

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2005  
AT 7.45 P.M.

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

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

In attendance: Cllr. J. Couchman

Apologies: Cllr N Tully and Cllr Mrs L. Walcott

105. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 November 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

106. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that the kebab van had returned to the old site on Upavon Way. The Clerk reported that she had taken advice from Cluttons before submitting the Council's comments on the modifications to the Local Plan (minute 104).

107. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor said that he and the Mayoress had attended the Children in Need Concert, the switch on of the Christmas lights, a reception at County Hall and the Council's Christmas Dinner. They had also attended the District Council's Annual Awards, the Annual Squash Club Competition and a performance of 'Not Quite Cinderella'. The Mayor and Mayoress, Town Councillors and Town Hall staff had represented the Council at the funeral of Derek Rose, the former Clerk to the Council.

108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Handley, Stone and Walcott declared an interest in Item 111 (Planning) by virtue of their membership of the District Planning Committee. Cllr Scott declared an interest in planning application 05/1924 (Ventura Park), Cllrs Mrs Bulley, Mrs Crossland, Madden and Stone declared an interest in Minute 114 as Governors of local primary schools and Cllr King as the parent of a child at St Johns. Cllr Giles declared an interest in Minute 119 (Town Centre consultancy) and left the room while this item was being discussed.

109. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

There were none.

110. CLERK'S REPORT

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

#### 111. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15 November 2005. These were noted.

#### 112. PRECEPT FOR 2006/07

The Clerk reported that she had been advised that there were 4814 properties in the dwelling base. The final net budget for 2006/07 was £270,500, which was £56.19 per dwelling. This represented a 5% increase on the current year.

RESOLVED that the 2006/07 precept should be £270,500.

#### 113. FIRE STATION

The Council received a copy of the report that had gone to the November meeting of the County Council Cabinet on the subject of a fire station in Carterton. With the agreement of the Council, the Mayor invited Cllr Couchman (County Councillor for the Burford and Carterton North East Division) to join the meeting.

Cllr Couchman gave some background to the decision made by Cabinet not to support a fire station in Carterton. Although it was recognised that if the County had been starting from scratch, Carterton would be the right location for a station, the stations at Burford and Bampton were considered to be viable. Indeed, the Burford Station was well located to cover road accidents on the A40 and the A361. The County Council had very limited capital funding and the likelihood was that there would be no station for Carterton in the foreseeable future.

Town Councillors expressed their grave disappointment with this outcome. In particular, they felt that the Cabinet did not have before it all the information to allow it to make an informed decision and that much of the information they did have was out of date. They were also very concerned that the Town Council had not been consulted as had been promised.

It was noted that considerable information had already been given to the Fire Service concerning population, schools, types of dwellings and a range of other risks. It was agreed that all this information should be assembled in one document and resubmitted to the County so that it could be considered as part of the fundamental review. It was also agreed that the Town Council would need to monitor the viability of both the Burford and Bampton Stations. It was suggested that it might be possible to carry out a survey to see whether people in Carterton would be willing to be retained fire fighters but it was noted that service personnel could not volunteer.

RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to the Chief Fire Officer and to the MP to express Council's concerns that the Cabinet did not receive full or accurate information at their meeting on 15 November and to object to the fact that the Town Council had not been consulted as had been promised. Also resolved that the Town Council should produce a document setting out all the information supporting the case for a fire station in the town.

#### 114. ST JOHN'S SCHOOL - PROPOSED EXTENSION

The Council received a consultation document from the Governors of St John's School proposing the extension of the premises to its full planned capacity using available s106 funds.

Cllr Stone reported that he was trying to establish with the County Council whether there was a medium strategy for coping with the reduction in numbers of primary school children in the town. It was noted that there were concerns that the extension of St John's School might result in the closure of one of the older schools in the town. Some Councillors felt that any decision regarding the extension of St John's should be left pending a clearer indication of future growth in the town and also various movements at RAF Brize Norton. Other Councillors were concerned that delay might result in the loss of the s106 funding.

RESOLVED to accept the proposal put forward by the Governors of St John's School to build the remaining four classrooms to be in service by 2007.

#### 115. SWINBROOK ROAD RECREATION GROUND DOG BINS

The Council considered a request from a resident for additional dog bins on the Swinbrook Road Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED that one of the old bins should be replaced by a larger bin of better design and that the frequency of emptying should be increased to twice a week when the new contracts are let in April 2006.

#### 116. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 30 November, set out at Annex ' B' and previously circulated, was received.

#### 117. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

#### 118. 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.

The Mayor wished Councillors and staff Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

17 January 2006

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Town Mayor

1. **SEEDA Funding for Community Facility.** We understand that our bid for SEEDA funding has been recommended by the Advisory Panel. We hope to hear the final outcome in the next few days and I will update Council at the meeting. **The Council welcomed the news that funding had been secured and said that it was important to make swift progress on this project now.**
2. **Vodafone Mobile phone base Station. Peter Cook International, Black Bourton Road.** Vodafone are proposing to install a second installation (similar in design) alongside the existing T- mobile installation. This site is considered less intrusive than three other possible sites – ie Carterton Police Station, the BT Exchange or the Clock Tower in Black Bourton Road. **Noted.**
3. **Christmas Lights Storage.** The Council has for a number of years stored its Christmas Lights in containers on a site in Black Bourton Road. The new owners of the site have indicated that they would like to terminate the agreement. Thanks to assistance from Cllr Crapper, I think I have identified another site in the location. Is the Council happy to delegate to me responsibility for agreeing a new tenancy agreement? **Agreed that the Clerk should negotiate a new lease with the land owner and also that a new container should be purchased for between £800 and £1,000.**
4. **Christmas.** The Town Hall will close on Friday 23 December and reopen on Tuesday 3 January. There is a Planning Committee meeting and a Policy Committee meeting scheduled for that evening. **Noted.**
5. **The Council received a thank you letter from Harefield Hamsters for its s137 grant.**
6. **The Clerk reported that Monahan Way would be closed for some 5 weeks from 3 January for works on the drains. The alternative route will be via Brize Norton village.**