

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 AUGUST 2006
AT 7.45 P.M.

Present: Cllr P Scott - Town Mayor
Cllr P Handley - Deputy Mayor

Cllr Mrs. D.V. Bulley	Cllr Mrs A Madden
Cllr R.W. Crapper	Cllr P. Madden
Cllr Mrs. M. Crossland	Cllr M. Townsend
Cllr B Crossland	Cllr N Tully
Cllr. L.H. Giles	Cllr Mrs L. Walcott

Apologies: Cllr D King, Cllr K Stone, Cllr Mrs L Walcott and Cllr W. Walcott MBE

PART 1

46 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 July 2006, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

47. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that the County Council had written saying that it could not support the closure of Black Bourton Road. The CFF Town Centre Group would consider the matter further. The Clerk reported that the resident by The Maples play area had agreed to some planting against his wall. The Clerk would arrange this in the autumn.

48 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported that he had attended a Dinner at Dorchester Abbey in late June. On 15 July he had been to the Family Festival on the Recreation Ground and the Open Day at the Police Station. He had judged the Carterton in Bloom Competition with the Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had attended the Extreme Wheels Day in the absence of the Mayor and that the event had been exceptionally well organised and much enjoyed by everyone. The Mayor invited Councillors to a small 'thank you' party that he had arranged for the organisers.

The Mayor asked Councillors to let him have any thoughts on the Peace Camp that had been set up by RAF Brize Norton as he was due to attend a meeting on the subject.

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Handley declared an interest in item 52 (Planning) by virtue of his membership of the District Planning Committee. He also declared an interest in the Closure Order for Downs Road. Cllr Scott declared an interest in planning applications 39/2006, 46/2006, 49/2006 and 68/2006. Cllr Crossland and Cllr Mrs Crossland declared an interest in Accounts for Payment.

50. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No items were raised

51. 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' (see below).

52. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 18 July and 1 August 2006. These were noted.

53. ANNUAL RETURN TO 31 MARCH 2006

Council received the Annual Return to 31 March 2006. The Clerk drew the Council's attention to Section 4 of the return which had been completed by the internal auditor and also to section 2 in which the Council was being asked to agree that a number of checks and procedures were in place. Councillors then studied Section 1 of the report which summarises the Council's financial position at the end of March 2006.

RESOLVED that the Mayor should sign Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return on behalf of the Council.

54. CARTERTON COMMUNITY FACILITY

The Council received a report on various issues relating to the development of the new Community Hall.

The Clerk explained that the WODC Cabinet had discussed the matter in early August. Town Councillors had not been able to speak because of a conflict of interest. The Town Council was now being asked to comment on alternative sites for a public house.

Councillors noted that a planning application had been submitted to WODC for a family pub and hotel on the West Oxfordshire Retail Park. This had long been identified as a suitable site as it was away from residential areas. The Town Council considered this to be a far better site than the local centre on the NE Carterton estate. A scaled plan showing the footprint of the hall and a pub/restaurant clearly demonstrated that there was not room for both facilities on the local centre site.

The Council then considered the advice received from the VAT expert. It was noted that the best approach was for the District Council to transfer the land and the s106 to the Town Council. The Town Council would let the building contract and make payments to contractors. The completed Hall would be leased by the Town Council to an independent Management Committee who would not be liable to VAT provided the turn over was below the VAT threshold.

RESOLVED that the Clerk should reply to WODC saying that the pub should be on the West Oxfordshire Retail Park. The Clerk was also asked to state that the Town Council would not contribute to the capital cost of the hall, nor take over its management and maintenance, if WODC approved a pub on the local centre site.

RESOLVED that subject to the satisfactory resolution of the issue of the pub, the Town Council should ask the District to transfer the land and the section 106 money to the Town Council who would then take over the project.

It was agreed that a subgroup should be formed to take this forward. Cllrs Crossland, Madden, Handley, Bulley and Scott said they would be willing to be involved.

55. FUNDING FOR THE ALLANDALE

The Council received a reply from the Head of the Youth Support Service to concerns expressed about the lack of progress made by the youth service in organising taster sessions. Cllr Mrs Crossland had received further information from the local youth worker which said that, although a number of events had been arranged, they had been cancelled due to lack of interest. Cllr Mrs Crossland was also unhappy that the proposed new constitution for the Allandale placed so much emphasis on special needs groups to the exclusion of the majority of young people in the town.

Council expressed frustration at the lack of progress and considered withholding the grant. It was agreed that the Clerk should meet the area youth worker to see if a solution could be found.

56 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 31 July, set out at Annex ' B' and previously circulated, was received. Cllr Giles asked if it would be possible to have a summary of expenditure against budget head and the clerk agreed to provide this in September.

57. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

58. 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.

PART 11

(As Trustees of the Alvescot Road Recreation Ground Charity)

59. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Council received the accounts for the Charity for the year ending March 2006. It was noted that expenditure was higher than in the previous year as a new piece of play equipment had been purchased. Income was lower as the Football Club had not used the pitches during the period.

It was noted that the Football Club had been playing on the Recreation Ground over the summer and that there had been several occasions when they had wanted to play when the Rec had been booked for other events. The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the Club to remind them of the need to book and also to pass on complaints about the antisocial behaviour of some of the players. The Clerk was asked to change the locks on the pavilion to avoid unauthorised use.

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

19 September 2006

Town Mayor

1. **Kilkenny Lane** - OCC has carried out an informal consultation which shows that residents favour a closure in Kilkenny Lane immediately to the east of the allotments. Officers have asked if they could develop the current entrance to the allotments to create a turning area. I have suggested that they discuss this with the Allotment Association and also stipulated that their actions must not result in the loss of any allotment plots. **Noted.**
2. **Proposed Bus Stop Clearways** – to note the attached letter from OCC. **Noted.**
3. **Roundabout resurfacing in Carterton** – to note the attached letter from OCC. **Noted. Council felt that the roundabouts needed more than resurfacing given the continuing number of heavy loads using the roads.**
4. **Temporary Road Closure** to allow resurfacing – to note the attached letter from OCC. **Noted.**
5. **Remembrance Sunday** – to see the attached letter. **Noted.**
6. **Floral Displays** - Cllr Mrs Bulley has commented on the attractiveness of the floral displays, particularly given the very hot dry spell in June and July. Would the Council like me to send a letter of thanks to our contractor. **It was agreed that such a letter be sent.**
7. **Publications received**

- OPFA The Playing Fields

8. **Future Meetings**

We were due to have a Policy meeting in September and a Recreation meeting in October. I would like to suggest that we swap these two meetings round so that the September meeting can consider proposals for the refurbishment of the play area at Swinbrook Road. This would mean:

- Sept 5 – Planning and Recreation Committees
- September 19 – Planning Committee and Council
- October 3 – Planning and Policy Committees
- October 17 – Planning and Council.

9. **Holidays**

Please note that I am on holiday from Friday 25 August to Sunday 10 September inclusive. We have arranged cover so that there should be two people in the Town Hall each day during my absence.

10. **Traffic Prohibition Order. It was noted that alterations were to be made to the Burford Road/A40 link road junction.**