a recess, it was advised that this would be investigated, clarified and reported back.

Are you now clear on the status of the company to whom this grant and financial support has been given and are you able to describe what that status is?

(ix) From Councillor Richard Norris to Councillor Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

On the 25th September 2019 this Council approved your proposal that one of its key 2019-2023 aims and priorities should be to “Help residents, businesses and communities to access the support they need to ensure a high level of health and wellbeing”. On the 4th November 2019 you informed the Cabinet that you would “continue the current work relating to the production of a District-wide leisure strategy looking at provision holistically, based on current and future needs”.

Can you provide an update on what the Health and Well Being Strategy has found so far and in particular, when it will be completed?

(x) From Councillor Sue Jepson to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

The Government are wanting the population to go back to work in their workplace.

Can Cllr Harris as the Leader of this Council tell me how many of CDC staff will be coming back to work in the Trinity Rd offices and The Moreton area offices and how many will be continuing to work from home on a permanent basis.

Can you give a date for when members will be able to resume meetings in the building, ie Full Council, Planning etc

(xi) From Councillor Tony Berry to Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

Please could you detail for me the names and titles of:-

- Staff directly employed (or being recruited by CDC).
- Staff employed (or being recruited by Publica specifically and exclusively for CDC).
- Any staff budgeted but not yet recruited which would fall into the above categories.

Items for Decision

- 7. Revised Budget 2020/21**
- 8. Climate Emergency Strategy**
- 9. Corporate Plan
(TO FOLLOW)**
- 10. Treasury Management Review 2019-20**
- 11. An Investment Strategy for Recovery of Cotswold District**
- 12. Cotswold District Council’s Response to two National Consultations:**
 - **White Paper: Planning for the Future**
 - **Changes to the Current Planning System**

13. Corporate Peer Challenge - Feedback Report

14. Appointment of Chief Executive

(END)