Minutes of the Cinderford Town Council Meeting
The Council Chamber, Cinderford
Tuesday 14th July 2026, 6:00pm

Present:
Cllr Graham Morgan (Chair)
Cllr Louise Bent
Cllr Chris Brown
Cllr Jeremy Charlton-Wright
Cllr Darren Flower
Cllr Tim Holder
Cllr Carol Marsh
Cllr Di Martin
Cllr Alison Pflug
Cllr Jacob Sanders
Cllr Roger Sterry
Cllr Lynn Sterry
Cllr Mark Turner
In attendance:
Emma Bennett, Clerk
Les Love, Estates Manager
0 members of the public
PCSOs Morgan and Jones
Cllr Ray Donaghue, County Councillor
Cllr Piers Camp, County Councillor
Cllr Stuart Graham, District Councillor
Sally Reader, FODDC Arts, Culture & Heritage Officer
Apologies received:
Cllr Karen Turner
Absent:
Cllr Emma Walker

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 confirmed as not being 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.**
None.

4. **Chairman's Urgent Business (for information only items)**
   - Engineers Rest – Steam Mills Councillor thanked for area improvements.
   - New GCC Care Home – information on history of area shared.
   - Grant opportunity for CCTV funding subject to CTC 50% match funding. Councillors support application submission.
   - Requirement for automatic publication of home addresses is removed.

5. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th June 2026**
The Minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.
Proposed: Cllr Martin, Seconded Cllr Marsh. 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.

b) **To discuss any Cinderford policing issues**
A range of issues including concerns relating to parking and anti-social behaviour were discussed.

6.18pm The Police left the meeting.

8. **To receive a presentation from the FODDC Arts, Culture & Heritage Officer**
The FODDC Officer discussed the role, focus areas, creation of a strategy & action plan. A consultation will be undertaken.

6.23pm Cllr Bent joined the meeting.

The importance of The Wesley FOD Community Arts Centre in relation to Arts, Culture and Heritage was discussed.

9. **To receive a presentation from the New Minister of the Salvation Army**

Not in attendance.

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

a) Gloucestershire County Councillor

6.40pm Cllr Donaghue left the meeting.

b) Forest of Dean District Councillors

c) Brownfield sites Meeting 22.06.2026

d) Cinderford Transport Hub Meeting 26.06.2026

e) GCC Highways Meeting 07.07.2026

f) Committee Updates – Events Committee 07.07.2026

g) FOD Community Safety Partnership Road Safety Liaison Group 01.07.2026

Reports received, discussed and noted for items A to G.

11. Estates (A/N/D) - To receive an update from the Estates Manager and note and approve any associated actions:

Levelling Up/Local Regeneration Fund works were now complete. Staff thanked for project completion. An update on internal and external works was provided for premises A-D:

a) The Wesley (LUF/ACE funded)

b) Clock works 6 Market Street (LUF funded)

c) Rheola House (LUF funded)

d) Other Properties

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

a) To receive an update on Emergency Planning

Contact information to be finalised.

b) To receive the individual designs for the Heritage Slabs funded by the GCC County Councillor and agree the final 9 and way forward

Feedback on designs to be provided and details finalised for production.

c) To receive and discuss the Cinderford Action Plan and agree way forward

Details of next meeting and update on progression of the plan provided.

d) To receive the Enovert Community Trust Annual Report and Accounts 2025/26 noting inclusion of The Wesley's stage renovation project

Received and noted.

e) To discuss the potential removal of Cinderford Cattlegrids and agree response

Councillors discussed.

Proposed by Cllr Turner to support removal recognising non-compliance and are no longer required, Seconded by Cllr Brown. All in favour.

7.18pm Cllr R Sterry joined the meeting.

f) To receive an update on the Forest Climbing Centre

Update provided on saving this facility.

7.22pm Cllr Donaghue re-joined the meeting.

g) **To receive correspondence from Ellwood Youth FC and potential pitch location drawing at Miners Welfare Playing Field and agree way forward**
Received and considered.
Proposed to proceed with pitch location by Cllr Turner, Seconded Cllr Holder. All in favour.

h) **FODDC Market Towns Officer Role:**
   i. **To receive email, Role Description and Employee Specification**
   Received. Noted role advertised on FODDC website.
   ii. **To discuss the role and agree way forward noting budget figures**
   Discussed.
   2026/27 budget for MTO role noted along with estimated revised contribution.
   Proposed by Cllr Brown, Seconded by Cllr Martin to continue to support the MTO role recruitment noting increased costs. 1 against. Remaining Councillors in favour.
   iii. **To note CTC Officer support also required**
   Noted. To review after MTO officer appointed.
   iv. **To agree Councillor attendance at job interviews**
   Proposed to recommend Cllr Flower, Seconded by Cllr Charlton-Wright. All in favour.
   v. **To provide any input into focus of presentations**
   Topic themes suggested.

i) **To receive and note the FODDC Biosphere update**
Received and noted. Delay to submission of the application to UNESCO. Councillors discussed concerns around the governance structure.

j) **To receive the Notice of Withdrawal of Forest of Dean District Local Plan 2025-2045 (Regulation 18)**
The Revised Draft Consultation Version of the Local Plan 2025-2045 was withdrawn and noted.

k) **To receive details of categories for the Forest Volunteer Awards and consider any nominations for submission**
Details received. Nominations to be submitted to Clerk.

l) **To receive details of the Local Council Award Scheme and agree future application**
Proposed Cllr Martin, Seconded Cllr Turner. All in favour.

m) **To note FODDC funding for a Town Centre Noticeboard, agree location and any funding shortfall to be met by CTC**
Proposed to purchase by Cllr Turner, Seconded Cllr Martin to purchase and any shortfall to be met by CTC. All in favour.

n) **To receive and note written confirmation from Guiness Partnership for the skatepark drainage connection and existing contractors plan to recommence drainage works in Autumn 2026**
Contractors advised and works scheduled.
Mavericks would be contacted regarding the official opening event

o) **To discuss how to protect The Wesley for future generations and agree way forward**
Discussed.
Proposed that options for all buildings would be investigated by Cllr Turner, Seconded Cllr Brown. All in favour.

p) **To receive details of a survey on transport in the FOD focusing on public transport and the Robin on-demand bus service and agree response**
Discussed. Agreed to complete.

q) **To receive and note road closure information**
Current and planned road closures noted. Details can be found at 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 9th June 2026 meeting to 14th July 2026 -£53184.82.
Payroll June 2026 - £11241.68.
Expenditure approved at the meeting to be paid £575.79.
Council noted and approved the payments.
Proposed: Cllr Turner, Seconded Cllr Martin. 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 30.06.2026 (month 3)**
Received, discussed and reports noted.
Proposed reports approved Cllr Flower, Seconded Cllr L Sterry. All in favour.

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

d) **To note insurance renewal for 2026/2027 following fit for purpose review**
Noted renewal complete. In place for Fleet, Commercial Combined & Cyber.

e) **To receive and consider the CANDI Grant Application Form and agree any grant award noting existing budget**
2026/27 Budget noted. Application considered.
Proposed to award £750 [code 4530/500] by Cllr Charlton-Wright, Seconded Cllr Turner. 1 abstention. Remaining in favour.

14. **Planning Applications:**

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

Erection of a detached dwelling with associated landscaping, parking and works (self build)
Land Adjoining 19 Hollydean Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2LW
Ref. No: P0635/26/FUL
No objections. A suitable timeline for the project requested.

Proposed dropped kerb to enable road access to a new driveway.
2 Pinewood Close Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2QJ
Ref. No: P0582/26/FUL
No objections

Erection of single storey rear extension and front porch
27 Hastings Road Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2HL
Ref. No: P0672/26/FUL
No objections.

Variation of condition 2 of permission P0366/26/FUL to allow reduction in size of first floor living area within side extension and changes to the roof
2 Edge Hills Close Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2XD
Ref. No: P0660/26/FUL
No objections.

Erection of a two storey side extension and demolition of WC extension, alterations to existing rear roof profile, addition of vehicle parking to front with dropped kerb, and associated works.
32 Dockham Road Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2AQ
Ref. No: P0675/26/FUL
No objections.

Erection of a two storey side extension and a single storey porch extension.
21 Steam Mills Road Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 3JB
Ref. No: P0706/26/FUL
No objections.

Change of use from dwelling (class use C3) to children's home (class use C2) to provide residential care and accommodation for a maximum of one child at any one time, within an age range of 5 to 17.
90 Woodside Avenue Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2DP
Ref. No: P0705/26/FUL
No objections.

Proposed to submit the 7 planning responses as detailed above by Cllr Morgan. All in favour.

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

c) **To agree any planning applications received during Council Recess will be addressed under Delegated Powers and reported to the September meeting**
Proposed by Cllr Martin, Seconded Cllr R Sterry. All in favour.

15. **Date of next Meetings** (N):
8th September 2026, 6pm

16. **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.
Reason: Staffing Matters.
Proposed Cllr Flower, Seconded Cllr R Sterry. All in favour.

17. To receive an update from the Clerk on any Staffing Matters
None to report.

18. To receive and discuss Personnel Committee Minutes 13.07.2026
Received and discussed.

Signed:.................................. Date:..