

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2009
AT 7.45 P.M.

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| Present: | Cllr N MacRae MBE | Deputy Mayor |
| | Cllr Mrs D V Bulley | Cllr P Scott |
| | Cllr A D Coomber | Cllr Mrs S Stone |
| | Cllr A Farmer | Cllr Mrs L Walcott |
| | Cllr E Liston | Cllr W Walcott MBE |
| | Cllr P Madden | |

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Maxine Crossland (Town Mayor), Cllr R Crapper, Cllr B Crossland, Cllr S Lodge, Cllr N Miah, Cllr E Wearing.

52. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 July 2009, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

53. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that OCC had advised there was no money in the budget to fund weed killing. The Clerk was asked to establish the cost if the Town Council were to take this over. It was noted that the Vets building would be repainted week beginning 21 September, and that urgent repairs had been carried out to the squash club roof.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Deputy Mayor recorded the Council's interest in Item 56 as owners of land in the town centre and advised that the Monitoring Officer had said that this was not an interest that needed to be declared under the Code of Conduct. Cllr Madden declared an interest in Items 56 and 59 by virtue of his membership of the WODC Planning Committee and did not take part in discussions on these items. Cllr Madden also declared an interest in Item 64 as a Governor of St John's School. Cllr Scott declared an interest in Item 56 as Chairman of the Carterton Chamber of Trade. The Deputy Mayor declared an interest in Item 64 (Black Bourton Cemetery)

55. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

Sixteen members of the public attended. Representatives from Sainsburys, the Mid Counties Co-operative, the Fraser Group, Box Clever and Simmons spoke. Comments were also received from Ms Robinson and Mr Cover. These comments are recorded at Annex A to the Minutes.

56. PLANNING APPLICATION 09/0963/P/OP ERECTION OF RETAIL FOODSTORE

The Deputy Mayor introduced this item. He explained that it was for the District Council to determine the application and that District Councillors who were members of the Planning Committee would not speak. He set out the existing planning policy and the central government requirement for a sequential approach.

Councillors expressed their gratitude to Sainsburys for having analysed the demand for, and demonstrated the need for, another food store in town. There had been no retail development in the town centre for many years and it was clear that this would not happen without an anchor store. The lifting of the covenant from the old market site meant that it should be possible to provide a town centre food store. This would help attract other retailers to the town centre and provide a much-needed boost to its viability as a whole.

It was noted that planning policy protected the town centre and did not allow for food retail on the West Oxfordshire Business Park. The Council felt that Sainsburys should explore more fully the possibility of locating a foodstore in the town centre. The Council said that it hoped that those working on the redevelopment of the town centre would now put together a plan to demonstrate the viability of the scheme.

RESOLVED that the Council object to the Sainsburys planning application because it runs counter to the planning policy set out in the Local Plan and the emerging Local Development Framework. The Council welcomes Sainsbury's interest in opening a store in Carterton and believes that such a store is urgently needed. The Council urges Sainsburys to explore fully the possibility of locating in the town centre where their store would provide a much-needed catalyst for regeneration.

57. ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Handley reported on proposed cuts in the OCC budgets of 2.5%. He said that a new group comprising senior officers from OCC, WODC and the RAF was to be set up. The Town Clerk would clerk this group and provide a link to the Town Council. He had met with a member and an officer from OCC to discuss speeding in Shilton Road and the lifting of the speed restrictions in Upavon Way.

58. 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 'B' below.

59. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 4 August and 1 September 2009. These were noted.

60. RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on 1 September 2009.

Cllr Coomber gave a brief report on the Extreme Wheels Day and mentioned that a CD of the live bands would be on sale through Rapture Music Store. He conveyed the Project Team's thanks to the Town Council for their support. Cllr Coomber said that a report on possible new equipment for the skateboard park was being worked up and would be submitted to the next meeting of the Recreation Committee.

On behalf of the Council, the Deputy Mayor thanked Cllr Coomber for his commitment to the Extreme Wheels Day and to the youngsters of the town.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting be approved.

61. FINANCIAL RETURN TO 31 MARCH 2009

The Council received the external auditors report for the year ended 31 March 2009. It was noted that the auditor had commented that comparatives differ by £1. Council felt that this difference, which was due to rounding, was immaterial.

62. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 31 August 2009, set out at Annex 'C', was approved. A summary of Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading is also provided at Annex 'C'.

63. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts set out at Annex 'D' be approved for payment. The Accounts for Payment for the month of August is also attached at Annex D(2).

64. 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. **Playbuilder funding.** We have been notified that bids for the next round of playbuilder funding need to be submitted by 8 March 2010. The Council will recall that it was agreed to apply for this funding to support the redevelopment of the Alvescot Road Recreation Ground Play area. To meet this deadline, the Chairman of Recreation Committee has suggested that we should form a working party to take this forward with a view to submitting proposals to the Council in early 2010. This working party could include the Youth Worker and the RAF Community Development Officer. Does the Council agree this approach and which Councillors would be interested in serving on this working party? **Council agreed to establish this working party. Cllrs Coomber and Bulley as Chair and Deputy Chair of Recreation would serve on it.**
2. **Rating Assessment.** I have been contacted by a surveyor who has acted for us in the past with Ratings appeals. He has advised that there may be grounds for appealing the current assessment for the Town Hall. He charges 25% of any savings achieved plus travel expenses capped to a maximum of £25. Would the Council like me to appoint him to investigate the Town Hall rates? **Council agreed that he should be appointed.**
3. **Land Registry.** Following the last Council meeting, I have been in touch with the Land Registry and their representative has visited the Town Hall. There are four areas of land for which we have deeds but which have not yet been registered (the Alvescot Road Recreation Ground, the Town Hall, Black Bourton Burial Ground and 17 Alvescot Road). All four will be registered for a fee of £240. I have given the land registry details of the numerous other small parcels of land that we have been responsible for maintaining over the years. Many other parishes have similar landholdings and the LR is considering whether it can introduce a simplified system for dealing with these. **Noted.**
4. **Keep Carterton Tidy Scheme.** The NAG has put forward this scheme, which they hope the Town Council might be prepared to adopt. It would involve an appeal to local residents and businesses to recognise the nuisance of litter and work together to reduce it. Compliant businesses might also be rewarded with a certificate in recognition of their cooperation. **It was agreed that Council should support this scheme. The NAG was asked to let the Clerk know what help was needed.**
5. **Forthcoming meetings**

Wednesday 23 September - 4 pm site meeting at The Maples
Tuesday 6 October - Planning and Policy
Monday 12 October - Traffic Advisory Committee
Tuesday 20 October - Planning and Council