

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2010
AT 7.45 PM

Present:	Cllr N MacRae MBE -	Town Mayor
	Cllr A Coomber -	Deputy Mayor
	Cllr Mrs D V Bulley	Cllr P Madden
	Cllr B Crossland	Cllr N Miah
	Cllr Mrs M Crossland	Cllr P Scott
	Cllr R W Crapper	Cllr Mrs S E Stone
	Cllr A Farmer	Cllr E Wearing
	Cllr E Liston	Cllr W O Walcott MBE
	Cllr Mrs C MacRae	Cllr Mrs L Walcott

109. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2010, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

110. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that the contract for the electrical work at the ARRG Pavilion had been let to CD Electrical for £1,000.

111. PRESENTATION FROM SAVILLES ON LAND TO THE EAST OF CARTERTON

The Mayor welcomed Roger Smith from Savilles to the meeting. The Mayor explained that the Council had still to decide on its preferred location for major new development but that Councillors welcomed the opportunity to hear about recent developments.

Mr Smith said that there were a number of advantages to developing the town to the east. These included access to the A40, public transport, proximity to employment and leisure facilities and deliverability. Considerable work had been undertaken on reducing flood risk and Christchurch was about to sign up with a major house builder. The proposed scheme was for 1,000 dwellings, a school, employment and a small local centre. The houses would be of a traditional design and 40% would be affordable if this proved viable. Developer contributions could be used to improve the link to the A40, particularly on land owned by Christchurch. The disadvantage of land to the east was its proximity to Brize Norton. Mr Smith had met with Brize Norton Parish Council and had amended proposals as much as possible to reflect their concerns.

In discussion Councillors raised questions about the parish boundary, improvements to the B4477 and the density of the housing. Cllr Couchman said that residents in Brize Norton were deeply concerned by the proposal and in particular, by the risk of flooding. The Mayor thanked Mr Smith for his presentation.

112. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked all those involved in the Switch-On of the Christmas Lights which had been a very enjoyable event. With the Mayoress he had been to dinner with the Station

Commander, and attended the pantomime and the lantern parade. The Mayor and a number of Councillors had attended a thanksgiving service for the life of Gordon Giles. The Mayoress had represented the Mayor at a meeting of the Carers Forum and reported on concerns that local centres were closing and that the most vulnerable people had not been given an opportunity to express their concerns. It was agreed that at future civic functions, councillors attending would be asked to help to host the Mayor's guests.

113. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All WODC District Councillors and Cllr Farmer declared an interest in Item 112. Cllrs Mrs Crossland and Madden declared an interest in planning (Item 118) by virtue of their membership of the WODC Planning Committee. Cllr Scott declared an interest as Chairman of the Chamber of Trade and of NAG. Those Councillors serving as Directors of the Community Centre declared an interest in Item 120. Cllrs MacRae and Mrs MacRae declared an interest in Item 121 as allotment holders. Cllr Crossland declared an interest in cheque 9726 as a member of the Lions and Cllr Farmer declared an interest in cheque 9721.

114. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No matters were raised.

115. ADJOURNMENT FOR TVP REPRESENTATIVES TO RAISE ISSUES

No representative was present.

116. ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Couchman reported on the OCC budget settlement. He said that grant from central government was broadly as expected. Taking over concessionary travel from the District Councils would cost the County £5m. Scrutiny Committees would be meeting to finalise the budget before Christmas. Funding for Education was more or less as anticipated whilst cuts to capital funding had been slightly less. Cllr Couchman explained the Carers service was being recast to reach a wider group of carers. The Town Council would be offered funds to set up a community solution should the Allandale close. Councillors expressed their regret at the probable closure of the Allandale which they felt was short sighted. The Clerk said she would be having a meeting with OCC officers the following week to discuss the Allandale building.

117. 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.

118. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16th November. These were noted.

119. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the Meeting of the Administration Committee held on 7 December 2010.

Cllr. Crossland reported on the recommendation for the budget and precept for 2011/12. It was noted that there had been a slight increase in the number of the dwellings in the town. This meant that if the per dwelling figure was to be held at £63.06, there would be a slight overall increase in the precept to £326,690. A contingency sum of just under £20,000 had been included in the budget to provide funds to cover some of the services withdrawn by OCC. The contingency sum had been achieved by cutting other budget heads by 5%.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Administration Committee meeting be approved and that the precept for 2011/12 should be £326,690.

The Administration Committee was thanked for the work it had undertaken on the budget.

120 ADDITIONAL CCTV CAMERA IN CARTERTON

The Council received a note from CDS Systems Ltd on the approximate cost of installing an additional camera at Marigold Square. It was noted that this would be in the region of £14,500 to £17,000 dependent on whether or not a new column is needed.

In discussion Councillors noted that anti-social behaviour was a continuing problem in Marigold Square and that there were problems at the Community Centre. It was agreed that the Town Council needed to protect its asset and that one option would be to extend CCTV to that area of the town. It was suggested that the Co-op might be asked to make a contribution and that grant aid might be available.

There was a meeting scheduled for 21 December at the Community Centre and it was agreed that further consideration should be given to the installation of CCTV at that meeting.

121. LAND FOR ALLOTMENTS

The Council received a letter from the Allotments Association asking that the Council use its compulsory leasing or purchasing powers to acquire land for allotments. The Clerk explained the powers available to a town council. In the case of both leasing and purchasing, the town council asks the district council to act on its behalf. If the district council fails to act, the town council may petition the Secretary of State. The Allotments Association suggested that the Town Council should look to purchase or lease land in the area to the north of the town designated as buffer zone for the quarry.

In discussion it was noted that a number of possible sites for allotments were starting to come forward as part of the LDF discussion. The Council has a statutory duty to provide allotments and it was agreed that the Council's land agent should look to re-open discussions with the land owner to the north of the town.

RESOLVED that the Council should not ask WODC to use its compulsory powers at this stage but that the Council's land agent be asked to re-open discussions with land owners.

122. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

123 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts for the month of November be approved for payment, with the exception of Cheque No 100084 until completion of the works.

124. TOWN HALL CLEANER/CARETAKER

The Clerk reported that three applicants would be interviewed later in the week.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

18 January 2010

Town Mayor

1. **Permanent Market Signs.** OCC has asked for the Council's views on the installation of permanent drop down market signs. These would be funded from the s106 money that OCC hold. They have not yet got a cost for this. We currently pay McCrackens £37 a week to put out and collect the temporary signs. They would still need to open and close the signs each week. If the town centre redevelopment does take place, the market would need to be relocated and now might not be the best time to install fixed signs. **The Council felt this expenditure could not be justified given the proposed redevelopment of the town centre.**
2. **Wycombe Way – Gritting.** To note the attached email from OCC. **The Clerk was asked to contact other Town Councils to see if any did their own gritting.**
3. **Representation of the People Regulations.** Requests for a copy of the full register have to be made annually in writing to WODC. A form is attached to this report. If you would a copy of the register you must complete the form. **Noted.**
4. **Section 137 Grants.** The Council has received thank you letters from the Air Training Corps, the Carterton Race Team and the Citizen's Advice Bureau. **Noted.**
5. **Future meetings and events**
 - 4th January – Planning and Recreation
 - 18th January – Planning and Council
 - 29th January – Mayor's Charity Burn's Night Quiz
 - 1st February – Planning and Policy