

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 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 K Stone
Cllr B Crossland	Cllr N Tully
Cllr. L.H. Giles	Cllr W. Walcott MBE
Cllr D King	Cllr P Wesson.

Apologies: Cllr M. Townsend and Cllr Mrs L Walcott

The Mayor reported that Cllr Townsend was in hospital. Councillors asked that he be sent their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

90. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 October 2006, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

91. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that the new office computers had arrived and the data transferred. There had been some minor problems but these had now been rectified.

The Clerk reported that the repairs to the Town Hall drains had been completed; that the new system of inspections of play areas by WODC was working well and that Chris Collett had been appointed to keep an eye on the Burial Ground. The Clerk advised that she would be bringing the results of a tendering exercise for the maintenance of the Burial Ground to the next Council meeting.

92. STOP THE WAR DEMONSTRATION

The Mayor welcomed Chief Inspector Evernden to the meeting. The Chief Inspector set out the detailed arrangements for the Stop The War Demonstration to be held in Carterton on 2 December. He anticipated a maximum of 2,500 demonstrators and emphasised that the organisers were working closely with the police. He thanked the Town Council for allowing the recreation ground to be used as a site for the rally.

In answer to questions the Chief Inspector confirmed that RAF personnel were being briefed. There was discussion about the use of mounted police and cameras to help control the event and the Chief Inspector confirmed that any trouble on the day should be reported on the 999 number. He asked the Town Council to publicise the event in the local community and confirmed that the neighbourhood police team would be on duty as would officers from a number of other forces.

The Mayor thanked the Chief Inspector for his presentation. It was noted that this demonstration might become a regular event.

93. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that he had attended the launch of the *Who's My Bobby* website; a civic dinner at Vale of White Horse and the AGM of the Carers Centre (North & West Oxfordshire). He had been to the Songsters Remembrance Concert at Gateway School, a meeting on the subject of Neighbourhood Policing at Carterton Police Station, and the presentation of the Lord Lieutenant's Award to Cadets at RAF Benson. He had presented flowers to a Carterton couple celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary.

The Mayor had represented the Council at a Thanksgiving Service for Peter Seldon on 9 November. He had joined the RBL to observe the 11/11 Silence and had attended the Remembrance Day Service and Parade in Carterton on 12 November. The Mayor and the Mayoress had hosted a Civic Reception at the Town Hall on 3 November.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Handley, Walcott and Stone declared an interest in item 98 (Planning) by virtue of their membership of the District Planning Committee. Cllr Scott declared an interest in planning application 107/2006 and 95/2006 and in accounts for payment. (item 105). Cllr Wesson declared an interest in Black Bourton Burial Ground (item 91)

95. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

None were raised.

96. 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' below.

97. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 17 October and 7 November 2006. These were noted.

98. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on 7 November 2006.

Council noted with concern that the Football Club was not responding to communications from the Town Hall. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange a meeting between the Council, WODC and the Club.

The Clerk reported that the electricity supplier had agreed to provide a new meter at the pavilion and had recommended that this be boxed in. Council asked the Clerk to arrange for an electrician to check the pavilion before the new meter is installed.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendations set out in the report.

99. SECTION 137 GRANTS

The Council considered further information in support of an application from Kilkenny Cricket Club for a s137 grant.

RESOLVED that a grant of £500 be given to the Club to purchase kit under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972. It was suggested that the Club might be asked to seek sponsorship from business in the town.

100. AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

The Council received the External Auditor's Report for the year 2006/2007. The Council noted that there was a £1 difference in the figures but did not feel that this was material.

The Council also noted the comments about giving details of expenditure powers in the Minutes. Where s137 powers are used, this is already noted. The Clerk said that she would record references where appropriate.

RESOLVED to accept the external audit report. The Clerk was thanked for completing the accounts.

101. SWINBROOK ROAD PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT

The Council received the details of the final cost of the SMP Playgrounds proposals. It was confirmed that children had been involved in choosing the equipment. The Clerk confirmed that the refurbishment would take place once the developers had marked out boundaries. The cost of the refurbishment would be met from the sales receipt under the terms of the s106 agreement.

RESOLVED that under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1979 the Council should enter into a contract with SMP to refurbish the play area at Swinbrook Road at a cost of £46,465.

102. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk presented a Risk Assessment report. She drew attention to the new Fire Risk Regulations. The system set up to control the issue of travel tokens was working well and the scheme becoming more popular. She had also identified the new Community Hall as a risk area and reported on measures taken to control the project. The Clerk confirmed that Town Hall computer files were backed up and stored off the premises.

RESOLVED to accept the Risk Assessment as presented.

103. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 31 October, set out at Annex 'B' was tabled. A summary of Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading was also provided at Annex 'B'.

104. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

12 December 2006

Clerk's Report – 21 November 2006

ANNEX A

1. **Ball Games on Verges.** To consider the attached letter. **Council asked the clerk to reply to the resident explaining why it was not possible to erect 'No Ball Game' signs and also to talk to the police about the line that they appeared to have taken with this case.**
2. **Local Government White Paper.** To note the attached summary as it relates to town and parish councils. **Noted.**
3. **Kilkenny Lane** – to note proposals for stopping up. **Noted. Cllr King was asked to raise with WODC concerns about riders being able to take horses onto the Country Park.**
4. **Willow Meadows** – Overhead Line Maintenance Works. To consider attached letter. **Noted.**
5. **West Oxon CAB** has written to thank the Council for its s137 grant. **Noted.**
6. **OCC 2005 Casualty Report 2006/07 & Road Safety Plan** will be available at the meeting. **Noted.**
7. **Forthcoming meetings and events:**

Monday 27 November – Switch on of Christmas Lights and Street Fair

Tuesday 5 December – Council Christmas Dinner

Thursday 7 December – re-launch of Carterton Market. 10.00am event

Tuesday 12 December – Planning Committee and Council

Saturday 23 December to Tuesday 2 January - Town Hall closed for Christmas and New Year

Monday 1 January – Town Mayor's Sponsored Walk

Tuesday 2 January – Planning Committee

Tuesday 16 January – Planning Committee and Council

Noted.

8. **The Clerk apologised for not having included the Minutes of the TAC meeting on the agenda. She reported that OCC had confirmed that the Iron Bridge was checked every two years and was structurally sound.**
9. **The Clerk reported that John Moore Heritage Services had asked if the Council would be prepared to donate the findings from the dig to the Oxford Museum Service. This was agreed but the Clerk was asked to obtain photographs of the most important pieces and also to ask for the loan of the buckle and any other significant items.**

