

BEECHES COMMUNITY GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held on 10 March 2011

Present:

Malcolm Lewis (Chairman), 9 Residents, Representatives of Cirencester Town Council, Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council, Bromfords HA and Rev Matt Frost and Trevor Rowe (Cirencester Baptist Church)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Jim Aldis

2. To Approve the Minutes from the Meeting held on 10 February 2011

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes that are not Included on the Agenda

None

4. Chairman's Report

None

5. Town, District and County Councillors' Reports

- **Cllr Peter Braidwood** reported that he had been out with Police and the drugs dog across the District. Drugs found in the north but nothing in Cirencester.
- **Cllr Shirley Alexander** explained that the Town Council had discussed a debrief report on 2010 Christmas Market at the last Town Council meeting and a second report on forthcoming 2011 event. It had been agreed to combine the Advent event and the Christmas Market and to bring the dates forward. She also advised that the Cultural Group of OFC are planning to brand all musical events in the Town held between June and September as 'Cirencester Makes Music' and 'Cirencester Makes Music on the Fringe'; Musical events around Christmas would be branded 'Cirencester Makes Music at Christmas'; Events at the Bandstand in the Abbey Grounds are also planned.
- **Cllr John Burgess** reported that he had been invited to the Kingshill south development to view one of the new properties and that the first resident is about to move in. He also reported that the preparations for the bridge to Tesco's have been started.

6. Cirencester Neighbourhood Partnership

Beeches Terms of Reference, Formalising Committee, Officers and Bank Account

The Chairman explained that a Constitution is needed so that a bank account can be opened and enable grants to be accessed. It was agreed to adopt Terms of Reference as attached.

It was suggested that the word 'Group' should be dropped to prevent the impression that it is 'closed' but following discussion it was agreed to retain the name Beeches Community Group for the time being.

The Committee were elected unopposed as follows:

Chairman – Malcolm Lewis

Vice Chairman – Tony Cooper

Secretary - Caroline Braidwood

Treasurer and Social Secretary – Janet Broomfield

Churn Funday – Sunday, 8 May 2011

Janet Broomfield advised that she is planning Beeches events on a Treasure Map theme and requires an A2 map of the Beeches; she will need volunteers for manning the stand and asked for names at the next meeting.

7. Cirencester Baptist Church - Introduction by Rev Matt Frost

Deferred to the end of the meeting.

8. Kingshill Development and New Residents

Welcome Packs

Roger Sweeting confirmed that:

- The Packs are now starting to be given out.
- A copy of Churn will be added when available.
- Bromford HA need 12 copies for 23 March.
- Specially printed leaflets from Gardeners and Dobbies are also to be added.
- Kingshill North – 50 /60 houses now occupied out of 350 developed by Charles Church and Redrow
- Need volunteers to help fold and fill and deliver for initial delivery and it was agreed to do the preparation work prior to the next meeting.
- Another version of the Chairman's letter is needed for Kingshill South as it is in Preston and not Cirencester.

The Group were also advised that Kingshill South was focusing in a recent broadcast of Countryfile with particular reference to the shared ownership homes which makes them affordable.

Janet Broomfield added that we are still waiting for the names of the roads at Kingshill South and it was generally agreed that the development needs to be re-named as it causes confusion.

9. **Environmental Graffiti**

The problem has returned on the railway track and it was discussed whether it is worth painting out ? Claire Bartlett advised that she had taken the issue to the Youth Council and they are trying to raise funds at the Funday to pay for a professional mural painter to give them training. Likely cost is £6,500. Councillors were optimistic that if fund raising is successful then matched funding could be found.

Litter Pick

Doug Emmot - Grand Litter Pick by Swan Sanctuary, Beeches Road and Cirencester Primary School Playing Fields with Watermoor on Saturday, 26 March at 10 am. on the bridge and also try to include the bridge on London Road. It was agreed to notify Andrea Glennon at Standard and it was noted that Chesterton's litter pick is this weekend.

10. **Community Website and Email**

Cllr Peter Braidwood introduced the website: [http:// www.beeches.org.uk](http://www.beeches.org.uk) It was agreed to include the Ozone, link to the youth events website and an electronic version of the Welcome Pack. Everyone was asked to email Peter with ideas. Community Group email address is info@beeches.org.uk

Beeches Garden Fete – Ingleside, Sunday 14 August

It was agreed to email the poster out. Janet Broomfield advised that the tables are being provided by Ingleside and that she needs lots of ideas for games etc.

Day Out at Weston – August, Date to Be Advised

£8 per head, mid-week during school holidays, collection points on Beeches. Open to anyone, include in the Churn and contact Janet for further details.

Social Committee

Janet Broom field and Rose Leicester asked for help as social activities grow.

Members

It was noted that there are no members or much interest from Arnolds Way and Fosse Close. It was agreed to put a letter together and deliver to that side of London Road. Liza Darroch would prepare an article for the Standard.

Shop Facility

It was noted that the shop on Upper Churnside is now developing well but it is disappointing that there is no shop on Kingshill North and it was agreed to make contact with the residents of Corinium Via who had complained about it.

11. **Any Other Business**

None

12. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Thursday, 14 April 2011 starting at 6.30 pm.

The meeting was closed at 7.30 pm

Cirencester Baptist Church

Rev Matt Frost introduced himself and his colleague Trevor. He explained that:

- The Church needs a new building – modern facilities and new home for the Baptist Church
- It is currently bursting at the seams with 3 open youth club sessions that are over full, Parent & Toddler groups and Church services.
- Held discussions with Cirencester Town Council and Cotswold District Council to explore possibilities.
- Would now like to look at the possibility of a shared building or site on the Beeches community / sports site.
- Options – 1 shared building (Semi detached ?) or 2 separate
- Benefits –
 - Better facilities than could otherwise afford.
 - Sale price of the land could go to another project
 - Both Church and community could make use of the whole of the building
 - Management and maintenance could be covered by the Baptist Church's existing administration. Maintain own building at the moment and happy to continue.
- Matt gave examples of current church building users – their own groups and other community groups.
- Recognised the Need to engage with local people and explore possibilities but emphasised has no remit from their members.
- Very important to secure investment as a legacy for the future.
- Could consider share of freehold.
- Will require major investment from the Church.
- Cirencester Baptist Church (CBC) have looked and talked about relocating to other parts of the Town but has more members in Beeches that Park
- Looking for 3 times the size of current church building.

Various issues were raised:

- Is ownership of the land critical ? Corn Hall arrangement – peppercorn rent in exchange for guarantee of community use.
- Possibly conflict of use. More than one group using at same time and issue re parking.
- Church would only really be looking for sole use on Sunday mornings but ultimately depends on size of building
- Could build more parking or come to arrangement with the school. In return school could use large auditorium when required.
- Potential conflicts need to be worked out and an agreement made to secure the future.
- Would Church restrict uses eg. Alcohol, parties etc. CBC has no formal restrictions and these issues would need to be worked out.
- Law has changed recently –Cannot discriminate if building is hired out to the public. Must be available for all legal uses.
- Essential to make the community feel part of it.
- Name of building – Would it be CBC or a community name ? Identity ?
- Issues to be considered – no funding for running cost from Town Council – must be sustainable.

It was agreed to form a Steering Group to explore all of the options including: partnership with another organisation such as CBC or another and sole use by Beeches Community. It was also agreed that the conversation with CBC should be continued and that the Steering Group would report back to each meeting of the Community Group.

The Steering Group would comprise of: Shirley Alexander, Caroline Braidwood, Claire Bartlett, Janet Broomfield, Tony Cooper, Liza Darroch, John Leicester and Malcolm Lewis.