

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2008
AT 7.45 P.M.

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

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

Apologies: Cllr E Wearing

146. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January 2008, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

147. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that the Imperial War Museum at Duxford were not interested in the Dowleys hangar. It was agreed that RAF Brize Norton should be asked if they wished to have it on the base. (Item 136.4)

It was noted that there were no plans for a commercial café in the North East Carterton local centre (item 139).

148. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor had presented certificates to students from Carterton Community College and had hosted at the Town Hall three sessions with children from St Josephs Primary School. He had had a meeting with the Mayor of Witney about the Relay for Life race and had meet with Graham Speke to discuss the recently awarded engineering status for the Community College. The Deputy Mayor had made a presentation to 90 youngsters at Gateway School about citizenship.

149. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Madden declared an interest in planning (item 153) by virtue of his membership of the WODC Planning Committee. Cllrs Coomber and Scott declared an interest in item 158 as members of the NAG. Cllr MacRae declared an interest in item162 as an acquaintance of one of the parties involved. Cllrs Madden and Coomber declared an interest in item 156 as a governor of the Community College and as the father of a pupil at the college.

150. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No issues were raised

151. ADJOURNMENT FOR THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR TO RAISE MATTERS

Councillor Couchman reported that the increase in OCC council tax had been set at 4% and highlighted the challenges facing social services as a result of an ageing population. Cllr Handley reported that the OCC Cabinet member had recognised the need to submit planning approval for a fire station in Carterton. Further discussions were taking place with WODC planning officers. Cllr Handley also reported that OCC had agreed to carry out a full feasibility study for a sixth form at the Community College. Cllr Handley asked that he be notified of any incidents involving the fire or ambulance services in advance of his meetings with the Trusts.

152. 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.

153. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 22 January and 5 February 2008. These were noted.

The Council expressed its frustration and disappointment that approval had been given for a gypsy site on land to the south of the Football Club. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to WODC seeking assurances that the various conditions would be stringently enforced. This letter should be copied to OCC and to David Cameron.

154. COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Council received the notes of a meeting of the Carterton Community Centre Management Committee held on 6 February 2008.

Cllr Crossland reported that he and the Clerk had met with a solicitor to discuss the charitable status of the centre and that it had been recommended that it be set up as a company limited by guarantee. This would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

Cllr Liston said that she had a personal licence and agreed that she would be willing to be named on the licence application provided this was a temporary measure.

Cllr MacRae apologised for not having been able to attend the meetings.

155. POST OFFICE CLOSURES

The Council objected strongly to proposals to shut the Post Office at Stanmore Crescent. It provided a much-needed facility for service families. It was noted that when the married quarters estate was finally redeveloped there would be a substantial increase in the population in the immediate area. In addition, there did not appear to be any proposals for a post office to serve the 1,500 houses on the NE Carterton estate. The Post Office at the Co-op was considered totally inadequate for an expanding town.

RESOLVED that the Clerk respond to the consultation making all these points.

156. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council considered three applications for financial assistance under s 137 of the LGA 1972.

RESOLVED to make a grant of:

- £500 to match funding from the BSTA to provide tennis coaching and equipment.
- £250 to the Harefield Hamsters towards the cost of funding Jill Edwards' trip to the European Heart and Lung Transplant Games

It was agreed that further information should be obtained from the Oxfordshire Carers' Forum and that their application be reconsidered.

157. TOWER SQUARE REFURBISHMENT

Council received a request from the Tower Square Working Group for additional funding to provide lights as part of the Tower Square refurbishment project.

In discussion it was noted that this work had not been budgeted for and that there was a danger of the project being delayed by the addition of a new element. It was important that the Lottery deadlines were met. There was also concern that the lighting would disturb residents.

RESOLVED that no additional grant should be allocated to the project.

158. DRIVE CAREFULLY SIGNS

RESOLVED that OCC should install 'Please Drive Carefully' signs below the existing 'Welcome to Carterton' signs.

The Clerk was asked to check the position regarding the promised illuminated signs in Wycombe Way.

159. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 31 January 2008, set out at Annex 'B', was approved. A summary of Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading was also provided at Annex 'B'.

160. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

161. 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. **Married Quarters** – The latest information we have is that following a site inspection and asbestos survey, demolition is due to happen in April/May. It has also been confirmed that there will not need to be a road closure. **A letter from Air Commodore Hibberd was circulated at the meeting.**
2. **NE Carterton** – to see attached note of meeting that Cllr MacRae had with officers from OCC about the footbridges and other issues of concern to residents. **Noted.**
3. **Carterton Community Centre** – the Council had indicated that it would like to have some form of ceremony for the hall to generate publicity. The building does not lend itself to 'topping out' but the contractors have suggested either the burial of a time capsule or the laying of a foundation stone. We have little time in which to organise anything and any ideas would be appreciated. **It was agreed that consideration should be given to embedding a time capsule behind the plaque that would be erected in due course to mark the official opening of the centre.**
4. **Volunteer Link Up** have written to thank the Council for its grant of £250. **Noted.**
5. **Publications:**
 - WODC Licensing Act 2003 – New Statement of Licensing Policy
 - Parish Link
 - WODC Interim Report: 2007 Summer Floods
6. **Forthcoming Meetings**

4 March 2008 - Planning and Admin Cttee
18 March 2008 - Planning and Council

29 February – The Mayor's Musical Reception
14 March – Mayor's Coffee Morning.
7. **School Governor** – Gateway School had asked for nominations for a community governor. Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know of any suitable candidates.