

Planning Committee

22nd March 2004

Present: Cllr Read (Chair), Cllrs Burling, Cranston, Kambites
Marjoram, Townley L.

In attendance: Cllrs Booth, Townley C. and Susan Creswick (Clerk)

Action

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Hume.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 9th February 2004

There was one amendment. Under item 4, Homezone, 'make changes' is replaced with 'establish a homezone'.

The minutes were then approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Read.

4. Matters Arising

Design Award. The Civic Society had been contacted and would notify the Council of their nomination.

Homezone. The residents of Langtoft Road had been consulted and there is support for a 20 mph zone.

15 High Street. A meeting with SDC is to be arranged to discuss progress and possible future action. AR

5. Correspondence

County Walking Festival. GCC are co-ordinating a walking festival in June to emphasise the benefits to health.

Rail Link – Chalford. Chalford Parish Council ask if STC would support their campaign to reopen several halts along the valley between Chalford and Gloucester. Clerk
The committee strongly supports this initiative.

Roundabout at Merrywalks. Chelbury Homes had written following the meeting with councillors seeking suggestions for alleviating potential traffic problems.

6. Walking and Transport Strategy

Action

The considerable effort of the working group in producing this strategy was acknowledged and the group was thanked by Cllr Read. Each section was discussed and a few minor amendments made. It was agreed that the strategy should be read in conjunction with the car parking strategy and this is to be incorporated in the document. A number of individuals/groups had already been consulted on the strategy. Still to be consulted are representatives of the mobility impaired and the Pedestrian Association. It was suggested that the 'vision' section be included in the forthcoming newsletter. It was proposed by Cllr Burling, seconded by Cllr Cranston, and unanimously agreed that the strategy, with agreed amendments, be recommended to Council for adoption.

7. Protecting Footpaths

Cllr C. Townley's paper provided the basis for discussion. It was agreed to recommend to Council that a full survey of the footpaths and bridleways in the parish be undertaken in the next civic year to ensure they are protected.

8. Parking Strategy

Cllr Burling's proposals were approved with some minor amendments. It was agreed that the emphasis should be on 'paying for convenience' so that parking close to the town centre would be more expensive. The two key priorities were agreed as 1. First hour free, and 2. Pay on exit charging. It was proposed by Cllr Townley, seconded by Cllr Cranston, and unanimously agreed that the strategy as amended be recommended to Council for adoption.

Clerk

9. Town Centre 20 mph zone

The new proposals were agreed. Public consultation will follow. GCC are to be advised.

Clerk

10. Historical Plaque

It was agreed that the £2000 held in reserve for the restoration of the Blackboy Clock could be paid. It was also agreed that the Council would pay from its restoration reserve for a plaque giving a brief description of the clock.

Clerk

11. Bowbridge Wharf

Both Cllrs Read and Marjoram made it known they sit on the Development Control Committee at SDC and while they may make comments on the application at this stage, they retain an open mind as to its merits. Serious concern was expressed by members that the current planning application is to be considered without consideration of Section 106 contributions to social housing, against the wishes of this Council. It was agreed that an independent planning consultant should be engaged to advise the Council. Previous comments will be re-iterated to the District Council.

Clerk

AR

12. Recycling Household Goods

Cllr Lawton's proposal was supported in principle although the scheme outlined may be difficult to operate in Stroud because of the narrow pavements and in many areas, shortage of front garden space. Also the need to for SDC to operate it. It was agreed that the Council would investigate the operation of its own community recycling event based on schemes supported by Shell Better Britain. Cllr Read agreed to bring a paper to the next meeting.

AR

13. One-Way Traffic on Lansdown

Having discussed the proposal from Cllr Lawton to extend the one-way system on Lansdown, it was decided this was not something the Council wished to pursue at this time.

14. Town Centre Toilets

STC appreciated the efforts SDC were making in trying to improve toilet provision in the town centre. However, it would prefer SDC to look more closely at a proper facility in a part of Merrywalks development that would be accessible at all times. There was considerable concern about the siting of an APC on King Street Parade and the loss of visual amenity it would cause.

15. BT payphone Merrywalks

The consultation letter was now redundant because the phone facility had already been removed.

16. GCC Improving Access to the Countryside Consultation

It was agreed there would be no official response to this although individual councillors could respond in a personal capacity.

17. Interchange Update

Difficulties were being experienced by the County in negotiations with Network Rail. The assistance of the MP might be required. Work begins in April on assessing the viability of re-grading Rowcroft to allow double-decker buses under the railway bridge.

18. Items for a future agenda

Horns Road wall by garages. Cllr Marjoram volunteered to look at it as a possible restoration project. JM

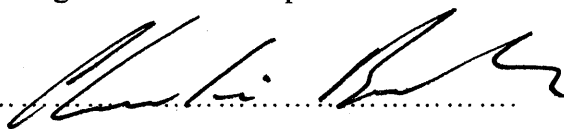
19. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 7th June 2004.

Cllr Read thanked the Committee for its work during the year. It had achieved what it had set out to do and had identified issues for the coming year.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

Chair



Date

