

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2008
AT 7.45 P.M.

Present:	Cllr Mrs Maxine Crossland -	Town Mayor
	Cllr N MacRae MBE -	Deputy Mayor
	Cllr Mrs D V Bulley	Cllr S Lodge
	Cllr A D Coomber	Cllr P Madden
	Cllr Crapper	Cllr P Scott
	Cllr B Crossland	Cllr Mrs S E Stone
	Cllr A Farmer	Cllr E Wearing

Apologies: Cllr Mrs L Walcott and Cllr W Walcott MBE

93. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 September 2008, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

94. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that she had had initial discussions with a landscape architect who was putting together some proposals for the Council to consider (item 85). Cllr Crossland reported that a Caretaker had been appointed for the CCC (item 86). Cllr MacRae apologised to Cllr Coomber for seeming negative about the work of the NAG (item 87).

95. DISCUSSIONS WITH CHIEF INSPECTOR MALHI TVP

The Chief Inspector said that he had been very impressed with the community spirit in West Oxfordshire. He identified the rural nature of the area and resourcing as being the major challenges.

In discussion it was noted that few resources were allocated to preventing motoring offences. The Mayor gave brief details of complaints that she had received about criminal offences. She said that residents of Carterton wanted to see a higher police presence in the town. . Cllr Coomber commented on the fact that the increasing population of the area warranted more resources and asked how the PCSO team might be restructured to provide more cover at the weekends. The Chief Inspector recognised the good work being carried out by PCSOs but said that more evaluation was needed. He said that he would be reviewing the current position. He said that by mid November, it should be possible to have two teams in the town, meaning that a team would be on duty on two out of every three weeks. The Chief Inspector recognised that under-age drinking was a major problem. The issue was being addressed through Youth Intervention schemes. He confirmed that the police would take action when there was evidence of criminal activities by gypsies or travellers.

The Mayor thanked Chief Inspector Malhi for attending the Council meeting and looked forward to a close working relationship.

96. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had attended the Flood Relief Roadshow at Bampton; a meeting at Blenheim Court about the withdrawal of the resident warden; a meeting at the Squash Club; a national

Headteachers Conference at the Community College; an informal lunch with the Station Commander; a coffee morning when Cllr Scott presented cheques to charities; the launch of the 'Too Wasted' video; the High Sheriff's Law lecture; a meeting of the WI where she had shown the Heritage DVD; a speaking engagement at the Carterton Trefoil Guild; the Mayor of Bicester's Charity Dinner and the AGM of the West Oxfordshire Carers Centre. The Deputy Mayor had also attended the launch of a new joint RBL/CAB/RAFBB advice service and the Court Sermon.

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Madden declared an interest in planning (item 84) by virtue of his membership of the WODC Planning Committee. Cllr MacRae declared an interest in Allotments as his wife is a plotholder and in item 108 as a friend of the landowner at Black Bourton. Cllr Coomber declared an interest in Item 95 as the Chairman of NAG and a prejudicial interest in item 104 as his son is a member of the Boxing Club. Cllr Farmer declared an interest in item 104 (Boxing Club). Cllr and Cllr Mrs Crossland declared an interest in cheque number 9019 (Mayor's Allowance).

98. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

None were present.

99. ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Neither were present.

100. 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.

101. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 16 September and 7 October 2008. These were noted.

102. POLICY COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 7 October 2008

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Policy Committee be approved.

103. TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Bulley presented the note of the meeting of the Traffic Advisory Meeting held on 13 October. The Clerk was asked to check on the adoption of the roads on the NE Carterton estate, as it was believed that this was now underway.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Traffic Committee be approved.

104. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council had set aside £12,000 in the 2008/09 budget for S137 grants. Two applications were received in May and Council had agreed to award grants totalling £3,042. Council had received five further applications and RESOLVED to award the following grants under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Organisation	Purpose of grant	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	OAB Guide to Equipment	£200 (towards total costs of £4,000)	£200
West Oxfordshire CAB	General Support	Not specified	£1,200
Windrush Valley Amateur Boxing Club	New equipment	£1100 shortfall after fundraising	£1,100
Witney Town Junior Band	Hymn Books and mutes	£366 shortfall after fundraising	£366
Carterton Primary School (School Council)	Trim trail	£11,000 in total.	£520 for equipment

Cllr Coomber left the room when the grant to the Boxing Club was discussed and Cllr Farmer did not vote on the same application.

105. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

106. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts set out at Annex 'C' be approved for payment. It was noted that a cheque for Stepnells would need to be signed in the next two weeks and it was agreed to delegate this to two Councillors.

107. 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. **War Memorial.** The RBL has asked that the following inscription 'Baz Barwood Iraq 2008' be included on the War Memorial. This is a different format to the other names on the Memorial and I would be grateful for Council's instruction on the matter. **It was RESOLVED (with Cllr MacRae abstaining) that the following wording should be used:**

**2008
Baz Barwood (Iraq)**

2. **NHS Oxfordshire Consultation on Strategy 2008-2013.** A series of meetings is taking place over the next couple of months to obtain views on the Primary Health Care Trust's Strategy. The most local meeting is at the Witney Corn Exchange at 7 pm on Thursday 30 October. **Noted**
3. **Code of Conduct.** The Department for Communities and Local Government is consulting on proposed changes to the Code of Conduct. The main reason for the changes arises from the need to clarify how and when the Code applies to a member's conduct when acting in a non-official capacity. The Government is also consulting on a Code of Conduct for local government employees. Further details are available on request. **Cllr MacRae reported that he understood that further advice had just been published by the Standards Board.**
4. **Forthcoming meetings and events**

Friday 24 October –	Handover of CCC to the Town Council
Tuesday 28 October 3pm –	Meeting with David Neudegg (Mayor's Parlour)
Tuesday 4 November –	Planning and Admin
Sunday 9 November –	Remembrance Service and Parade
Thursday 27 November –	Community Opening of CCC (2pm to 8 pm)
Friday 5 December –	Christmas Lights
Tuesday 9 December –	Planning and Council
Tuesday 16 December –	Council Christmas Dinner at CCC
5. The Clerk reported that she had asked the decorator to retile the Ladies Toilet when he was doing the other work in the Town Hall as several tiles had come off.