

Council
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COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 21 September 2022.

Councillors present:

Dilys Neill - Chair
Stephen Andrews
Gina Blomefield
Claire Bloomer
Patrick Coleman
David Cunningham
Tony Dale
Andrew Doherty
Mike Evely
Jenny Forde
Joe Harris

Nikki Ind –Vice Chair
Mark Harris
Stephen Hirst
Robin Hughes
Sue Jepson
Julia Judd
Richard Keeling
Juliet Layton
Andrew Maclean
Nick Maunder
Richard Morgan

Richard Norris
Nigel Robbins
Gary Selwyn
Lisa Spivey
Tom Stowe
Ray Theodoulou
Steve Trotter
Clive Webster

Officers present:

Rob Weaver – Chief Executive
Jo Moore – Deputy Chief Executive
Angela Claridge – Director for Governance
Susan Gargett – Head of Legal Services
Jan Britton – Managing Director – Publica
Caleb Harris – Democratic Services
Wayne Smith – Democratic Services

23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Tony Berry, Ray Brassington, Rachel Coxcoon and Rolly Hughes

Councillors Richard Morgan and Mark Harris had advised they would be arriving late.

24 Declarations of Interest

A declaration of interest was made by Councillor Webster as a Member of Morton-In-Marsh Town Council

There were no declarations of interest from Officers

25 Minutes

Minutes of the Full Council held 20 July 2020 were considered.

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Councillor Cunningham stated that the Minutes confirmed that he had asked a supplementary question to Members Question 2, asking: "How many of the 114 homes delivered were taken up by residents of the Cotswolds", but had not received an answer.

Councillor Joe Harris, The Leader of the Council apologised that this had not been provided, and advised Councillor Cunningham that he would ensure this was sent without delay.

RESOLVED: Council agreed that the Minutes of Full Council held on 20 July 2020 were an accurate record

Voting Record – For 23, Against 0, Abstentions 5, Absent 6

26 Announcements from the Chair, Leader of Chief Executive (if any)

The Chair Of The Council welcomed Members Officers and the Public and thanked them for attending Council both in person, and online.

The Chair stated that the death of Her Majesty The Queen had been a momentous time for the country, bringing an end to the reign of (whom Boris Johnson described as) Elizabeth 'The Great'. The Chair had been captivated by the number of people paying final respects to a 'gracious' and 'noble' Queen, whose faith and sense of duty had both guided and supported her and would no double do the same for King Charles III.

The Vice-Chair stated that the Queen was an extraordinary woman whose steadfast duty and service to the Nation and been an example to everyone. The Vice-Chair reflected that although the Nation had lost its Queen, The King and the Royal Family had lost a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and our thoughts and condolences went out to them at this time of sorrow.

The Leader of the Council extended condolences to King Charles III and the Royal Family on behalf of all residents across the Cotswolds, and remarked that the outpouring of respect and affection that had been shown to the Queen was a testament to how highly she was regarded. The Leader of the Council then recounted a personal experience when he was lucky enough to meet and speak to the Queen at the Royal Windsor Horse Show and hoped that King Charles III, who had made the Cotswolds his home, would continue to his close association with the District.

The Chief Executive concurred with everything that had been said about Her Majesty the Queen, and reflected that although the enormous responsibility of the Crown had been placed upon Her Majesty at such an early age, she had demonstrated humility and strength when seeking the advice and support of her first Prime Minister Winston Churchill to help her through her early years. In later years it was Her Majesty that would be providing guidance and advice, without imposed opinions to 16 subsequent Prime Ministers.

On behalf of the Conservative Councillor Group, Councillor Jepson paid a heartfelt tribute to the dearly departed Queen Elizabeth in which she reflected on the number of tributes that had been paid, and the magnificent funeral that united the Nation and brought her reign to an end. Councillor Jepson described the personal qualities that the Queen had demonstrated, during her long reign, that had led to the respect and affection that has been shown across the country and around the world.

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After spending many hours queuing with mourners from around the Country and further afield, Councillor Blomefield had been able to make her own personal tribute to Her Majesty lying in State in Westminster Hall. Councillor Blomefield then reflected on the Queen's reassuring presence throughout everyone's life as she united her people, and personified and promoted the finest aspects of the Nation both at home and abroad.

Councillor Forde recognised police officers and military personnel from the Cotswolds that had been part of the 10,000 strong security force protecting the State Funeral. The magnificent event had been truly World Class and served as a fitting to the life and reign of an extraordinary Queen.

Council stood for one minutes silence in reflection and respect Her Majesty the Queen.

The Council declared in one voice "GOD SAVE THE KING"

27 Public Questions

Parish Councillor Doug Crook made a statement supporting a change to the parish boundaries between Ampney Crucis Parish, Driffield Parish and Ampney St Mary Parish, detailed in Map A of the Community Governance Review 2022, and asked if this statement could be considered when reaching a final decision on the parish boundary.

Councillor Joe Harris, the Leader of the Council stated that he was in agreement with what Parish Councillor Doug Crook had stated and would be proposing this when the Council agenda item was debated later in the meeting.

28 Member Questions

The following questions have been submitted by members

Question I From Councillor Nikki Ind for Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Development Management and Licensing

Having attended the very informative Member Development – Gypsy & Traveller Cultural Awareness Training in July, could I please ask what, if any, progress CDC is making with the County Council and other District Councils in Forward Planning for a transient stop over site in Gloucestershire?

Response From Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Development Management and Licensing to Councillor Ind

The Gloucestershire local authorities have commissioned RRR Consultancy Ltd to undertake a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for the period 2021-2041. The Council expects to receive a final draft in the coming weeks. The results will be used as an evidence base for policy development in housing and planning and supersede any previous GTAA (including any levels of accommodation needs calculated prior to this assessment) for the Gloucestershire local planning authorities.

The requirement to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, Showpeople, non-Gypsy and Traveller Gypsy and Traveller residential caravan dwellers, and boat dwellers is established through national guidance contained in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2015). In relation to transit provision (the focus of the question) the emerging GTAA is likely to recommend that in addition to the existing transit pitches, that Gloucestershire authorities

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adopt a negotiated stopping policy. This involves caravans being sited on suitable specific pieces of ground for an agreed and limited period of time, with the provision of limited services such as water, waste disposal and toilets. This is land temporarily used as authorised short-term (less than 28 days) stopping places and in some cases may not require planning permission.

The Council has committed to work with Gloucestershire partners to translate needs presented in the aforementioned GTAA into sites. This will be the subject of a separate commission, which Gloucestershire councils are looking to commission following the final receipt of the GTAA. This commission will need to reflect the findings of the GTAA and in particular the reasons for unauthorised encampments. e.g.

- a lack of available permanent pitches in suitable locations and certain times in the year (e.g Stow Fair, Cheltenham Races and summer solstice); households temporarily moving through the study area;
- insufficient number of transit sites to: find work, undertake holidays and attend weddings and funerals; and
- there is a need for additional transit provision within Gloucestershire and neighbouring authorities. This is in addition to the transit site consisting of 32 pitches located in Tewkesbury and the 15 transit pitches at Bromsberrow, in the Forest of Dean. When considering new emergency stopping places/sites it should be borne in mind that it will only be used for a proportion of the year and individual households will normally only stay on the agreed location for a few days. Amenities such as portaloos and showers (or access to alternative nearby facilities) and skips or wheelie bins should ideally be made available for the duration of the agreed period. Furthermore and beyond the confines of the local planning system, agreements could be made with households residing on sites and yards and allowing visiting family and friends to stay for agreed periods of time. This could lead to fewer unauthorised encampments and therefore reducing the impact on the local community

Question 2 to Councillor Rachel Coxcoon, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning from Councillor Nikki Ind

Can you please confirm if CDC has applied for grant funding via the On Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme or if we are working in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council to secure this funding, to allow us to proactively support and deliver the rollout of electric vehicle charge points?

Response From Councillor Rachel Coxcoon, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning for Councillor Nikki Ind

The Council has applied for funding via the On-street Residential Chargepoint scheme (ORCS) to install EVCP in the Rissington Road carpark, Bourton on the Water and the carpark at Trinity Road Cirencester. The outcome of this bid is awaited. Both car parks are available to the public free of charge overnight and would provide access to charging for nearby residents. This is part of phase one of our EVCP infrastructure plans which has already seen new units installed in the Beeches car park, Cirencester and Old Market Way Carpark, Moreton in Marsh. Further locations are planned for phase 2 although the ORCS funding will be replaced by the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding. We are also liaising with GCC to ensure plans for on-street charging supports the needs of our Cotswold Communities

Question 3 From Councillor Cunningham to Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

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The Government's initiative to put funds directly into local projects via the Rural England Prosperity Fund is to be applauded. A number of Parish Councils are eager to gain access to CDC's proportion of this pool of cash, in order to help promote and fund local projects for rural communities. Will the Cabinet Member for Finance please set out in detail what is required for a project to be deemed eligible for such a grant and how Parish Councils can apply.

Response From Councillor Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance to Councillor Cunningham

The Rural England Prosperity Fund was launched on 3 September and is being provided as a top-up to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Cotswold District Council was allocated a total of £764,292 to be spent in the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25. Under guidance issued by Government, project eligibility under this new fund will be broadly the same as the UKSPF with two additional interventions:

- small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas
- rural circular economy projects

Councils will need to submit an addendum to their UKSPF plans by 30 November. The submission window opens on 3 October. This is a very recent announcement and DEFRA is holding briefings for lead officers at councils on 22 and 23 September. Following those briefings, the Council will have a clear understanding of the Fund requirements and eligibility and will then consider how to engage with key stakeholders and communicate further information about the Fund

Supplementary Question From Councillor Cunningham to Councillor Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Your response refers to the Government's UKSPF, are you able to provide details of the initial UKSPF submission made by Cotswold District Council.

Response From Councillor Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance to Councillor Cunningham

The original UKSPF went through Cabinet and the details were available at that time and there are no reasons why those details should not be provided now.

Question 4 to Councillor Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance from Councillor David Cunningham

At a recent Council meeting Councillor Joe Harris reported to this Council that the cost of replacing street signs would be offset by the sale of old signs. In light of the budgetary concerns so often espoused by Cllr Harris, can he please give an update on the actual cost to date of this project.

Response from Councillor Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance to Councillor David Cunningham

Whilst there is some variation depending on mounting and fixing etc. each sign costs around £170 to purchase and install. The amount spent on replacing signs so far in 2022/23 is £7,532. Last year £1,818 was spent with £14,116 spent in 2020/21
Total expected spend for the project is £27,200. This is to be funded from underspends in the street sign budget in 2020/21 and 2021/22 which were transferred to an earmarked reserve. A

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number of old signs are due to be sold at auction in October 2022 to raise revenue and enable residents to own a piece of local history.

Supplementary Question to Councillor Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance from Councillor David Cunningham

Could the number of signs sold be provided and, in light of current financial pressures, what consideration was given to not incurring the non-essential expense of new signs, rather than borrowing to cover the cost of replacements?

Response from Councillor Mike Evey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance to Councillor David Cunningham

I am happy to provide details of the number of signs sold once the sale of the first 'lot' have been sold. The replacement of street signs is a statutory function of the Council and was therefore required and was completed within the allocated budget. The additional financial pressures e.g. inflation currently being faced by everyone, including the Council are currently being closely considered by the Chief Finance Officer, and will be included in the MTFS.

Question 5 From Councillor Stephen Hirst to Councillor Joe Harris, the Leader of the Council

In view of the ever-increasing number of electric cars being used on a daily basis, could I ask when all the District Car Parks will be fitted with Quick Charging Points in order to provide a valuable service to all motorists who drive cars requiring battery charging on a regular basis?

Response From Councillor Joe Harris, the Leader of the Council to Councillor Stephen Hirst

The electric vehicle charging market is in flux, not least since the number of electric vehicles being sold is increasing more quickly than had been forecast a couple of years ago. That's a good thing in itself, but the rate of growth in demand for electric vehicle charging is creating its own problems – examples are:

- the challenge for electric vehicle chargepoint installers / operators / equipment manufacturers to scale-up their businesses fast enough to keep up with demand;
- too much merger and acquisition activity in the charge point market leading to distraction and inefficiency;
- increasing costs of equipment and installation caused partly by global supply lagging demand (and global supply chain problems from, eg, Chinese drought conditions and other things), often over short timeframes;
- pressure on local electricity distribution companies for connections, leading to longer lead times and the need for more (expensive) upgrade work to local

Supplies. All of the above makes it hard for the electric vehicle charging providers to keep up, including the Council as a provider of electric vehicles charging facilities.

The Council has been in contract with a supplier for the provision of electric vehicle charge points in Council-owned car parks for more than a year, but that installer has been impacted by all the factors above, and this has meant our roll-out is going more slowly than we had expected. Our phase 1 roll-out included the Rissington Road car park at Bourton-on-the-Water, plus the council offices in Cirencester. We are very keen to progress with phase 2 as well, which could include sites in other principal settlements (eg Tetbury), but we are first trying to overcome the current blockages for phase 1 projects, and making sure the same delays won't affect phase 2 projects.

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Owing to the above we can't make firm promises right now on when all the car parks in the district will contain EVCPs, but it remains a priority for the administration and we have dedicated project management resources working on it right now. In respect of the other part of the question –specifically the rate (power) of charging, it is unlikely that any town centre locations will be appropriate for the fastest (“ultra rapid”) charge points. At the top end, these can charge at up to 350kW DC, and are only ever going to be relevant for main motorway and trunk routes where drivers may need that filling speed (and note that very few current electric vehicles can charge at these speeds). All town centre locations are likely to be mainly 22kW AC or lower, with the occasional so-called rapid charger operating around 50kW DC, or perhaps around 40kW AC.

The reason for this charger choice is that demand for car park charging is for shoppers or users of local services ‘topping up’ while they go about their business

– not for drivers in a hurry from A to B over a long distance needing the maximum fill.

Around 80% of electric vehicle user's charge mainly at home (which is why EVs are still cheaper to run than fossil burners, despite what some papers have said), and therefore car parks are just a convenient top-up, not the sole source of power.

For prospective electric vehicle drivers with no access to their own domestic off-street charge point, there are three options that the Council can help with:

1) look to work with neighbours through a chargepoint sharing facility like Co-Charger (see: <https://co-charger.com>). If you're a current electric vehicle user with your own chargepoint, have a look and see if you can provide a paid-for service to your neighbours and local residents.

2) Charge in Council car parks near where you live, outside of shopping or office hours – we will be making our car parks available for this purpose

3) Look out for on-street charging solutions: Cotswold DC is working with Gloucestershire CC to identify priority streets where on-street charge points can be installed, as part of the Connected Kerb contract to roll-out this kind of technology across the whole county.

Question 6 From Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Joe Harris, the Leader of the Council

Given the nature of the content of the last "Cotswold News" which included in total 10 photographs of yourself (including identical ones in the issue) will the Leader of the Council please confirm that there will be no more issues printed this side of the all-out elections in May 2023. Will he also please confirm the total costs incurred in printing and distributing the last two issues?

Response From Councillor Joe Harris, the Leader of the Council to Councillor Tom Stowe

Staying in touch with residents across the Cotswolds is important to our administration. Cotswold News is one way we do this alongside press releases, social media and email. Cotswold News is delivered twice per year in Autumn and Spring. The autumn 2022 addition is scheduled to be delivered in October 2022 and is currently in development. Another edition is scheduled to be delivered in March 2023.

Total costs incurred are as follows:

October 2021- £14,699

March 2022 - £14,975

The next edition will be particularly important in terms of signposting residents to the support available as they seek to survive the cost of living emergency.

Supplementary Question From Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Joe Harris, the Leader of the Council

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In 2010 the cost of publishing and distributing 'Cotswold News' was £12,200, and at that time consideration was given to cancelling production and using the cost savings to subsidise car parking charges. As publishing and distribution costs have now risen by 240% would you consider cancelling production of the next two editions and re-allocating the cost-savings to more urgent Council priorities.

Response From Councillor Joe Harris, the Leader of the Council to Councillor Tom Stowe

No. It is important to keep in touch with Cotswolds residents, especially when we are facing a severe cost of living crisis. Cotswold News can provide Cotswold residents with details of Council support, signpost residents other organisations for support and ensure residents are receiving everything that they are entitled to.

Question 7 From Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Leisure Centres are disproportionately affected by the current energy price increases and other inflationary pressures. Bearing in mind Chipping Campden Leisure Centre's unique dual-use arrangement with CDC, will the Cabinet Member please confirm they are open to a dialogue to increase financial support to the school to enable it to weather the current challenges, thus maintaining services to the people of the North Cotswolds and keeping it on a level playing-field with Cirencester Leisure Centre?

Response From Councillor Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing to Councillor Tom Stowe

As you may recall, I met with you and Cllr Blomefield in June this year to discuss the support Chipping Campden School has from the Council. The school currently receives £70k per annum which goes towards upkeep and maintenance of the areas used by leisure visitors. I'm very sympathetic to the school and the financial challenges it faces. I have suggested that following the very successful overfunding of their new Ampitheatre via our Crowdfunding platform on Crowdfund Cotswold, it might be a great way to generate some support for the leisure facilities supporting a more sustainable approach to its long term future supported by the communities who use it.

Supplementary Question From Councillor Tom Stowe to Councillor Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

The unprecedented increase in energy costs and inflation has made it impossible to cover the maintenance and running costs of the dual use leisure services within Chipping Campden School. As other dual-use leisure services have been lost, and the maintenance and running costs of other leisure services that remain are shouldered by the Council, would the Council consider providing support to the Chipping Campden School to ensure these leisure facilities remain available to Cotswold residents.

Response From Councillor Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing to Councillor Tom Stowe

Although I am sympathetic to the current situation, the Council is not responsible for school properties and as such do not have the budget to contribute to their running costs. The Council recommendation to approach Cotswold Crown Funding was to

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upgrade and transform the heating and fuel system (e.g. air source heating, solar panels) to. put them on a more sustainable footing, rather than funding ongoing energy bills.

Question 8 From Councillor Andrew Maclean to Councillor Joe Harris, the Leader of the Council

As the Council is committed to Net Zero for all new homes and expect energy efficiency improvements measures to be applied to all development and changes to existing properties across the District. What are the impediments that have prevented us from asking for full details on the energy performance of each property for which we receive a planning application, both for new build and even more so for the effective extension on the holistic performance of an existing property

Response from Joe Harris, the Leader of the Council to Councillor Andrew Maclean

The principle impediment is Government Legislation which implies that planning applications should meet the requirements of Net Zero or improvements to energy efficiency, but do not compel applicants to include plans for consideration by Planning and Licensing Committee. The completion of the review of Building Regulations will go a long way to strengthening legislation and this needs to be completed sooner rather than later.

The Leader is meeting the Minister Simon Clarke within the week and offered to take the Councillor's question to put this directly to him and provide Councillor Maclean with his feedback.

29 Short Term Lets Working Party (STLWP) Update Report

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update on the ongoing work of the STLWP since the last report to Council in July 2021, to advise as to areas where progress is still to be made and to seek members agreement to a consultation response to be passed to Government - who are currently consulting upon the impacts of Short-Term Lets. It also seeks clarification as to the composition of the Party as its focus shifts.

Councillor Webster, the joint Chair of STLWG presented the report and provided a summary of the work completed by the STLWG and the report that will be shared with local Members of Parliament (to enable them to make strong representations in Parliamentary debates on Short Term Lets and the wider Government Short Term lets consultation.

Council noted that a availability of affordable rental properties and transport links affected adult social care staff and (beat) police officers' decisions to accept jobs in the Cotswold District area.

Council noted that now that the Planning elements of Short Term Lets had been investigated and reported, consideration should be given to changing the scope of the working group to focus on the spatial elements of towns and villages affected by large numbers of Short Term Lets to ensure communities remain viable and local services and transport links are maintained

RESOLVED: Council noted the progress made by the STLWG since the last update report in July 2021 and agreed to the suggested response to Government and that the future composition of the STLWP would be considered as the focus of the work shift

Voting Record – For 28, Against 0, Abstentions 1, Absent 5,

30 Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations for Ampney Crucis

The purpose of this report was to enable Council to consider the responses and approve the final recommendations of the Community Governance Review in relation to the Parish boundaries of Ampney Crucis, Driffield and Ampney St Mary and authorise the Head of Legal Services to make a Reorganisation of Community Governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council

Councillor Joe Harris, the Leader of the Council introduced the report and provided an overview of the consultation process, the boundary change options and the recommendations that would enable Council to make take an objective view and make a final decision on the location of the boundary. Ampney Crucis Parish Councillor Doug Crook had made a statement during Public Questions supporting the boundary change outlined in Map A and this option was being recommended.

Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council proposed and Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Chair of the Council seconded that the Council approve the change to the Parish boundaries of Ampney Crucis, Driffield and Ampney St Mary shown in Map A.

Council noted that the proposed boundary change would remove properties from Driffield Parish Council and thereby reduce the annual precept (income) to the Parish Council by around £600.

Council noted that Driffield Parish residents' annual Council Tax bills may increase if Driffield Parish Council choose to increase their precept.

Council noted that there had been representations both for and against each of the options and no overall consensus had been reached.

Council noted that no Driffield Parish Councillors had taken part in the consultation but had not requested to speak at the Council meeting.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to change to the Parish boundaries of Ampney Crucis, Driffield and Ampney St Mary shown in Map A, and authorised the Head of Legal Services to make a Reorganisation of Community Governance order to implement the changes agreed by Council

Voting Record – For 22, Against 1, Abstentions 5, Absent 6

31 Options and Funding Allocation for Roof Repairs to Trinity Road Council Offices

The purpose of the report was to consider high level options for improvement of roofs at the Cotswold District Council's Offices at Trinity Road, Cirencester

Councillor Lisa Spivey, the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services introduced the report and provided a summary of the glazing and flat-roof replacement options being considered to repair and improve the Council Offices at Trinity Road.

Council noted a correction to the annual revenue impact figure in the report had increased from £4,623 to £11,648, although both of these figures were estimates, and actual figures would be given in the tender process and would be returned to Council for approval.

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Council noted that the 50 year period referenced in the Financial Impacts section 3.1 was a standard measure of useful economic life rather than indicating the lifetime of the fabric of the roof. The Chief Finance Officer agreed to provide further clarification how these two periods differ to Councillor Ind

Council noted that the installation of solar panels on Publica buildings is being considered as a separate project.

RESOLVED: Council agreed that based on the high level option appraisal, the options at 2.2 of the report for glazing replacement and recovering to flat roofs are pursued, to provide a more sustainable solution. A further report will be brought back to Council once works have been tendered, seeking allocation of budget to fund the repairs and improvements.

Voting Record – For 29, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 5,

32 Independent Remuneration Panel

The purpose of this report was to appoint a person to be a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council introduced the report to ask Council to Consider appointing a third member of the of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Director For Governance advised that Stefan Robinson had been recommended by the new Business Manager for Democratic Services and Elections having previously undertaking the role at Cherwell District Council.

Council noted that the role of Independent Remuneration Panel was not time limited, and the Director For Governance was asked to investigate whether this could be changed.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed to appoint Stefan Robinson as the third member of the Independent Remuneration Panel with immediate effect.

Voting Record – For 27, Against 0, Abstentions 1, Absent 4

33 Use of Unilateral Undertaking Funding for Moreton-in-Marsh Integrated Transport Hub

The purpose of the report was to seek approval to contribute £250,000 to the Moreton-in-Marsh Town Council community infrastructure schemes.

Councillor Layton the Cabinet Member for Development Management and Licensing introduced the report that enabled Council to consider approving a contribution of £250,000 to Morton-in-Marsh Town Council for community infrastructure schemes.

Council noted that the £250,000 was part of a Unilateral Undertaking Agreement entered into by Cotswold District Council (CDC) and the Fire Service College Ltd in December 2014

Council noted that the funds must be spent or allocated to a Community Infrastructure Scheme by the 17th November 2022 or repaid to the College (with interest).

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Council noted that Moreton-in-Marsh Town Council (MIMTC) will use the funds to refurbish Redesdale Hall and develop an integrated transport hub as detailed in Annex A.

Council noted that the Chief Executive will provide a briefing note to Members giving more details of the allocation of funds between the hall refurbishment and the development of the transport hub.

Council noted that there will be a formal grant agreement between CDC will and MIMTC that will include a clawback clause should the funds not be spent appropriately on the two Community Infrastructure Schemes.

The Chief Executive confirmed other CDC community buildings in Morton-in-Marsh will be made available for community events whilst improvements to Redesdale Hall are completed, and the Council will provide project support to MIMTC in the unlikely event that this is required.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to enter into a grant agreement with Moreton-in-Marsh (MIM) Town Council to provide a contribution of £250,000 to the MIM community infrastructure schemes as Annex A and noted that the £250,000 is funded from a developer contribution which was received by the Council under a Unilateral Undertaking agreement entered into in 2014

Voting Record – For 28, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 6,

34 Reports for Agenda Item 11

Council did not discuss the exempt reports for this item.

35 Notice of Motions

The following Motion had been received:

Motion on providing warm places for people struggling to heat their homes during the day. Proposed by Cllr Gina Blomefield; seconded by Cllr Sue Jepson:

We are all keenly aware that many people and especially those who are elderly pensioners, disabled or in some way vulnerable will find it challenging to keep their homes sufficiently warm during the day as well as at night this winter due to the soaring costs of energy. Some of the councils around the country are already making contingency plans to open 'public warm spaces' where those in most need can go during the day safe in the knowledge that they will be warm and cared for.

Many of the parish halls, church rooms and other community buildings such as libraries, leisure centres and museums in the Cotswolds including CDC's offices could be used in the same way by enlisting the support of parish and town councils, faith organisations, community and the voluntary sector to organise this. They would also be able to offer warm drinks or soup as well as advice on how to obtain help with energy related problems. We suggest this would provide wonderful humanitarian support for some of the most vulnerable in our communities and recommend a simple process is agreed to fund this vitally needed help by identifying available grants to enable financial assistance to organisations prepared to get involved.

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We ask that the agreement at the last Full Council for a cross party working group to be set up should be done urgently to implement 'public warm places' and also to look at other ways to help our Cotswold residents most negatively impacted by unaffordable heating and living costs.

The Motion will be referred to November Cabinet and feed into the key objectives and requirements of the wider Cost Of Living Working Group that will report to November Council.

36 Matters exempt from publication

To consider and if so agree to resolve that under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in schedule 12A of the said Act

RESOLVED: Council agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting on the grounds that consideration of the following items would likely disclose information that is exempt as defined in schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Voting Record - For 28, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 6,

37 Employment Matter

The purpose of the report was to consider and approve Cotswold District Council entering into a Settlement Agreement with an employee.

The Chief Executive of the Council introduced the report and summarised the background of an employment matter.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the entering into of a Settlement Agreement on the terms set out within the exempt report.

Voting Record – For 26, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 8

38 Next meeting

The next meeting of Full Council will be on 5 October 2022 at 6pm.

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 10.00 pm

Chair

(END)