

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

PRESENT: Dr J E Cordwell (Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council), R P Claydon, (Deputy Town Mayor and Vice-Chairman of the Council), Mrs J M Cartigny, Mrs L Harris, P Kenny, PC Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mrs J H Cordwell, C J Galbraith, Mrs C V Galbraith, T Luker, M Zimmer.

T.4249 Chipping Car Park

The meeting considered the published order to make proposed changes by Stroud District Council to the Parking restrictions in the Chipping Car Park, which would reduce the number of long term spaces, changing a further 18 spaces to short term.

The Mayor noted that some residents in the Chipping had expressed concern that kerbside parking outside their properties appeared to be within the area covered by the proposed order, as they had previously understood that this area was not within the area leased to Stroud District Council. The Clerk confirmed that this area had always been included within the area leased and was included on the plan in the lease but that Stroud District Council had not previously made any provision for regulating parking within this area.

Proposed from the Chair to suspend Standing Orders. Passed all in favour.

Members of the public expressed concern as residents of the Chipping about how they would be affected by the proposals as they had previously been able to park outside their homes without any restrictions. They had met Alison Fisk of Stroud District Council on the previous Friday to discuss their concerns. Dr Cordwell had also attended this meeting and there had been discussion of possible residents parking being marked out, subject to permits. They suggested that there was plenty of short term parking available and that more, not less, long term parking was required for residents and business people in the town centre.

Proposed from the Chair to reinstate Standing Orders. Passed all in favour.

Mr Smith referred to surveys of the parking available in the town centre which had previously been carried out by Stroud District Council as part of the review. He noted that there had been a material change in parking conditions since that time as the Co-op store, which had been included in that survey, was now managing short term parking and strictly enforcing a two hour limit which had displaced some long-term parking which was now seeking new places in the town centre in which to park.

It was noted that the area at the top of the Chipping was not included in the area let to Stroud District Council and the management of this area would need to be considered in the future though at present the informal parking arrangements without markings probably maximised use of the space available.

Ms Fisk had also noted to the Chairman of the Town Council in discussion that on 1st April the County Council would be taking on responsibility from Stroud District Council for parking enforcement of all on-street parking and had engaged a company, APCOA to do this. The Chairman reported that APCOA were expected to be more visible and more active in enforcing parking restrictions on street in future which would mean that there would be better turnover of short-term spaces in Church Street, Long Street, Market Street, High Street and Bear Street, improving the availability of short term spaces in the shopping street. In turn this would place additional pressure on the existing long-term parking provision in the town, as at present there was little regular enforcement of the one hour restrictions and some spaces were used for long term parking unless a parking warden appeared

Members considered that the increase in the provision of short term parking which had been demanded by a petition to Stroud District Council by a number of traders in the town would be met by these changes.

Proposed by P C Smith, seconded by R P Claydon, to object to the proposal to change a further 18 spaces in the Chipping Car Park from long to short stay, in view of the changed circumstances in parking provision in the town. The Town Council supported a proposal to mark the spaces in front of 11-8 The Chipping as parking spaces for designated permit holders only, such permits to be for local residents. Passed all in favour.

Mrs C Wilkinson entered the meeting.

T.4250 Town Teams Project

The meeting considered a report from Mr Claydon on the **Town Teams Project** meeting he had attended. Some concern was expressed about the small amount of funding available for this initiative which was to be spread across four towns in the District, including Stroud. However, members were agreed that it was important to try to counter declining trade and falling footfall in the main street and especially the lack of trade on Saturday afternoons when many shops closed at 4pm.

It was agreed that Mrs L Harris and R P Claydon should attend the meeting on 19th March.

It was suggested that the summer event being planned for 7th July to celebrate the Centenary of the cinema could benefit from publicity and support. However it was also noted that Wotton-under-Edge was not in Mr Carmichael's constituency, who had obtained the funding on offer and it was agreed that it should be checked that this would not disqualify Wotton-under-Edge from benefitting.

It was suggested that DrawCreative and Michael Rigby Associates might be interested in undertaking work for the project.

This completed the business of the Town Council Extraordinary meeting:

Signed:

Date:

Chairman of the Town Council