

CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL

Sandy Lane
Caldicot

Minutes of meeting of Caldicot Town Council held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 25th October 2006 at Caldicot Day Luncheon Centre

PRESENT:

Cllrs J Daniels, Mayor	R J Higginson
D Ashwin	G Jenkins [left 7.40pm]
C Babb	J Marshall
E Davies [left 7.40pm]	R Stewart
W Edwards [left 9.00pm]	K Thomas
D Evans [left 7.40pm]	P Tidmarsh

In attendance: G McIntyre [Clerk], A Sandiford, Members of the Public

7743 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Haskey, J Harris and D Jones

The Mayor welcomed Members of the Public to the meeting and advised them that the meeting was the usual monthly meeting of Town Council and not a public meeting as they had been informed. The Mayor advised the public that Town Council was expecting Mr Andrew Griffiths, Regional Manager, First Great Western, who had been delayed, to address Town Council only and although she would ask him if he would be prepared to take questions from the Open Forum the final decision would be Mr Griffiths'.

A proposal to defer the Open Forum for Public Participation until Mr Andrew Griffiths, Regional Manager, First Great Western arrived was subsequently withdrawn and the Mayor took questions from members of the public pending the arrival of Mr Griffiths.

7745 Open Forum for Public Participation [15 Minutes]

- A Chepstow resident requested why the rail cuts were being made
- A Caldicot resident requested what were commuters to do between now and May 07?
- Severn Tunnel Junction [STJ] agent referred to an audit of 1100 passengers between STJ and Bristol Temple Meads [BTM]

Mr Andrew Griffiths, First Great Western arrived during the open forum for public participation and stated he would be happy to accept questions from members of the public following his address to Town Council.

7744 To Suspend Proceedings: Mr Andrew Griffiths, Regional Manager First Great Western to address Town Council

See Appendix A

7745 Open Forum for Public Participation

Mr Andrew Griffiths, Regional Manager, First Great Western responded to questions from members of the public in relation to First Great Western Services.

7746 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of Interest to be identified under the relevant item.

7747 To Approve the Minutes of Full Town Council Meeting 27th September 2006 [Circ]

The Minutes were approved as a true record subject to:

Min 7740 (22) insert *“At 8.55pm it was proposed by the Mayor and seconded by Cllr P Tidmarsh that Standing Orders be called for a period of 30 minutes”*

Min 7740 (22) insert *“Cllr R J Higginson declared an interest in this matter”*

Cllr R J Higginson stated he left the meeting at 9.30pm and requested the time be recorded in the minutes. The Mayor disputed the time Cllr Higginson left the meeting stating he left at 9.27pm.

Cllr W Edwards requested if the Mayor perused the minutes for accuracy prior to them being sent out. The Mayor responded that the minutes were not prepared ready for her to peruse. Cllr E Davies stated that the minutes were usually prepared following the meeting. The Clerk advised that the Mayor did not usually peruse the minutes prior to them being sent out.

Cllr K Thomas requested the notes of the previous meeting in order to confirm the time of Cllr Higginson’s departure from the meeting [TC 27.9.06]. Proceedings were suspended to allow the Administrative Assistant to obtain the written notes from the meeting in order to confirm the time recorded.

Following a brief check of the written notes, the Clerk stated it was unfair to put the Administrative Assistant in such a position and normal proceedings were resumed.

Cllr R J Higginson requested who had authorised the wording of the Notice and the copying of “fliers” advertising the public meeting re: proposed stock transfer of Council property as this had not been a decision of Town Council.

A heated discussion ensued and Cllrs E Davies, D Evans and G Jenkins left the meeting “in disgust” at this point.

Cllr J Marshall stated the wording of the Notice had been left to the Mayor. The Mayor subsequently stated she had authorised the photocopying and would meet the cost of £30.90.

a) Mayor to Sign the Minutes

The Mayor signed the Minutes

7748 To Approve the Minutes of Planning Committee 10th October 2006 [Circ]

The Minutes were approved as a true record subject to:

Page 3 item 8(a) “It was stated..... insert *“by Cllr R J Higginson”* that declarations.....

a) Mayor to Sign the Minutes

The Mayor signed the Minutes

7749 Town Council Agendas – Mayor, Cllr J Daniels Ref: Agenda Item 16

The Mayor referred to correspondence received on to the agenda from Members who were not present at the meeting.

It was resolved not to consider or carry forward correspondence from absent Members

7750 Finance [b/f TC 27.9.06] [Circ]

a) Cheque List Schedule – Update September/October 06

Town Council approved the Cheque List Schedules for September and October 06

b) Donations and Contributions Schedule - Update September/October 06

Town Council approved the Donations and Contributions Schedule for September and October 06

7751 Planning [Displayed]

A) Planning Applications Received

DC/2006/00943: Change of use of open space to garden/cartilage – 4 Westfield Avenue, Caldicot
TC Approved

DC/2006/00979: Alterations and extensions – 61 Newport Road, Caldicot
TC Approved

B) Mon CC Planning Information

i) Planning Permissions [DISPLAYED]

DC/2006/00607: 2nd storey extension above existing single storey extension comprising of bedroom and 1 en-suite – 4 Heron Road, Caldicot
TC App 12.9.06

DC/2006/00632: White PVCU lean-to conservatory to rear of property – 10 Churchfield Avenue, Caldicot
TC App 12.9.06

ii) Planning Committee Agenda 17.10.06 – For Information Only

Town Council noted Planning information (i) and (ii) above from Mon CC

Cllr R Stewart declared an interest in planning matters.

7752 To Arrange Date for Health and Safety Committee [b/f TC 27.9.06]

It was resolved to convene a meeting of Health and Safety Committee at 2pm on Thursday 9.11.06 at DLC.

7753 To Arrange Date for Development Committee [b/f TC 27.9.06] [Pre Estimates]

It was resolved to convene a meeting of Development Committee at 3.30pm on Thursday 9.11.06 at DLC.

7754 Annual Sunset Service – Sunday 12.11.06, 4pm at Celtic Cross

Town Council noted the date and time for its Annual Sunset Service.

It was noted that no formal notification in connection with Remembrance Day parade 12.11.06 had been forthcoming from the Royal British Legion. The Mayor advised that the parade was assembling at 10.15am at Jubilee Way car park.

The Mayor also advised members of the Mon CC firing of the maroon at 11.00 am on Saturday, 11.11.06 at Caldicot Castle.

7755 To Consider Town Council Groundsman's Assistance/Equipment to Town Events

Town Council resolved to approve the assistance of its Groundsman/equipment for town events provided relevant health and safety issues are adhered to.

Cllr P Tidmarsh declared an interest in this matter

7756 To Consider Loop System to DLC

It was resolved to refer this item to Development Committee meeting 9.11.06 for consideration in Estimates Committee

7757 Street Trading – Caldicot [b/f TC 27.9.06] [Circ]

a) Response from Mon CC

Town Council noted correspondence from Mon CC advising of consultative procedures in relation to street trading in Caldicot.

The Mayor stated the consultation process was “ineffectual” and she would forward a letter to Town Council in this regard.

Cllr W Edwards stated that Town Council could only make recommendations to Mon CC in this regard and that it was for County Councillors to make representations to Mon CC.

Cllr D Ashwin notified the meeting that a further licence had been granted to a sweet barrow in the town, even though a similar application in Abergavenny had been refused at the same licensing meeting.

b) Response from One Voice Wales

Town Council noted correspondence including ‘NALC Legal Briefing L04-06 re: Licensing Act’ from One Voice Wales advising that if Town Council wishes to pursue a judicial review against Mon CC, in relation to street trading licences, it would require to consult with its instructed firm of solicitors who specialises in this area of practice.

Cllr R J Higginson declared an interest in this matter

7758 Mon CC Matters [From Update Sheet 26.7.06] [b/f TC 27.9.06] [Circ]

Town Council considered updates in relation to the following items:

a) Neddern Brook

It was noted that copy correspondence had been hand-delivered to sixty properties on the perimeter of the land nearest to Neddern Brook requesting residents check the plumbing to their properties to ensure all connections are correct.

Cllr J Marshall declared an interest in (a).

b) Bungalow West End

It was noted that vehicular access to the caretaker's bungalow is Permitted Development.

c) Double Yellow Lines – Woodstock Way – See below

d) Birbeck Road Traffic Calming – See below

e) Traffic Lights on By-pass – See below

The Clerk advised members of available dates for Mr Dave Harris, Head of Highways, Mon CC to meet with Town Council with regard to the Road Safety Strategy. It was noted that 14.11.06 was Planning Committee and that Mr Harris would only be available during the day. Cllr Ron Stewart stated only two Members attended the previous meeting with Mr Harris and urged Members to attend.

f) Town Centre Benches – L shaped supports

It was noted that a quotation is awaited by Mon CC to install a flat metal bar underneath the centre of the wooden slats to town centre benches.

Cllr R J Higginson declared an interest in (f)

g) Solar Powered Speed Matrix By-pass

It was agreed to refer this item to Estimates Committee

h) Shopmobility

It was noted that a Shopmobility port-a-cabin was in place in Jubilee Way car park.

In relation to items c), d), e) and g) it was resolved to consider these items at the meeting with Mr Dave Harris, Head of Highways, Mon CC 14.11.06 in relation to the Road Safety Strategy

It was resolved to consider the following item at the end of the agenda and to incorporate Min 7762 (22), (28) and (29) below.

7759 KGVPF [b/f TC 27.9.06]

a) Land at KGVPF – Awaiting Mon CC

b) Cllr J Harris re: Grants [b/f TC 26.7.06] [Circ]

c) Repair to Damaged Pillar – Awaiting Insurance/Grant

7760 Reports

a) Minutes of Meeting with Chepstow Town Council held 30.9.06 [To Follow]

b) Minutes of Public Meeting held 11.10.06

The Mayor apologised for not providing the above minutes and stated she would post them to Members at the end of the week.

c) To Note CCTV Working Party Meeting 10am 25.10.06 – DLC

Cllr D Ashwin updated Members in relation to a meeting of CCTV Working Party Meeting and stated a written report would follow.

d) To Note Road Traffic Strategy – Awaiting MCC re Dates to Meet

See Min 7758 above

e) Governors

Members were advised that a replacement Deputy Head for West End School had not yet been selected.

f) Town Council Representatives on Outside Bodies

There were no reports from Town Council Representatives on Outside Bodies

g) Other

There were no other reports.

7761 Publications, Minutes, Etc [Displayed]

[A] Mon CC, Cabinet	Agenda 4.10.06
[B] Plus Publishing Services	Local Council's Update Issues No 84
[C] One Voice Wales	The Voice- September 06 Issue 4
[D] Welsh Assembly Government	Consultation on Draft Guidance on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 Consultation Document in TC office
[E] Defra	Guidance on the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005 – Addendum
[F] Association of Burial Authorities	Abainfo – Autumn 2006
[G] Monmouthshire's Older People Strategic Partnership	Think Differently..... Seminar 15.11.06
[H] GAVO	Priory Centre, Abergavenny
[I] Severnside Area Forum	Monmouthshire Network – Autumn 2006
[J] Local Health Board	Mins AGM 6.9.06 Agenda/Mins 2.10.06
	Clinical Future Public Consultation Consultation Document in TC office

Town Council noted Publications [A] to [J] above, available in Town Council office.

7762 Correspondence b/f TC 27.9.06 [Circ unless marked*]

(1) Cllr J Marshall Second Health Centre in Caldicot

Town Council considered correspondence from Cllr J Marshall proposing “Members of Caldicot Town Council agree to address a letter to the Local Health Board making a formal request to provide funding for a second surgery in Caldicot” on the following grounds:

- Problems with repeat prescriptions
- Problems making appointments in the morning, including unanswered calls
- Queuing outside the surgery in all weathers
- Overly intrusive unqualified receptionist staff
- Unacceptable waiting times for appointments etc

Cllr Marshall referred to Caldicot residents expressing dismay over the poor standard of service provided by Gray Hill Surgery for a number of years. Cllr Marshall also referred to the lack of choice and competition available to members of the public, along with unresolved complaints, touch screen booking-in system not working and the increased capacity in Caldicot

Cllr Marshall stated Gray Hill Surgery could not cope with the increasing number of persons using the surgery.

Reference was made to the population of Chepstow and to the number of surgeries available.

It was clarified that Town Council's issues with Gray Hill Surgery were in relation to administration/management of the surgery and in no way were the Doctors under criticism.

It was proposed by Cllr J Marshall, seconded by Cllr P Tidmarsh and resolved that Town Council write to LHB to request a second surgery in Caldicot. [Vote – For: 6, Against: 1, Abstentions: 2]

7762 (2) Cllr J Marshall

Re: Dog Foul Bins/Responsibility Mon CC?

Correspondence from Cllr J Marshall requesting why Town Council and not Mon CC were providing dog fouling bins in Caldicot was considered.

Cllr Marshall stated Mon CC was ignoring its duty and commitment to improve health issues and referred Members to correspondence from Head of Environmental Management and Highways Services for Blaenau Gwent CBC in relation to legislation on dog fouling.

Cllr Marshall requested Cllr W Edwards' suggestion to him that he "go and live" in Blaenau Gwent be recorded in the minutes.

It was requested if Mon CC had a Policy on dog fouling and reference was made to other Local Authorities' Policies on dog fouling.

A recently erected sign in Blackbird Road requesting dog owners use bins provided for dog mess and referring them to the One Stop Shop for dog bags was referred to. Reference was also made to Mon CC circling dog mess with a spray can in the same area.

It was resolved to forward a copy of Cllr Marshall's correspondence and response from Blaenau Gwent CBC to Mr Dave Harris, Head of Highways and Waste Management, MCC

(3)(3a)Cllr R Stewart

Copy Letters to Inspector Smith Re: Late Night Vandals

Town Council noted copy correspondences from Cllr R Stewart in relation to late night vandals in the town.

(4) Cllr D Ashwin

Town Flooding

Town Council considered correspondence from Cllr D Ashwin in relation to flooding in the town.

Cllr D Ashwin referred to recurrent flooding in Chepstow Road and to two houses, in particular, being inundated with water and sewerage. Cllr Ashwin also referred to the recent flooding to the pedestrianised area, particularly the Post Office, which disrupted opening hours to the public.

Reference was made to certain areas of Castle Lea not being adopted.

It was resolved to write to Mr Dave Harris, Head of Highways, Mon CC to request an investigation in this matter and place an enforcement order on Welsh Water to alleviate flooding in the areas of Woodstock Way to Castle Lea and the pedestrianised area with copies to Cllrs Robert Greenland, Eric Saxon, Mon CC Legal Dept and Welsh Water

7762 (5) Cllr D Ashwin

Wydean Wholefoods Shop Window Broken

Town Council noted correspondence from Cllr D Ashwin in relation to shop windows being broken in the town.

(6) Cllr J Harris [b/f TC 26.7.06]

Caldicot Town Council Web Site

(7) Cllr J Harris [b/f]

Caldicot Town Council Funding Policy

(8) Cllr J Harris [b/f]

Community Questionnaire for Caldicot

(9) Cllr J Harris

Nominations for Citizen's Awards

In the absence of Cllr J Harris items (6) – (9) above were removed from the agenda [see Min 7749 above].

(10) Cllr R Stewart

**Vandalism Town Centre/MCC/
Open Day Tribute**

Town Council noted the above correspondence for information from Cllr R Stewart.

(11) Cllr R Stewart

**Copy Letter CCTV Development Officer,
MCC**

Town Council noted copy correspondence to CCTV Development officer Mon CC.

Cllr R J Higginson declared an interest in this matter

(12) Cllr R Stewart

**Copy Letter Area General Manager, MCC
Re: Various Issues**

Town Council noted correspondence from Mon CC to Cllr R Stewart on recent issues raised by Cllr Stewart.

Cllrs J Daniels, J Marshall and R J Higginson declared an interest in this matter

Items received following TC 27.9.06 [Circ unless marked*]

(13) Cllr R Stewart

**Copy Letter MCC Re: Caldicot Castle and
Country Park**

Town Council noted copy of an amended report to seek approval to introduce vehicular restrictions at the country park from Mon CC

Cllrs R J Higginson and J Marshall declared an interest in this matter.

(14) Caldicot Town AFC

Request for funding

Town Council considered a request for funding towards a twinning exchange between Caldicot Town AFC and Wiesental Football Club in 2007.

It was resolved to request further information and costs in relation to the proposed visit from Caldicot Town AFC.

7762 (14a) British Red Cross

Request for donation

Town Council considered a request for donation from British Red Cross.

It was proposed by Cllr R J Higginson, seconded by Cllr W Edwards to donate £25 to British Red Cross. Cllr P Tidmarsh proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr K Thomas to donate £50 to British Red Cross. A vote ensued – 4 for the Amendment and 3 for the Proposal. The Amendment was carried.

It was resolved to donate £50 to British Red Cross

Cllr J Marshall declared an interest in this matter

(14b) Kaleb Hendy

Request for donation

Town Council considered a request for donation from Kaleb Hendy to assist in completing his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Cllr R J Higginson stated he would forward a copy of Church Fund application form to Mr Hendy.

It was resolved to donate £50 to Kaleb Hendy and to refer him to Monmouthshire Youth Service and Chepstow & District Lions to further assist with funding.

***(15) Eisteddfod yr Urdd**

Appreciation for £50 donation

Town Council noted the appreciation for £50 donation from Eisteddfod yr Urdd.

***(15a) Shelter Cymru**

Appreciation for £50 donation

Town Council noted the appreciation for £50 donation from Shelter Cymru

(16) Gwent Police Authority

Appointment of Independent Members of the Police Authority

Town Council resolved to nominate Cllr K Thomas for the appointment of Independent Members of the Police Authority.

(17) Mon CC

**Copy Correspondence to J Morden MP
re: bus stop outside Cwrt Severn**

Town Council noted copy correspondence to J Morden MP advising that a Traffic Regulation Order had been issued in respect of the bus stop outside Cwrt Severn and subject to ratification of the Single Cabinet Member Report the bus bay will be installed in January 07.

(18) Porton Developments

Canopy Proposal Update

Town Council noted correspondence from Porton Development relating to the proposals to erect a canopy in Newport Road, Caldicot.

Cllrs W Edwards, J Marshall, R Stewart and P Tidmarsh declared an interest in this matter

7762 (19) Mon CC

Letter from G Lloyd

Town Council considered correspondence from Mon CC advising that the request from G Lloyd [parking issues Budden Crescent] would require a Traffic Regulation Order and this would be considered with other requests as part of the prioritisation process for 2007-08 schemes.

It was stated that this matter could be raised at the meeting with Mr Dave Harris, Mon CC re: Road Safety Strategy.

Cllr Marshall stated that this health and safety issue required to be addressed.

It was proposed by Cllr J Marshall and seconded by Cllr P Tidmarsh to send a letter to Mon CC to instigate works at Budden Crescent as soon as possible. A vote ensued [7 For: 2 Abstentions].

It was resolved to write to Mon CC to request a Traffic Regulation Order in relation to car parking at Budden Crescent be instigated as soon as possible.

(20) Caldicot Branch Royal British Legion

**Invitation to dedication of the Garden of Remembrance – Methodist Church, 11am
1st 11.06 at 10.45am**

Town Council noted an invitation from Royal British Legion to attend the dedication of the Garden of Remembrance on 1.11.06 at 11am at the Methodist Church.

(21) Robert King

Resignation from Caldicot Town Council/Casual Vacancy 29.9.06

Town Council noted correspondence from Robert King resigning from Town Council. The meeting was notified that a vacancy had arisen prior to the correspondence being received from Mr King.

It was proposed by Cllr J Marshall, seconded by Cllr P Tidmarsh that a letter be sent to Mr King wishing him the “best of luck for the future”.

(22) Mon CC

Severnside Area Working Capital Grant towards bench at KGVPF

See Min 7759 below

(23) Cllr R Stewart

Appreciation of Caldicot Police

Town Council noted copy correspondence from Cllr R Stewart to Caldicot Police in appreciation of the attendance of two police officers at the public meeting 11.10.06.

Cllr R J Higginson stated the comments made in the correspondence were untrue and potentially libellous. Cllr J Marshall stated he disagreed with Cllr Higginson and requested if Cllr Higginson condoned Mr Powell’s behaviour on the night.

Cllr C Babb stated that it was “sad” that Members had to resort to letters to the Police and copy to Town Council when the issue had nothing to do with Town Council.

7762 (24) Cllr J Marshall

Caldicot Letter Boxes

Town Council considered correspondence from Cllr J Marshall following concerns by members of the public of overlaid post boxes and the ability to gain access to previously posted letters.

It was resolved to write to Royal Mail to request additional emptying times be implemented or smaller post boxes be replaced with larger boxes.

Standing Orders was called for 30 minutes

(25) Cllr J Marshall

Entertainment and Events in Caldicot Town Centre in the run up to Christmas

Town Council resolved to refer the above correspondence from Cllr J Marshall to Caldicot Events Committee.

(26) Cllr J Marshall

Disturbance at Caldicot Choir Hall

Town Council noted correspondence and Caldicot Police log number for recent disturbance at Caldicot Choir Hall.

(27) A Easson

Re: Caldicot Castle/Heritage Group

Town Council considered correspondence from A Easson in relation to the setting up of the proposed "Friends of Caldicot Castle" group being referred to Severnside Area Forum.

It was resolved to defer this matter to Town Council meeting 29.11.06 pending a report in this matter from Severnside Area Forum

(28) Caldicot Bowls Club

Re: Bowls Club Perimeter Fence

See Min 7759 below

(29) Caldicot Bowls Club

Request for benches

See Min 7759 below

(30) Cllr C Babb

Dropped Kerbs – Dewstow Road

Town Council considered a request for dropped kerbs on Dewstow Road and the approach to Caldicot Cemetery from Cllr C Babb.

Cllr J Marshall referred Members to the new Code of Practice for Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act which will come into force on 4th December 2006 and stated Mon CC had a statutory duty to provide facilities for the disabled by that date.

It was resolved:

- i) to write to Mr Dave Harris, Head of Highways, Mon CC to request dropped kerbs on Dewstow Road and the approach to Caldicot Cemetery, with a copy to Mon CC Legal Department.**
- ii) to refer this matter for Estimates Committee**

7762 (31) Mon CC

Re: Welcome to Caldicot Signs

Town Council considered correspondence from Mon CC stating no funding is available from 'Rural Recovery' to fund its request for three new entrance signs to Caldicot, however Mon CC will honour its original commitment of 50% contribution from its 2006/07 budget towards the signs in partnership with Town Council.

It was resolved that Town Council would agree to contribute 50% to the purchase of three new entrance signs with crests to Caldicot at a total cost to Town Council of £4,500, subject to confirmation of Mon CC 50% contribution 06/07.

Cllrs D Ashwin, R J Higginson and R Stewart declared an interest in this matter

(32) Mon CC

Re: Signs to Caldicot Cemetery

Town Council noted copy correspondence from Mon CC advising of its commitment for directional signs to Caldicot Cemetery.

Town Council requested the signs are bi-lingual.

(33) Cllr J Harris

Re: Plan DC/2006/00322

In the absence of Cllr J Harris this item was removed from the agenda [see Min 7749 above].

(34) Cllr J Harris

Re: Precept

In the absence of Cllr J Harris this item was removed from the agenda [see Min 7749 above].

It was resolved to consider the following item as Trustees of KGVPF

7759 KGVPF

a) Land at KGVPF – Awaiting Mon CC

Noted

b) Cllr J Harris re: Grants [b/f TC 26.7.06] [Circ]

In the absence of Cllr J Harris this item was removed from the agenda [see Min 7749 above].

c) Repair to Damaged Pillar – Awaiting Insurance/Grant

The Clerk updated Members in this matter.

It was resolved to pursue this matter via Town Council insurance company.

(22) Mon CC

Sevenside Area Working Capital Grant towards bench at KGVPF

Town Council noted contribution of £180 from the Sevenside Area Working Capital Budget towards the new bench at KGVPF.

Cllr R J Higginson declared an interest in this matter

7759 (28) Caldicot Bowls Club

Re: Bowls Club Perimeter Fence

Town Council considered a request from Caldicot Bowls Club to replace part of the perimeter fencing with a gate which would allow future access to the Bowls Green Contractor.

Town Council was advised of its previous decision not to allow a gate to replace the fencing following recent works to the bowling green.

It was resolved to permit Caldicot Bowls Club to replace part of the perimeter fencing with a gate, at no cost to Town Council, to allow future access to the contractor, subject to the specification of the gate being agreed by Town Council.

(29) Caldicot Bowls Club

Request for benches

Town Council considered a request from Caldicot Bowls Club for benches at the bowls club.

It was resolved to refer Caldicot Bowls Club to the One Stop Shop in this matter

The meeting closed at 9.25am

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Mayor/Deputy Mayor

APPENDIX A

7744 To Suspend Proceedings: Mr Andrew Griffiths, Regional Manager First Great Western to address Town Council

The Mayor welcomed Mr Andrew Griffiths.

New First Great Western 10 years Franchise effective from April 06 – employs 43,000 staff.

Mr Griffiths outlined franchise and investment costs and train refurbishment costs to include wider seats and access to power sockets

10 new fuel efficient, less polluting engines purchased and more to follow over the coming year.

Timetable

Public consultation took place in April and 9000 responses were received during the consultation process.

Severn Tunnel Junction [STJ], Patchway and Pilning affected by timetable issues.

2 extra trains reinstated into Bristol – 6.30am and 7.30am from Cardiff and 14.22pm and 15.22pm from Portsmouth Harbour.

Current timetable fixed until December 06 and specifies 1 hour service from Cardiff to Portsmouth stopping at STJ.

Timetable reviewed twice yearly – Priority alterations in June and more structural alterations in December

Although trains are full at peak times there is no evidence to suggest any danger.

All coaches are up and running in the mornings.

First Great Western [FGW] is putting together a contingency plan

New maintenance depot being built in Bristol costing £8 million and will be up and running from January 07 – all maintenance to be done in-house and improvements will be evident next year.

The cost for a family train ticket to London and First Great Western [FGW] being a private company and therefore looking to make a profit was referred to.

It was stated that FGW had not replied to complaints from commuters.

Commuters being prevented from boarding trains due to overcrowding were referred to and it was stated that FGW is looking to make more use of High Speed Trains.

Rolling stock is required to be handed back after December 2006.

The Mayor thanked Mr Griffiths for his presentation and for taking questions from members of the public.