

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 AUGUST 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 Coomber	Cllr Mrs N Miah
Cllr R Crapper	Cllr Mrs S E Stone
Cllr B Crossland	Cllr Mrs L Walcott
Cllr A Farmer	Cllr E Wearing
Cllr S Lodge	

Apologies: Cllr Miss E Liston; Cllr N MacRae MBE and Cllr W O Walcott MBE

PART 1
AS CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

50 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 July 2007, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

51. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

52. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor said that he had opened the Churches Family Festival and had, with the Deputy Mayor, judged the Carterton in Bloom Competition. The Deputy Mayor had represented the Council at the Scouts AGM and at a performance by the County Youth Orchestra.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Madden declared an interest in planning (item 57) by virtue of his membership of the WODC Planning Committee. Cllr Mrs Bulley and Cllr Wearing declared a prejudicial interest as residents of Swinbrook Road and Burswin Road in Kilkenny Lane (item 55) and did not vote on the matter. Cllr Coomber declared a prejudicial interest in the same item by virtue of his employment by the RAF and did not vote.

54. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

A number of residents spoke in opposition to the closure of Kilkenny Lane.

55. KILKENNY LANE

The Mayor invited County Cllrs Couchman and Handley to the table for this item.

A number of Councillors said that it had always been their understanding that Kilkenny Lane would not be closed until a new link road had been built which could be accessed from Swinbrook Road. It was felt that Kilkenny Lane should be reopened and upgraded including

ditches along the southern edge of the lane. There were also concerns about the extra cost and pollution caused by people travelling via Upavon Way as a result of the closure. It was noted that the Upavon Way traffic lights were not phased properly and that Brizewood was now being used as a rat-run.

It was noted that the Council had received correspondence from two residents in Swinbrook Road asking that Kilkenny Lane remain closed and that others shared this view. It was felt that upgrading Kilkenny Lane might be too expensive but that it could possibly become a one-way exit from town or have some form of tidal flow controlled by traffic lights.

It was agreed that it was crucial that there be a road link between the town centre and the new estate and the Clerk was asked to make a case for Swinbrook Road to have a junction onto the new section road to be constructed in 2009. It was also important that Swinbrook Road be upgraded to cope with the additional traffic.

Cllr Couchman said that OCC Cabinet had considered this issue and had not been aware of any opposition to closure. Given the concerns being raised he said he would ask OCC to take another look. Cllr Handley said that he too would raise the matter with the County Council officers.

RESOLVED that Kilkenny Lane should be reopened and that there should be a junction from Swinbrook Road to the new link road due to be constructed in 2009.

56. 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.

57. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 17 July and 7 August 2007. These were noted.

The Clerk drew attention to the Working Group set up to consider the Local Planning framework to 2026. It was agreed that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Committee Chairmen should also be invited to serve on this Working Group.

58. ANNUAL RETURN TO MARCH 2007

The Council received the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2007.

The Clerk explained the variances between the figures for 2006 and 2007 as set out in Section 1 of the Return. Council then considered the Annual Governance Statement at Section 2 and agreed that each section could be marked 'yes'. The Clerk drew particular attention to the new requirement to review the effectiveness of the Council's internal controls, and the Council considered a detailed report on this issue. It was noted that the internal auditor had completed Section 4 of the report.

The Clerk explained that the accounts for the Alvescot Road Charity Account had been audited separately but that there had not been a separate bank account during 2006/07. However a separate bank account for the charity was in the process of being set up.

RESOLVED that the Mayor should sign Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return. The Town Hall staff were thanked for their work on the production of the accounts.

59. NE CARTERTON S106 FUNDS

The Council received a report on the proposed use of some of the NE Carterton s106 money. Council expressed deep concern that this money was being allocated to low priority items and also to projects outside Carterton. It was noted that Cllr Handley had already raised concerns with the Chief Executive of WODC who had indicated that he would be willing to meet Councillors to discuss the matter.

RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to the Chief Executive of WODC asking for a meeting on the allocation of s106 funds.

60. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council received a request from Age Concern asking for funding for a Health and Wellbeing event to be held in Carterton in September.

RESOLVED that a grant of £100 be paid under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

61. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

62. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

63. 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 TRUSTEE OF ALVESCOT ROAD RECREATION GROUND

65. CHARITY ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2007

The Trustee received the accounts for 2006/07. The Clerk explained that the grass cutting and litter picking figures had been restated in 2006/07 to give a more accurate picture of costs.

RESOLVED to accept the accounts for 2006/07.

RESOLVED to sign the form setting up a separate bank account for the charity.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm

18 September 2007

Town Mayor

1. **Community Payback.** I attended a presentation on Community Payback at the District. This is the new name for the scheme run by the probation service who are looking for work for those doing Community Service. We need to be able to offer a minimum work to occupy a gang of six for one day. (The probation service cannot provide a supervisor if there are less than six people). I am drawing up a list of possible jobs for submission to WODC who will act as co-ordinators. If any Councillors have any ideas please let me know. **Noted. Council suggested that the pavilion and play equipment might be repainted.**
2. **Polling stations** WODC has advised us that it is required to undertake a review of polling stations in the District. Details of the polling stations in Carterton, together with WODC's comments, are attached. Please note that this is not a review of Ward boundaries. **Noted. The Clerk was asked whether it was necessary to have both the Social Centre and the Town Hall as polling stations.**
3. **Carterton Football Club.** The Chairman has written thanking the Councillors for 'the trust you have shown, your understanding and above all, your financial help'. **Noted.**
4. Publications available at meeting:
 - News from Oxfordshire County Council
 - Networknews from WODC
5. **Forthcoming meetings:**
 - Special Meeting of the Council at 7.30 pm on 23 August to discuss tenders for the new Community Hall
 - Planning Committee at 7.30 pm on 4 September
 - Recreation Committee at 7.30 pm on 11 September
 - Planning and Council on 18 September