

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 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 P Madden
	Cllr A Coomber	Cllr P Scott
	Cllr B Crossland	Cllr E Wearing
	Cllr R Crapper	

Apologies: Cllr A Farmer; Cllr E Liston, Cllr S Lodge, Cllr N Miah, Cllr Mrs Stone, Cllr Mrs L Walcott and Cllr W Walcott MBE

99. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 November 2009, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

100. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that the Squash Club had notified her of problems with the floor. She was asked to check the records as it was thought that the Club had agreed to carry out the necessary repairs.

101. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Madden declared an interest in Item 106 by virtue of his membership of the WODC Planning Committee and did not take part in discussions on this item. Cllr Crossland declared an interest in Cheque No. 9336 as a member of the Lions. Cllr Scott declared an interest in the issues raised under Item 103 as the Chairman of NAG.

102. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported that she had attended a Reception at Peaches, the Flower Club's Christmas demonstration and a performance by the Songsters. She had been to the County Council's reception and a ceremony to mark the welcome home of the Pioneer Regiment. The Mayor thanked all those who had been involved in the Christmas Lights and Street Fair. She had had a meeting with Graham Speke at the Community College to discuss the St George's Day school competition. The Mayor announced that Madge Morgan had been nominated as the Sue Ryder Woman of the Year and that the Tower Centre Mosaic was to be entered in an international competition in America.

103. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

The Chairman of Carterton Youth Council and the Head Boy and Head Girl from the Community College spoke in support of the Allandale Youth House. The Youth House provides a wide range of activities and a safe place for youngsters to gather. It is very well used and antisocial behaviour would be likely to increase if it were to be closed. It was noted that there is a high proportion of young people in the town, many with parents serving abroad. The Allandale was also a valuable source of education, teaching youngsters of the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

104. ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Couchman responded to the concerns raised by the youngsters. He said that deep cuts had to be made to the budget. He was unable to promise that the Youth Service budget would not be cut but said that he would take on board the comments made. Town Councillors urged Cllr Couchman to do everything possible to protect the Youth Service budget. It was noted that a number of highway projects were being shelved because of the cuts. The Council repeated its concerns about speeding in the Shilton Road and the need for a VAS. It was suggested that OCC should be looking to protect services and to secure savings by reducing staff. Cllr Couchman said that all options were being considered.

105. 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.

106. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 17 November 2009. These were noted.

107. CELEBRATING CARTERTON

The Council received proposals for a celebratory weekend in September 2010. Councillors welcomed the idea. It was felt that the event should not clash with Party in the Park but could incorporate Battle of Britain celebrations if the timing was right. It might be possible to include a charity fund raising event. It was felt that this might be a bi-annual event. Cllrs Mrs Bulley, Coomber, Mrs Crossland, Crapper, MacRae and Wearing said that they would like to be involved in preparations for the event.

RESOLVED that the application for funding for this event should be submitted and that more detailed arrangements should be drawn up.

108. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 30 November 2009, set out at Annex 'B', was approved. A summary of Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading is also provided at Annex 'B'.

109. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

110. 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. **Drainage ditch around NE Carterton Estate.** We have received confirmation that the drainage ditch around the NE Carterton Estate has been added to the WODC ditch clearance programme. The District is in the process of appointing a contractor and will make Carterton the first priority. **Noted.**
2. **Alvescot Road Recreation Ground.** The Working Party has appointed a landscape consultant, Carolyn Place from Anthony Stiff Associates, to draw up plans for the Recreation Ground. Over the next couple of months Carolyn will be meeting school children, the Youth Council, parents from the Children's Centre, and the Over 60s to get ideas. The Clerk will be talking to members of U3A. The aim is to have a scheme that is sufficiently developed to be ready to submit a bid for Playbuilder funding in early February. The proposals will continue to evolve over the summer. **The Council welcomed the progress that had been made to date.**
3. **Letters of thanks for S137 grants** have been received from West Oxon CAB and Carterton Community Centre. **Noted.**
4. **Forthcoming meetings and events**
 - 14th December 9.00 am. Fire Advisory Committee Meeting. Councillors wishing to attend this meeting are asked to contact the Clerk.
 - 15th December – Council Christmas Dinner at The Plough, Alvescot
 - 5th January 2010 – Planning and Recreation
 - 19th January 2010 – Planning and Council
5. **Christmas Opening.** The Town Hall will be open up to and including 24 December and will then close for Christmas, re-opening on Monday 4 January.
6. **The Clerk circulated electoral registration forms and asked Councillors to complete these if they wanted a copy of the register.**