

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2007
AT 7.45 P.M.

Present: Cllr P Scott - Town Mayor
Cllr P Handley - Deputy Mayor

Cllr Mrs. D.V. Bulley	Cllr P. Madden
Cllr B Crossland	Cllr K Stone
Cllr Mrs. M. Crossland	Cllr M. Townsend
Cllr R.W. Crapper	Cllr Mrs L Walcott
Cllr D King	Cllr W. Walcott MBE
Cllr Mrs A Madden	Cllr P Wesson

Apologies: Cllr. L.H. Giles and Cllr N Tully

148. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 February 2007, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

149. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

150. FIRE COVER IN CARTERTON

The Mayor welcomed Mr Gurr and Mr Bateman to the meeting. Mr Gurr presented incident statistics for Bampton and Carterton during 2006, details of which are appended to these Minutes. Cllr Handley said that he was not happy with the way the figures were presented and that a 23-minute call out time was not acceptable. In answer to a question concerning recruitment and retention of retained firemen, it was confirmed that there were problems across the County. Mr Gurr said that the Fire Service was rarely able to save lives in house fires even if an appliance is on site within a very short time. It was noted that crewing levels in Burford were at an acceptable level although there were skills shortages.

Mr Gurr outlined the main options considered in the Oxfordshire Fire Service Review. He confirmed that the estimated cost of a fire station in Carterton was £4m and that this figure did take account of the closure of a station elsewhere. Cllr Mrs Bulley expressed her continuing concern about the absence of a fire station in the town. It was noted that there had been two sites for a station in the town but that both of these had been sold for housing. The continuing growth of Carterton, including two new industrial estates, increased the need for a fire station in the Town.

Cllr Handley again commented on the statistics saying that he felt that they were deliberately misleading and that the Fire Service was not treating the matter with sufficient seriousness. Cllr Wesson asked that it be recorded that he disassociated himself from this comment. The Town Mayor stopped the discussion. He thanked Mr Gurr and Mr Bateman for attending the meeting.

151. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked Cllr and Cllr Mrs Walcott for representing him at the Charity Dinner at Abingdon. He had given two radio interviews on Project CATARA and the Exceptional

Citizen Award. He had attended two civic dinners at Didcot and Cherwell and a Reception at County Hall. He had presented a cheque for £1,500 to Macmillan Cancer Support, being the proceeds of the Mayor's Walk. The Mayor and other Councillors had hosted a working lunch for the new Chief Executive of WODC.

152. VISIT TO CARTERTON NEW ZEALAND

Cllr and Cllr Mrs Crossland and Cllr Stone reported on their visit to Carterton New Zealand. They had spent a day in the town in the company of Carterton Councillors and had enjoyed a full programme of events. The Councillors presented gifts of a clock and a book from Carterton New Zealand and the Crosslands presented a personal gift of a letter opener to the Mayor.

Councillors thanked the Crosslands and the Stones for visiting Carterton on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and for reporting back on the visit.

153. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Handley, Cllr Stone and Cllr Walcott declared an interest in all planning applications (item 156) by virtue of their membership of the WODC Planning Committee. Cllr Wesson declared an interest in item 157 (Burial Ground) and left the room during this item, Cllr Stone in item 157 (salaries) and item 160 (Accounts for Payment), and Cllr Walcott in item 155 (licensing) and left the room during this item.

154. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No matters were raised.

155. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's Report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was received. The decisions taken on the Report are recorded at Annex 'A'.

156. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 20 February and 6 March 2007. These were noted.

The Clerk reported that the plans for the new Community Hall had been approved by WODC.

157. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Administration Committee held on 6 March 2007.

RESOLVED to make a retirement payment of £250 to Roger Billings under s111 of the LGA 1972 in recognition of all his work for the town

RESOLVED to accept the recommendations set out in items 20 to 26 of the Minutes of the Administration Committee.

158. REQUEST FOR RECREATION GRANT

The Council received an application for a Recreation Grant to fund the staffing of the Allandale Centre for one extra evening each week. The total cost of this would be in the region

of £7,000. The application was for £6,000 with £1,000 coming from other sources.

RESOLVED that a grant of £6,000 be paid to the Allandale for 2007/08 under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

159. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 28 February 2007, set out at Annex 'B', was tabled. A summary of Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading was also provided at Annex 'B'.

160. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts set out at Annex 'C' be approved for payment.

161. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting

1. Registration Service – to see the attached letter from the Head of Oxfordshire Registration Service. **Noted with regret.**

2. Ditch around NE Carterton estate – to note attached email from WODC. **Noted but Council expressed continuing concern about the absence of footbridges across the ditch. The Clerk was asked to raise these concerns with WODC.**

3. Licensing:

- to note outcome of application for a grant of licence at Martins – see attached **Noted**
- an application has been received from the Midcounties Co-operative Ltd, Petrol Filling Station for the sale of alcohol between 07.00 and 23.00 and also the playing of background music during opening hours. **The Clerk was asked to object to this application on the grounds that it would encourage underage drinking.**

4. Future meetings and events

Sunday 25 March – 10K Road Race

Tuesday 27 March – Retirement Reception for Rev Billings

Tuesday 3 April – Planning and Recreation to discuss Football Club if needed

Tuesday 17 April – Planning and Council

Saturday 21 April – St George’s Day Dinner

Monday 23 April – Traffic Advisory Committee

Sunday 29 April – Civic Church Service

Tuesday 1 May - Planning and Policy

Thursday 3 May – Local Elections

Tuesday 8 May - Town Assembly

Tuesday 15 May – Planning and Annual Town Council meeting

Noted.

5. The following publications have been received and will be available at the meeting:

- Partial Review of the SE Plan: Revised apportionment of Primary Land-won Aggregates
- PlayBack Spring 2007
- News from Oxfordshire County Council
- Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework. Waste Sites Proposals and Policies Development Plan Document. Issues and Options Consultation February 2007 (Regulation 25)
- The Journal of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management

Noted. Council reiterated its opposition to Oxford City Council’s bid for single status.