

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JULY 2008
AT 7.45 P.M.

Present: Cllr Mrs Maxine Crossland - Town Mayor
Cllr N A MacRae MBE - Deputy Town Mayor

Cllr Mrs D V Bulley	Cllr S Lodge
Cllr A D Coomber	Cllr P Madden
Cllr R W Crapper	Cllr P Scott
Cllr B Crossland	Cllr Mrs S E Stone
Cllr A Farmer	Cllr Mrs L Walcott
Cllr E Liston	Cllr W O Walcott MBE

Apologies: Cllr Mrs N Miah and Cllr E Wearing

Before the meeting, Mrs Jill Edwards gave a short report of her performance at the most recent Transplant Games. She thanked the Council for their support over many years and presented the Council with one of her Gold Medals. The Mayor congratulated Mrs Edwards on her many achievements.

40. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 June 2008, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

41. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Scott reported that he had been interviewed by the media on the demolition of the MOD housing. It was noted that while the Brize Norton Road was closed, bus services would be re-routed via Burford Way and Upavon Way. The Clerk said she had spoken to HMRC to clarify the position regarding Club assets. The Mayor mentioned that personal views had been expressed to her about the need to replace the sprung floor at the Squash Club.

43. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs Crossland, said she had attended Gordon Maxwell's funeral, the Volunteer Link-Up's 25th anniversary AGM, Brize Norton Family Day, a meeting at the Community College to discuss its Engineering Status, a dinner at Dorchester Abbey, a meeting of the Over 60s, Relay for Life, a Songsters performance, the opening of the new bar at Browne's Hall, the new care home on the NE Carterton estate, the RBL Fair, Banbury Hobby Horse Fair and Civic Service, Carterton Open Gardens, the Community briefing day at RAF Brize Norton, the presentation of awards to Youth Councillors, HM The Queen's presentation of colours at RAF Fairford, the Save the Children AGM, the schools swimming gala and a meeting with the Rector on youth issues.

The Deputy Mayor had represented the Mayor at the Civic Service in Abingdon and at the Exceptional Citizens Award Ceremony.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Madden declared an interest in planning (item 48) by virtue of his membership of the WODC Planning Committee. Cllr MacRae declared an interest in item 57 allotments and burial ground and left the room when the latter was discussed. Cllr Farmer declared an interest in item 57 and left the room when allotment land was discussed. He also declared an

interest in the Football Club. Cllr Mrs Crossland and Cllr Crossland declared an interest in item 55, cheque 8909.

45. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No issues were raised.

46. ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

No issues were raised.

47. 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.

48. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 17 June and 1 July 2008. These were noted.

49. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Administration Committee held on 1 July 2008.

Cllr Crossland reported that there had been detailed discussion of expenditure against budget. It was noted that the grant to the Football Club should be £6,000 rather than £15,000. The draft accounts had also been considered in some detail. Cllr Crossland presented the revised Regulations for the Burial Ground and these were agreed subject to the addition of wording about the removal of faded silk flowers.

The Minutes of the Administration Committee were approved.

50. COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The note of the Community Centre Management Committee meeting held on 2 July 2008 was received.

Cllr B Crossland gave a brief report on the artwork project and also mentioned that work had begun on recruiting the Centre Manager.

The Minutes of the Community Centre Management Committee were noted.

51. ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2008

The Council received the Annual Return for 2007/08. The Clerk reported that the figure in box 8 should read £1,221,145. She explained the variations between 2006/07 and 2007/08 as being:

Box 2 Precept. This increased by 3% in real terms. The rest of the increase was due to more dwellings in the town.

Box 3 total other receipts. £944,350 was generated as a result of the sale of a piece of land. There have been grants totalling £375,589. Interest received at £58,589 was £42,000 higher than in the previous year as a result of investing the capital receipt.

Box 6 total other payments. Expenditure in the current year included £518,840 on Community Centre construction costs.

Box 9 Fixed assets had been reduced by £1,000,000 following the sale of land and increased by £518,000 representing the cost of building work on the new community centre as at 31 March 2008.

Council noted the Internal Audit Report and studied the Annual Governance Statement in Section 2 of the Return.

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

52. REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT

Council received a paper setting out the internal audit process. It was noted that Critchleys had carried out a detailed audit of the accounts and that a number of other checks were in place.

RESOLVED that the internal audit procedures were adequate.

53. REQUESTS FROM RESIDENTS

Council received a request from a resident in Swinbrook Road to allow access over land owned by the Council. In discussion it was suggested that the Council might allow a right of way over its land but there were concerns that this would create a precedent and might compromise the Council's ownership of the land.

RESOLVED to refuse access to the property across Council owned land.

Council received a request from a resident of Whittington Place to allow an area of land to be developed as a garden. In discussion it was agreed that the area was unattractive and of little use. It was felt important that all the residents of Whittington Place should be involved in any project to turn the area into a garden. The Clerk was asked to look into the possibility of setting up a residents association which could lease the area from the Council for a peppercorn rent.

RESOLVED to explore the possibility of letting the area of land to a newly formed Residents Association.

54. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 30 June 2008, set out at Annex 'B', was approved. A summary of Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading was also provided at Annex 'B'.

55. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

56. 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.

Clerk's Report 15 July 2008

Annex A

1. **Pay phones** – to consider the attached consultation document to remove 3 pay phones in Carterton. **Agreed that as no adverse comment had been received from the public, the Council would not object to these proposals.**
2. **Play Rangers** – to consider further details of the cost of providing additional sessions. **It was felt that the revised costs were still too high and that it was too late to organise anything for this summer. Cllrs Crossland and Farmer would offer to meet the Play Rangers early next year to review costs and possibly book sessions for summer 2009.**
3. **Open Gardens** – the Council has supported the Save the Children Open Gardens for a number of years now. We estimate that the value of the support amounts to some £150 in staff time, photocopying and hall hire. Is Council happy to continue with this support? It should be noted that we have supported Macmillan Nurses to a similar level for some 20 years. **RESOLVED that the Council would continue to support the Save the Children Open Gardens event next year but that Committee Members should be asked if they could take over the preparation of the leaflet.**
4. **The Treasurer of U3A** has written to thank the Council for the start up grant.
5. **OCC Oxfordshire Highways Annual Report** will be available at the meeting.
6. **Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals** have begun public consultation on proposals to become a Foundation Trust. Copies of the documents will be available at the meeting. **Noted**
7. **Forthcoming meetings:**
 - Tuesday 22 July – Special Recreation Committee meeting.
 - Tuesday 5 August – Planning
 - Tuesday 19 August – Planning and Council