

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 AUGUST 2005
AT 7.45 P.M.

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

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

Apologies: Cllr L.H Giles and Cllr P.J. Handley.

48 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 July 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

49 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Mrs Crossland said that she would be involved with some of the activities for young people reported at item 35.

50 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor had attended ceremonies to install the new church army chaplain and to mark the laying up of the standard of 99 Squadron. He thanked Councillors who had been involved in the town centre consultation exercise, which had been attended by some 200 people. More than 130 questionnaires had been completed and these were being analysed.

51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Walcott declared an interest in Item 54 (Planning) by virtue of his membership of the District Planning Committee. Cllr Scott declared an interest in planning application 61/2005. Cllrs Crossland and Mrs Crossland declared an interest in item 60, payment 7888. Cllrs Mrs Crossland and Madden declared an interest in 53.1 as Governors of St John' s School.

52 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No issues were raised.

53. 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'.

54. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 19 July and 2 August 2005. These were noted.

55 ANNUAL RETURN TO 31 MARCH 2005

The Council received the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2005. The Clerk drew attention to Section 2 - the Statement of Assurance - and asked the Council to consider the replies to questions 1 to 8 on the various controls and checks in place. She also drew attention to Section 4 which had been completed by the Council's internal auditor.

RESOLVED that the Mayor should sign sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return.

56 PARISH ALLOWANCES

The Council received a letter from WODC informing parish councils that the Parish Remuneration Panel would be giving further consideration to the question of allowances in the autumn. Councillors were invited to consider whether they wished to make any changes to the present arrangement.

RESOLVED that the Council would continue not to pay any allowances to Councillors for attending Council meetings. The new travel and subsistence rates, effective from 1 April 2005, were noted.

57 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Cllrs Mrs Bulley and Mrs Walcott expressed their concerns about the poor condition of the various rose beds around the town and of the large planters in the town centre. It was recognised that the problem with the rose beds was poor maintenance whilst the problems with the planters were caused by vandalism.

Councillors considered various means of encouraging residents to look after planting including visits to schools and articles in local publications. It was suggested that in due course the roses might be replaced with less high maintenance shrubs. The Clerk was asked to talk to experts, including those at Oxford City Council and Banbury, to get ideas about how best to tackle the problem of vandalism to the planting in the boxes.

58 PENSIONS POLICY

The Council received a draft pensions policy. The Clerk explained that she had drawn heavily on the model supplied by the County Council. In particular, the Council was asked to agree a retirement age of 65 and that ill health retirement should be certified by an independent Occupational Health Advisor. Councillors asked for further clarification of the term 'sufficient pensions contributions' for ill health retirement and the Clerk said she would clarify this.

RESOLVED that, subject to clarification of the term 'sufficient', the draft Pensions Policy should be agreed.

59 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

60. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

61. 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

20 September 2005

Town Mayor

1. **Polling Station Provision NE Carterton development.** To see the attached letter from WODC proposing that the pavilion be used as a polling station until the community facility is developed. **Councillors expressed concern that moving the polling station to the pavilion might discourage residents of NE Carterton from voting. It was RESOLVED that the Council should ask that the polling station continue to be at the school until such time as the community facility opens.**
2. **Community Facility** – to see proposed timetable for the delivery of the community facility. **Noted that building was due to start in November 2006 with a completion in summer 2007.**
3. **Trees in Carterton** – to see the note of the meeting held with the OCC tree officer. Would District Councillors be willing to take up the issue of TPO (especially by Party Zone) with WODC? Are there any Councillors who would like to survey the main roads (Burford Road to start with perhaps) to identify gaps where trees could be planted on highway land? **Noted. It was agreed that the Clerk should approach the District Council again with a view to obtaining a TPO on the trees by Party Zone. Cllrs Mrs Bulley, Mrs Crossland and Crossland said that they would be willing to walk Burford Road and identify a small number of sites where trees could be planted in the verges.**
4. **Youth Matters Green Paper** – to note that the Government issued a Green Paper on 18 July (summary attached). I propose to respond suggesting that some of the £40m might be made directly available to Quality Councils. **Council agreed that the Clerk should respond to the consultation document making this suggestion.**
5. **Moorview Hospital** – to consider a request from Cllr Mrs Crossland that the Council write opposing the closure of this facility. **It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the PCT, copied to WODC, requesting that Moorview Hospital should continue to provide its present level of service.**
6. **Xtreme Wheels** takes place on Saturday 20 August. This year, the event has been organised by the User Group. It will start at 11am and end at about 5pm with a prize giving at 4 pm. Councillors are invited to attend for some or all of the day. **Noted.**
7. **Garden News Allotment Competition.** Mrs Collicutt has won the Garden News National competition. Her plot has featured in Garden News, the Witney Gazette, the Oxford Mail and on Central TV. The Town Council sent flowers and a congratulatory card. **The Council was delighted to note Mrs Collicutt's success.**
8. **Sandra Kibble** – the Mayor will be hosting a drink for Mrs Kibble at 12 noon on 26 August to mark her 25 years of service with the Council. Councillors are invited to attend. **Noted.**