

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2009  
AT 7.45 P.M.

Present:	Cllr Mrs Maxine Crossland	Town Mayor
	Cllr N MacRae MBE	Deputy Mayor
	Cllr Mrs D V Bulley	Cllr N Miah
	Cllr B Crossland	Cllr P Scott
	Cllr R Crapper	Cllr Mrs S Stone
	Cllr A Farmer	
	Cllr E Liston	
	Cllr P Madden	

Apologies: Cllr A Coomber, Cllr S Lodge, Cllr Mrs L Walcott; Cllr W Walcott MBE and Cllr E Wearing

82. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 October 2009, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

83. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that her letter to the Witney Gazette on the development of the town centre had been published. It was noted that OCC had advised that there was no money to carry out the traffic calming measures that had been promised at the last TAC meeting. The Police had been asked to take this up with the County and it was agreed that Cllr Couchman should be asked to make enquiries on behalf of the Town Council.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Madden declared an interest in Item 90 by virtue of his membership of the WODC Planning Committee and did not take part in discussions on this item. Cllrs Crossland, Mrs Crossland, Crapper, Madden and Mrs Stone declared an interest in Item 97 and cheque 9292 as Directors of the Community Centre. Cllr Mrs Crossland declared an interest in cheque 9315, Cllrs Mrs Bulley and Madden in cheque 9309, Cllr Mrs Bulley in cheque 9304 and Cllr MacRae in cheque 9306, which was reimbursing him for expenditure on new blinds for the Town Hall. Cllr Farmer declared an interest in Item 91 (family ashes plots) and did not vote on this item. Cllr MacRae declared an interest in Item 98 as an allotment holder.

85. TOWN CENTRE PLANTING

The Council received a presentation from John Platts on the planting of trees in the town centre.

Mr Platts reported on the poor condition of the trees in the planters and outlined proposals for planting new trees in the pavement. He tabled details of products that could be used to protect services and paving and plans showing suggested locations for trees in the town centre. Mr Platts also gave some suggestions as to the trees that might be used.

The Council noted that this was an expensive project that needed to be phased over a number of years. The Clerk was asked to see if any grant funding might be available.

RESOLVED that a working group, comprising Cllrs Mrs Crossland, Crapper and Madden be set up to take this forward once more detailed costs were available. It was also RESOLVED that one of the planters should be removed from site and the tree taken out. The Clerk was asked to carry out emergency repairs to the town centre notice board.

#### 86. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported that she had presented May Satell with her Exceptional Citizen's award. She had met with Ruth Swift of Age Concern to hear about new classes being established in the town and had attended the AGM of the Oxfordshire Carers. She had attended a site meeting to agree the handover of the Market Square and had been at the opening of Marriotts Walk. The Mayor thanked Cllrs Mrs Bulley and Coomber for their work in organising the Remembrance Day service and parade and added that both she and Cllr Crossland had given radio interviews on Remembrance Day. Along with a number of other Councillors the Mayor had attended the funeral of Cllr David King. She had been involved in the making of an RAF DVD and had attended an Awards Evening at the Community College.

#### 87. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No matters were raised.

#### 88. ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Couchman reported on OCC's proposed budget savings in excess of £100m over 5 years. He mentioned that Carterton was one of six priority locations, which had been identified across the county. The Council raised with Cllr Couchman a number of concerns regarding Highway issues.

#### 89. 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.

#### 90. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 20 October and 3 November 2009. These were noted.

#### 91. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Administration Committee held on 3 November 2009.

Cllr Crossland reported on the budget for 2010/11. The draft budget agreed by the Administration Committee gave a precept of £323,400, which was the same as in the current year. The tax base for 2010/11 was 5128.20 and was lower than in the current year. The proposed precept of £323,400 would result in a cost of £63.06 per dwelling (an increase of 2% per household). The Council discussed cutting the budget to keep the per dwelling figure the same as in the current year. It was noted that the Council's income had already been hit by falling interest rates and against this background it was agreed to precept for £323,400.

The Council noted the anticipated level of expenditure in the current year and also the position regarding reserves. It was agreed that family ashes plots should be provided at Black Bourton Cemetery.

It was RESOLVED that the Precept for 2010/11 be set at £323,400.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Administration Committee meeting be approved.

Cllr Miah left the meeting at this point.

#### 92. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Council received a risk assessment report from the Clerk.

It was noted that the Squash Club Building had reached an age where it required considerable maintenance and it was agreed that its future should be reviewed prior to the end of the lease in March 2013. It was suggested that data might be backed up in a secure, off site server.

It was RESOLVED that the Risk Assessment report be noted.

#### 93. SPEED LIMIT FOR A AND B ROADS

The Council considered proposals from OCC for raising the speed limit on the western half of Upavon Way.

RESOLVED that subject to clarification of where the 40 mph zone started, this change should be supported.

#### 94. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 31 October 2009, set out at Annex 'B', was approved. A summary of Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading is also provided at Annex 'B'.

#### 95. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

#### 96. 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.

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Town Mayor

1. **The Maples Play area.** Playlink have drawn up a plan and are now preparing the tender documentation. We are aiming to have the tenders back before Christmas so that the new area can be installed and planted in the New Year. **Noted.**
2. **Publications**
  - Community Matters Magazine
  - Oxfordshire Road Casualty Report
3. **Forthcoming meetings and events**
  - 8<sup>th</sup> December – Planning and Council
  - 14<sup>th</sup> December 9.00 am. Fire Advisory Committee Meeting. Councillors wishing to attend this meeting are asked to contact the Clerk.
  - 15<sup>th</sup> December – Council Christmas Dinner at The Plough, Alvescot
  - 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010 – Planning and Recreation
5. **Christmas Opening.** The Town Hall will be open up to and including 24 December. With the agreement of the Council we would like to take our extra day's leave on Tuesday 29 December and two days annual leave to cover 30 and 31 December. The Town Hall would then reopen on Monday 4 January. **Agreed.**
6. **Planning applications.** In the past, the Town Council has delegated to the Clerk the ability to comment on minor planning applications and to call a Planning Committee meeting in the week before Christmas if necessary. Is the Council content to do the same this year? **Agreed.**
7. **Drains. The drains between the Vets and the manhole by the garage had been blocked. It transpired that the manhole had collapsed so the Clerk had arranged for emergency repairs to be carried out.**
8. **The Clerk tabled a letter she had received from the Co-op in response to raising concerns with the OFT about the delay in the sale of Somerfield. The Co-op letter gave assurances that Somerfield was still due to be sold but that it had been necessary to stock Co-op brands there as Somerfield brands had been phased out.**