

**ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING FOR CARTERTON
HELD ON MONDAY 9TH MAY 2016
AT CARTERTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Present:	Cllr Mrs L Little - Cllr M Brennan Cllr Mrs D Bulley Cllr Ms S Coul Cllr R Crapper Cllr N Leverton Cllr P Lewis	Town Mayor Cllr M McBride Cllr Mrs M Mead Cllr P Scott Cllr Mrs S Scott-Stovold Cllr Mrs C Wilson
Officers:	Ron Spurs Stella Catt Teresa Whitford	Town Clerk Admin Assistant Admin Assistant
In attendance:	Cllr P Handley Cllr N Owen Cllr Mrs M Crossland Cllr H Howard	Oxfordshire County Councillor & West Oxfordshire District Councillor Oxfordshire County Councillor West Oxfordshire District Councillor West Oxfordshire District Councillor
	10 members of the public.	
Apologies:	Cllr R Brooks Cllr Mrs C Delaney Cllr D Melvin Cllr Mrs N Miah	Carterton Town Council Carterton Town Council Carterton Town Council Carterton Town Council

The Mayor welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 12th May 2015 had been circulated, were confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Mayor.

2 MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

3 POLICING IN CARTERTON - PC RICH BARNES

PC Barnes said that the Neighbourhood Policing Team currently comprises one Sergeant, two PCs and three PCSOs and covers Carterton, Bampton and Burford. Neighbourhood teams work from Witney, sorting out neighbourhood issues such as neighbour disputes and domestic arguments. He said the neighbourhood team gets on well with schools and housing association tenants.

PC Barnes outlined the future plans for Carterton Police Station in that it is likely to close at some time in the future. Operational cover will be maintained even though the police station will close. West Oxfordshire and Carterton remain a very low crime area.

Cllr M Crossland queried whether West Oxfordshire remained at the top or near the top of the low crime reporting levels. PC Barnes confirmed that this was the case.

Cllr McBride said that nationally there are big concerns about cyber crime and he asked whether this was the case locally. PC Barnes responded that the only local issues were of one or two elderly people encountering problems buying timeshares over the internet.

Mr Gordon Soles asked about the dissemination of crime-related information and PC Barnes responded that the police force now send out tweets when something is happening locally, such as theft from vehicles, to ensure public awareness.

The Mayor thanked PC Barnes and his colleagues for their hard work.

4 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr N Owen presented his report which is attached to these minutes. He said he would be happy to be contacted with residents' views and queries, preferably by telephone.

Cllr P Handley presented his report, which is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Howard asked if County Council elections in May next year will be delayed because of the consultation on Unitary Councils and Cllr Handley responded that this would be the case.

Cllr Mrs Crossland thanked Cllr Handley for his hard work and commitment to Carterton. This was echoed by the Mayor who thanked both County Councillors for their efforts.

5 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Councillors Mick Brennan, Mrs Maxine Crossland, Henry Howard, Mrs Lynn Little and Norman MacRae MBE had tabled their reports on the activities of West Oxfordshire District Council in the last year. Copies of the reports are appended to these minutes.

6 TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

The Town Clerk provided an overview of the development of the Town Centre and the installation of planters, standard columns and additional town centre furniture. He also outlined the offer from West Oxfordshire District Council to assist with the town centre crossroads design and emphasised the importance of community consultation in this process.

Cllr Mrs Crossland queried the availability of Council Minutes regarding the decision to install planters and columns. Mr Spurs stated that the Minutes regarding the decision were available on the Council's website and he quoted from the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th January 2016 which approved the purchase and installation of the items.

7 SKATEPARK

The Town Clerk provided an overview of the Council's intention to refurbish the Skatepark in Upavon Way. He explained that Officers are seeking quotes from contractors to undertake a refurbishment of the Park.

Mr John Hayes asked if the Council had earmarked funds for the refurbishment and Mr Spurs confirmed that there was a Reserve for this purpose. Mr Spurs went on to explain that the users of the Skatepark will be consulted prior to any decisions being made relating to what type of equipment will be installed.

The Mayor thanked Mr Hayes for his work and support of the Skatepark.

8 GENERAL QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

Mr Crossland asked if the Council had further information about the former Osprey site, as the For Sale board had been removed and fencing had been erected. The Mayor responded that she and the Clerk had spoken with the District Council recently but had only learnt that it was up for sale again. The site continues to be an eyesore and the Mayor suggested that residents write to the Clerk complaining about the state of the site, and these letters could be passed on to the owner.

Cllr Howard said he had heard that the price of this land is so high that they cannot find a purchaser. Planning permission was granted three years ago but this has now lapsed. Cllr Leverton said that the land was contaminated by the previous owner and Cllr Mrs Crossland confirmed this and said that the contaminated portion of land can only be used for car parking, which limits the amount of housing that can be built on it and the design. She said the owners have been given special dispensation to make lower contributions to the CIL to balance out the reduction, so that they will not be out of pocket. Cllr Leverton queried the s106 money and Cllr Mrs Crossland said that fewer houses than normal and a reduction in s106 money had to be balanced against leaving the site the derelict eyesore it currently is.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

Town Mayor