

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2004
AT 7.45 P.M.

Present: Cllr B. Crossland – Town Mayor
Cllr P. Scott – Deputy Mayor

Cllr. Mrs. D.V. Bulley	Cllr. P. Madden
Cllr R. Crapper	Cllr K. Stone
Cllr Mrs. M. Crossland	Cllr. M. Townsend
Cllr. L.H Giles	Cllr. W. Walcott
Cllr. P.J. Handley	Cllr. Mrs. L. Walcott
Cllr Mrs. A. Madden	

In attendance: Inspector Darren Carver

Apologies: Cllr. D. King and Cllr P. Wesson

91. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 October 2004, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

92. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Handley commented on the fact that some loop systems were more helpful than others.

93. POLICING IN CARTERTON

Inspector Carver reported on recent events. There had been 11 burglaries in the town since April. Most of these were opportunistic and it was important that householders secured their properties. Car crime remained at about the same level. Police had been tasked to attend Carterton Football Club on Friday evenings after the disco and incidents had dropped dramatically. PC Dave Rich had been asked to work with the school to resolve problems in Finchdale Close. Ade Cole was dealing with 10 referrals which would probably result in two ASBOs but Inspector Carver emphasised that these were not easy to secure. He explained that the Allandale had been forced to close because of trouble from one particular youth. The police knew the individual concerned and were taking action.

In discussion, Cllr Tully expressed his disappointment about the failure of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme on the NE development and Inspector Carver undertook to investigate. Councillors appreciated the efforts that had been made to prevent trouble in Swinbrook Road but expressed concern that problems persisted in Finchdale Close. Cllr Stone had raised this matter with the Head of the Community College. The Inspector recognised that there were problems with abandoned dogs as police stations did not have facilities to cope and local charities were not in a position to help. The Inspector offered to talk to the Community Safety Officer about a shop in the town centre which was trading in the early hours of the morning.

Inspector Carver confirmed that anyone reporting an emergency should call 999 and that other calls should be made to the Police Inquiry Centre on 0845 8505505. The Mayor thanked Inspector Carver for attending the meeting and answering the Councillors questions.

94. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that there had been an enjoyable reception at the Town Hall on 22 October. He had attended the launch of the SEEDA project at Kidlington and a ceremony marking presentations to Army Cadets at Slade Barracks. The Remembrance Service on 14 November had been very well attended. The Mayor had given an interview to Radio Oxford on the First Responders Scheme and an hour-long programme had been broadcast from the Town Hall on the afternoon of 16 November.

95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Handley and Walcott declared an interest in Item 98 (Planning) by virtue of their membership of the District Planning Committee. All Councillors were reminded of the need to keep their entries in the register up to date.

96. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

A resident raised a number of issues about parking and road subsidence. Another resident raised the issue of the school gate in Richens Drive.

97. 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'.

98. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 19 October and 2 November 2004. These were noted.

99. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Cllr Giles presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Administration Committee held on 2 November. He explained that the Committee had considered a draft budget of £323,000 and had cut various subheads to reduce the overall net figure to £250,850 which represented an increase in the precept of 3% over last year. Cllr Giles explained that the final precept figure would be presented to the Council in December when the number of dwellings was known.

RESOLVED that this report and its recommendations should be accepted.

100. NE CARTERTON DEVELOPMENT: PLAY AREAS

The Council received a letter from WODC Leisure Department requesting that the Council take over the day-to-day maintenance of the new NEAP once it has been installed by the District Council. There was also a display of the preferred play equipment. Once the NEAP had been installed, there would be £47,000 in the budget which would transfer to the Town Council and which would be used for equipping the 3 LEAPs and 11 LAPs. Council expressed concern that this sum was not sufficient and noted that a considerably larger sum appeared to have been included in the s106 pot set aside for the purchase of equipment.

Several Councillors expressed their disappointment at the unimaginative choice of equipment and questioned whether any thought had been given to issues that were likely to be of interest to local residents such as noise.

It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange a meeting between senior officers of WODC and members of the Recreation Committee and that there should then be a further report to Council.

101 RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Council received a report setting out the various internal controls in place to manage financial and other risks.

RESOLVED to note this report.

102. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 31 October 2004, set out at Annex ' B' and previously circulated, was received.

103 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

14 December 2004

Town Mayor

1. **Willow Meadows** – DEFRA visited Willow Meadows in October to check on its maintenance under the Stewardship Scheme. Their report makes a number of suggestions for improving the habitat but records that they are 'pleased with the management of the site'. Their report will be available at the meeting. **Noted**
2. **New Ethical Framework Regulation** – to note the attached letter from ODPM about the new regulations which provide for monitoring officers to carry out investigations into alleged breaches by members of their Code. **Noted**
3. **We have received copies of the following publications** which will be available at the meeting:
 - Nada – Oxfordshire's newest waste minimisation lifestyle magazine.
 - Transaction – OCC consultation document on the Second Local Transport Plan
 - Oxfordshire Playing Fields Autumn Newsletter
 - Health News Scrutiny
 - Oxfordshire County Council's News for Towns and Parishes

4. Dates

November 25	WODC Briefing on Code of Conduct
November 26	Christmas Lights and Street Fair
December 7	Planning Committee (if needed)
December 8	Council Dinner- Merrymouth
December 10	Town Council/Rotary Christmas Carol concert - St John's Church
December 14	Planning and Council
January 1	Mayor' s Walk
January 4	Planning and Policy