

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 JANUARY 2005  
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 N Tully
Cllr. P.J. Handley	Cllr. W. Walcott
Cllr. D. King	Cllr. Mrs. L. Walcott
Cllr Mrs. A. Madden	Cllr P. Wesson - for items 119 to 126

117. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 2004, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record subject to two small typographical amendments and signed by the Mayor.

118. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that the local police had confirmed that the break-in at Giles (Item 105) was allocated a JG crime number and that this applies to crimes committed in Carterton. Lloyds Chemist (Item 108) had decided to open its larger store on Sundays in the run up to Christmas. A charge of £4 has legally to be made for an emergency supply of medicine. If a person has a prescription, normal charges apply.

The Burford Surgery had responded to the Council's concerns (Item 109) saying that phase one of the improvement programme ' has involved removing some diseased trees and clearing space for improved parking. Phase 2 will focus on better patient access including an improved entrance and a disabled toilet.'

NE Carterton NEAP (Item 112). Members of the Recreation Committee met with Kompan and officers from the District Council on 10 January to discuss the equipment to be provided on the site. It was agreed that some changes be made and Kompan are re-calculating the cost. Cllr Mrs Crossland is consulting the school about ground graphics. The aim is to have the equipment installed by the late Spring.

Cllrs Scott and Walcott had visited the Springboard project and it was agreed that their application for s137 funding should be re-considered at the February Council meeting.

119. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had attended a Christmas performance at Gateway School, the Lord Mayor's Carol Concert and a Reception for Oxfordshire's Olympic and Paralympic sportsmen and women. An appeal in the town on 31 December had raised just over £5,000 for the Tsunami Appeal and the Mayor thanked everyone who had helped. The Mayor's Walk on 1 January had been very well attended. The Mayor and

Mayoress had attended a joint service for the Tsunami victims at St John's Church and the Plough Sunday Service at Banbury.

120. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Handley and Walcott declared an interest in Item 123 (Planning) by virtue of their membership of the District Planning Committee. Cllrs Giles, Tully and Walcott declared an interest in Item 127 and left the room while this item was discussed.

121. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

There were none.

122. 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'.

123. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 14 December 2004 and 4 January 2005. These were noted.

124. POLICY COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 4 January 2004.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting be accepted.

125. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The Clerk reported on proposed changes to the rate of the employer's contribution to the Local Government Pension Scheme. The options were to move to a higher rate from 1 April 2005 or to phase the increases in over three years.

RESOLVED that, with effect from 1 April 2005 the employer contribution to the OCC Pension Fund be increased from 278% to 300%.

126. BOUNDARY DISPUTE

The Council received advice from its solicitor about a boundary dispute in Swinbrook Road. The solicitor advised that the resident had planted a hedge on Council owned land but that the resident asserted he owned a 53ft frontage to his property. Litigation might be the only way to resolve the issue.

Council noted that the resident has tried to purchase land from the Council some years ago. The Clerk was asked to look out the papers and pass them to the solicitor who should order the removal of the hedge. The Clerk was also asked to contact the relatives of former owners of the property.

RESOLVED that the Council should take all necessary steps, including legal action, to remove the hedge from its land.

127. H3G BASE STATION

Hutchinson 3G UK had consulted the Council on proposals to install a new mobile radio base station within the tower of the Tower Centre. Various other sites had been considered but the Tower Centre was considered the best site. The proposal constitutes permitted development and a formal planning application is not required. There was no requirement to notify the residents of the Tower Centre.

Council felt that the residents in the Tower Centre should be informed of the proposals and asked the Clerk to write to them. It was noted that as planning approval was not needed, the Council could not prevent the siting of the mast in the tower. This being so, it was agreed that Hutchinson 3G UK should be asked to undertake some refurbishment of the tower.

RESOLVED that residents be informed of the proposals and that Hutchinson 3G UK be asked to refurbish the tower.

128. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

129. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

15 February 2005

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Town Mayor

1. **Post Boxes on NE Carterton Development.** Cllr Madden has asked if the Council would be willing to support requests from residents for post boxes on the new development. **Agreed that the Council should support the provision of a post box by the school.**
2. **Christmas tree.** This year, the Christmas tree was seriously vandalised. The transformer was destroyed and most of the bulbs stolen. The Council is asked to consider whether we should try a different location next year and if so, where. The alternative is to have some form of security screen made but this would need to be a substantial structure if it were to be effective. **Agreed that the Clerk should investigate the possibility of a tree either on or attached to the balcony of the Town Hall.**
3. **North East Carterton – Local Centre.** An exhibition of the proposed design for the NE Carterton Local Centre will be held between 17<sup>th</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> January at the Town Hall. The exhibition will then move to St Johns School from 24<sup>th</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> January. The District Council and developers have decided against holding a public meeting, but will be at the exhibition between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January and between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Councillors are urged to visit the exhibition during these hours. **Council noted that traffic was a growing problem and that access was a particular issue in some areas. But it was important to balance parking with the need for other land uses and, in particular the community facility. It was also noted that the development was meant to encourage a green transport policy. Councillors said they would visit the exhibition during the manned sessions.**
4. **The South East Plan.** We have received initial details (which will be available at the meeting) of the forthcoming consultation on the South East Plan. We will be sent a copy of a draft plan later this year and I would suggest that there is a special meeting of the Planning Committee to consider this. **Noted.**
5. **The Clerk reported that the Council had been awarded just under £5,000 from the Quality Council fund to spend on improving connections with the District and County Council.**
6. **The Mayor reported that the man who appeared to have been fraudulently collecting sponsorship for the Mayor's Walk had been arrested and was helping police with their enquiries into a number of burglaries.**