**Minutes of the Cinderford Town Council Meeting**
**The Council Chamber, Cinderford**
**Tuesday 9th June 2026, 6:00pm**

**Present:**
Cllr Graham Morgan (Chair)
Cllr Chris Brown
Cllr Jeremy Charlton-Wright
Cllr Darren Flower
Cllr Tim Holder
Cllr Carol Marsh
Cllr Di Martin
Cllr Alison Pflug
Cllr Mark Turner
Cllr Emma Walker
**In attendance:**
Emma Bennett, Clerk
Les Love, Estates Manager
1 member of the public
Matthew Bishop, Forest of Dean MP
Cllr Ray Donaghue, County Councillor
Cllr Piers Camp, County Councillor
Cllr Stuart Graham, District Councillor
Adam Dickinson, Development Director of the Dean Forest Railway
**Apologies received:**
Cllr Louise Bent
Cllr Jacob Sanders
Cllr Roger Sterry
Cllr Karen Turner
**Absent:**
Cllr Lynn Sterry

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
   As listed above

2. **Declarations of Interest and dispensations**
   a) **To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda**
   **b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests (if any);**
   **c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**
   OwBist building and any discussions relating to FVAF - Cllr D Martin declared a non-pecuniary interest as Trustee of FVAF and Cllr Brown declared a pecuniary interest as CEO of FVAF. Both items were not on the agenda.

3. **Public Participation Session – A period not exceeding fifteen minutes for members of the public to make statements and ask questions of the Council. (i) Each person will be allowed no more than three minutes plus a brief follow-up to any answers given by the Council. (ii) Questions may be answered but not debated by the Council. (iii) Any issues which the Council deem require consideration will be referred to the appropriate committee or deferred to the next Council Meeting**
   - **Road Repairs –** resident comments should be addressed to Gloucestershire County Council Highways.
   - **Anti Social Behaviour –** an update on a ASB issue was provided. This was being dealt with by the Police.
   - **Motorbike/Bike Issues –** resident concern should be referred to the Police.
   - **CCTV –** the resident requested numbers of CCTV cameras.

4. **Chairman's Urgent Business (for information only items)**
   - The Town Crier was congratulated on success at the Rugeley Town Crier Championship 2026 with the Cinderford Town Crier winning the Best Dressed Crier award and making history by becoming the first Town Crier in the competition's history to retain the UK Champion title.
   - A volunteer had repainted the Wigan tanker and he was thanked for the time, effort and workmanship. The next stage of the restoration project would be the signwriting.
   - Royal British Legion – certificate of appreciation received.
   - Engelhard's development – clearance work in area started.

5. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th May 2026**
   The Minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.
   Proposed: Cllr Flower, Seconded Cllr Martin. All in favour.

6. **Matters Arising from Minutes (for information only)**
   None.

7. **Police Update:**

a) **To receive and note the written monthly report**
   Received and noted. Questions on the report had been raised.

b) **To discuss any Cinderford policing issues**
   Anti-Social Behaviour – an update on partnership working was provided. The SARA plan was due.

c) **To discuss ASB and Youth Engagement**
   6.23pm Cllr Graham joined the meeting.
   An update on the meeting was provided along with future engagement with other agencies. Youth engagement activities were discussed. A further meeting would be arranged.

8. **To receive a presentation from the Development Director of the Dean Forest Railway**
   A detailed presentation was provided which covered the history of the Dean Forest Railway and future phases including Options Assessment, funding, heritage, engagement and timescales. The Chairman thanked the attendee for the presentation.

   7pm A Dickinson left the meeting.

9. **To receive an update from the Market Towns Officer on 02.06.2026 meeting**
   The Market Towns Officer gave an update on the role, work undertaken, appointment of the Vacancy Academy and creation of the Stakeholder Action Plan to be regularly reviewed. Details of the High Street Rental Auctions Scheme were being considered by FODDC.
   The Chairman thanked the FODDC Market Towns Officer and a presentation was made.

   7.10pm The FODDC Market Officer left the meeting.

10. **Reports/Minutes (N)** - to receive reports from:

a) Gloucestershire County Councillor
b) Forest of Dean District Councillors
c) GCC Highways Meeting 11.05.2026
d) Committee Updates – Estates & Finance Committee 2.6.2026, Playing Fields Committee 2.6.2026
e) Traders Meeting –2.6.2026
f) LGR & Devolution Preparedness – 05.05.2026 & 16.05.2026
g) FOD Community Safety Partnership Road Safety Liaison Group 29.04.2026
h) Traders Meeting – 03.06.2026 (date change – covered at E above)

Reports received, discussed and noted.

7.30pm - Cllr M Turner left the meeting.

11. **Estates (A/N/D)** - **To receive an update from the Estates Manager and note and approve any associated actions:**
    Project due to complete in July 2026.

a) **The Wesley (LUF/ACE funded) -** update on internal and external works provided.
**b) Clock works 6 Market Street (LUF funded) -** clock case prototype complete.
c) **Rheola House (LUF funded) -** update on external works provided.
d) **Other Properties –** update on health and safety inspections provided.

7.41pm Cllr Camp left the meeting.

**12. Correspondence/Community (A/N/D)**

**a) To receive an update on Emergency Planning**
An update on the plan was provided.

**b) To consider the GALC request to submit motions for consideration at the GALC Annual General Meeting**
No motions identified for submission.

**c) To consider the GALC request to take part in the newly launched Project Keystone survey and agree Council response**
Any comments would be forwarded to the Clerk for submission.

d) **To receive information on the HomeseekerPlus Allocations Scheme and agree submission of a Consultation response**
Proposed that Cllr Martin would submit a response based on Council views by Cllr Morgan, Seconded by Cllr Charlton-Wright. All in favour.

**e) To provide any further input into the 9 Heritage Slabs funded by the GCC County Councillor**
The heritage slabs were discussed. It was agreed to consult with residents on the slab designs.

**f) To receive, discuss and note the FODDC Market Towns Officer Role Evaluation Report**
A meeting to discuss the continuation of the MTO role and how FoDDC can support Cinderford going forward was planned.

**g) To receive, discuss and note Steam Mills Vehicle Advisory Sign Traffic Data**
Vehicle and speed data received, discussed and noted. The Clerk would write regarding recalibration.

**h) To receive, discuss and note the FODDC list of non-designated heritage assets (NDHA)**
List compiled by FODDC Senior Conservation Officer and noted. A Councillor would review if any additions or deletions were required.

**i) To receive information on a Cinderford mural condition previously sponsored by CTC and consider funding a replacement request**
Due to render issues a 2021 mural previously sponsored by the town council was now in a poor condition. A request to help towards the cost of replacing with a new mural was considered at an estimated cost of £1850 plus scaffolding to come from General Reserves.
Proposed Cllr Brown, Seconded Cllr Holder. All in favour.

**j) To receive the Street Trading Consent F/26/00244/STC and note the conditions**
Received and noted. Copy retained in Clock Tower.

**k) To receive and note road closure information**

- **Belle Vue Road, Cinderford -** This road will be closed on the **29/07/2026 19:00 - 30/07/2026 06:00** to allow for works by Severn Trent Water.
- **Heywood Road, Cinderford -** This road will be closed on the **10/08/2026 - 18/08/2026** to allow for works by Ecopower UK.
- See Roadworks | Highways

**13. Finance (N/A)**

**a) To receive and approve the Accounts for Payment as per the list circulated prior to the meeting and urgent payments already made for ratification including debit card payments**

Members were circulated with the reports. Accounts and wages totalling the following were noted as paid:

Payments made since 12th May 2026 meeting to 8th June 2026 - £102,924.60 (Payroll May 2026 - £11,214.08).

Expenditure approved at the meeting to be paid £11,957.00

Council noted and approved the payments.

Proposed: Cllr Flower, Seconded Cllr Charlton-Wright. All in favour.

**b) To receive and discuss the latest financial reports - income & expenditure, income receipts, budget vs spend, earmarked reserves, balance sheets, bank statements, budget review, earmarked reserves, virements, bank reconciliation to 31.05.2026 (month 2)**

Received, discussed and reports noted.

Proposed reports approved Cllr Flower, Seconded Cllr Charlton-Wright. All in favour.

7.53pm Cllr Donaghue left the meeting.

**c) To receive and note the monthly Internal Control Checklist & Clerk/RFO Update**

Report received and noted

**d) To receive and note the renewal of the Council's Insurance following broker and Council fit for purpose review**

Council noted the renewal of Cyber, Personal Accident & Business and Commercial Combined insurance.

**e) To agree banking arrangements for 2026/2027**

Proposed that banking arrangements would remain with Lloyds Bank and CCLA for 2026/2027 by Cllr Charlton-Wright. Seconded Cllr Flower. All in favour.

**14. Year End 2025/2026**

**a) To receive and discuss the Auditors Report following visit on 19th May 2026**

Report received and noted. No actions identified.

**b) To receive and note the Annual Internal Auditors Report for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2026**

The Council received and noted the Annual Internal Auditors report.

**c) To adopt the accounts for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2026**

The Council agreed to adopt the accounts.

Proposed Cllr Flower, Seconded Cllr Charlton-Wright. All in favour.

**d) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2026**

The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement.

Proposed Cllr Martin, Seconded Cllr Charlton-Wright... All in favour.

e) **To approve the Annual Accounting Statement**
The Council approved the Annual Accounting Statement.
Proposed Cllr Martin, Seconded Cllr Charlton-Wright. All in favour

f) **To note the dates of the Exercise of the Public Rights**
The Council noted the dates of the Exercise of Public Rights which would commence on 1st July 2026 to 11 August 2026.

g) **To appoint an independent and competent Internal Auditor for 2026/27**
Council received details of a 3-year fixed term to 2028-2029, CV and supporting information. The Council appointed Bridget.C.Bowen FCA as the Council's internal auditor for 2026/2027 noting Bridget.C.Bowen FCA is independent of the Council and is considered to be competent to carry out the work required.
Proposed Cllr Flower, Seconded Cllr Charlton-Wright. All in favour.

15. **Documentation & Policies (A)**- To receive, review and approve the following:

a) Bereavement Policy*
b) Paternity Policy*
c) Sickness Policy*
d) Whistleblowing Policy*
e) Driving Council Vehicles Policy
f) Ethical Investment Policy

*Amended following changes introduced through the Employment Rights Act 2025.
Proposed Cllr Flower, Seconded Cllr Charlton-Wright. All in favour.

16. **Planning Applications:**

a) **To consider and make recommendations on the following applications/correspondence received from FODDC:**

i. **Discharge of Condition 2 (Materials) relating to approval of reserved matters P0685/25/APP**
Engelhard Complex Valley Road Cinderford
As discharge of condition Council were happy for FODDC to make the decision.

b) **To note late applications/correspondence received since the agenda was posted**
None.

17. **Date of next Meetings** (N): - 14th July 2026, 6pm

18. **CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS**
**To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following**

**items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. To resolve to continue in 'Closed Session' under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as the following business to be discussed is considered to be of a confidential nature.**
Proposed Cllr Flower, Seconded Cllr Charlton-Wright. All in favour.

**19. To receive an update from the Clerk on any Staffing Matters**
No items raised.

Signed:..................................................................

Date:.....................................................................