

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2007
AT 7.45 P.M.

Present: Cllr P Scott – Town Mayor
Cllr Mrs M Crossland - Deputy Mayor

Cllr Mrs D V Bulley	Cllr P Madden
Cllr A D Coomber	Cllr Mrs N Miah
Cllr R W Crapper	Cllr Mrs S E Stone
Cllr B Crossland	Cllr Mrs L Walcott
Cllr A Farmer	Cllr W O Walcott MBE
Cllr S Lodge	Cllr E Wearing
Cllr N A MacRae MBE	

Apologies: Cllr E Liston

116. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2007, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

117. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that David Cameron had written in support of the Council's letter to the head of the MOD estates but that no reply had been received as yet. She was meeting Bill Oddy in January to discuss CCTV. Cllr Coomber reported that he had heard from the Chief Constable that there were no current plans to close Carterton Police Station.

The Clerk has obtained legal advice on extending the Football Club lease and confirmed that the lease could be extended to 2032 with a break clause in 2020. She would now need to establish if that would be acceptable to the Football Foundation.

The Clerk confirmed that the ARRG bank account had been set up and that the Council's insurer had advised that it would cost £231 plus 5% tax to increase the Council's fidelity guarantee to £1.5m. The Council RESOLVED that the insurance should be increased.

118. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported that he had presented awards at the Squash Club and attended a CATARA meeting on the base. He had attended the Christmas Lights in the town centre and also a switch-on of lights in Scholars Acre organised by the residents. He had attended the OCVA lunch.

The Clerk was asked to send a letter of apology to the resident who had complained about falling debris from fireworks let off at the Christmas Lights event and to arrange that smaller fireworks be used in future years.

119. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Madden declared an interest in planning (item 123) by virtue of his membership of the WODC Planning Committee.

120. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No issues were raised

121. ADJOURNMENT FOR THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR TO RAISE MATTERS

Councillor MacRae said that he was in discussions with the County Council about the construction of bridges on the perimeter of the NE Carterton estate and had been promised an early reply.

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'. See below.

123. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 20 November 2007. These were noted.

124. BUDGET FOR 2008/09 AND PRECEPT

The Council received a draft budget for 2008/09. In introducing the paper, the Clerk explained that as the transfer of s106 money from WODC was to be phased over a longer period than anticipated, she estimated that interest received next year would be about £7,000 lower than shown in the draft budget.

Council debated the merits of an increase in line with inflation. On balance it was felt that it was best to continue to build up a small reserve. Cllr MacRae raised a number of detailed questions about the provision on various subheads. He felt that the Council could manage with an increase below inflation.

RESOLVED that the precept should be increased by 3% making the figure for 2008/09 £314,440.

RESOLVED that the Town Mayor's Allowance should, from 2008, be increased by £250 to allow the Town Mayor to contribute this sum towards expenses incurred by the Deputy Town Mayor.

125. TOWER SQUARE LOTTERY BID

The Mayor expressed his gratitude to all those who had helped with the successful lottery bid for the Tower Square Regeneration project.

A meeting had been held that morning to discuss how the project should be taken forward. One major issue was the future of the tree. It was not clear if the County Council, as owners of the tree, would allow it to be removed and replaced by a mature specimen. Council felt that this was worth serious consideration given the condition of the existing tree. It was agreed that residents would need to be consulted.

126. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 31 October 2007, set out at Annex 'B', was approved. A summary of Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading was also provided at Annex 'B'.

127. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts set out at Annex 'C' be approved for payment. It was noted that the first two payments for the new hall were included in this month's cheques. The Clerk explained that she would be applying for SEEDA and WREN grants which should be paid to the Council before the end of the month.

128. 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

1. NE Carterton Development – Phase 2. Please see attached letter from David Wilson Homes. **It was noted that WODC planners felt this consultation was premature as a number of issues had still to be resolved.**

2. Christmas Market – At the last meeting, Council asked me to investigate the possibility of a special market on 24 December. Although CTC has the ability to hold one extra market under the terms of our licence from WODC, the road closure has proved more of a problem. I will update the Council at the meeting. **It was noted that OCC had advised that it did not have the powers to close the road for an additional market. The market manager would be discussing with the owners of the fruit and vegetable stall the possibility of them setting up on 24 December on an area of private land.**

3. New play area Swinbrook Road. The contractor will be installing the new play equipment at Swinbrook Road during January. The company developing the housing on the site has suggested that we have an opening ceremony. I will circulate further details when they are available. **Noted.**

4. West Oxfordshire CAB – please see attached letter. **Noted.**

5. Forthcoming events/meetings
 - 17 December - Council Christmas Dinner at Burford Golf Club
 - 24 – 28 December - Town Hall closed for Christmas break
 - 1 January – Mayor's Walk
 - 8 January – Planning and Recreation Committee
 - 22 January – Planning and Council

6. The Clerk circulated forms for Councillors to complete if they wished to receive copies of the Electoral Register.