

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 MARCH 2010
AT 7.45 P.M.

Present:	Cllr Mrs M Crossland	Town Mayor
	Cllr N MacRae MBE	Deputy Town Mayor
	Cllr Mrs D V Bulley	Cllr P Madden
	Cllr A Coomber	Cllr P Scott
	Cllr R Crapper	Cllr Mrs L Walcott,
	Cllr B Crossland	Cllr W Walcott MBE
	Cllr A Farmer	Cllr E Wearing

Apologies: Cllr E Liston, Cllr N Miah and Cllr Mrs S Stone

142. MINUTES

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

143. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that there had been another water leak at the Town Hall. Cllr Farmer reported that further to Item 135, the architect had quoted £1,350 to prepare and submit planning approval for a car park on the nursery site. It was RESOLVED that this quote be accepted.

144. PRESENTATION BY CARTERTON YOUTH COUNCIL

The Council received a report from two Youth Councillors on the inadequate car parking provision at Monahan Way. The overspill car park is no more than a muddy field and this was forcing cars to park on the road. The Youth Council had written to WODC and asked the Town Council to send a letter of support. RESOLVED to send a letter of support and to suggest that s106 funding be used to improve the surface of the overflow car park.

145. REPORT BY CDO RAF BRIZE NORTON

The Community Development Officer from RAF Brize Norton reported on the Parent Links training she had attended and thanked the Council for the funding it provided to allow her to undertake this. She was now accessing the second stage of the training covering 10 to 14 year olds and would be working with some very vulnerable families. The Mayor thanked Mrs Kennedy for her report.

146. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR

The Clerk reported that Cllr Lodge had resigned on 1 March. WODC were currently advertising the vacancy. If an election was called, it could take place on 6 May, unless that was also the date of the General Election. In that case the Parish Election would be postponed.

147. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Madden declared an interest in Item 152 by virtue of his membership of the WODC Planning Committee and did not take part in discussions on this item. Cllr Scott declared a proximity interest in planning application 15/2010 and as Chairman of the NAG and the Chamber of Trade. Cllr Farmer declared a prejudicial interest in matters relating to the LDF. All Councillors serving on the Community Centre Management Committee declared an interest in matters relating to the Centre. Cllr MacRae declared an interest in Allotments

148. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had attended a civic dinner at Henley and a Reception hosted by the Chairman of the County Council. She had also been involved in the filming of a DVD for RAF Brize Norton. The Mayor reminded Councillors of the continental market to be held on 21 March and of a WODC community event on 30 March. The Mayor announced that Cllr Coomber was to receive the High Sheriff's Award for his work with young people. The Council congratulated Cllr Coomber.

It was agreed that the Council should move forward to April its informal meeting to consider candidates for Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

149. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No issues were raised

150. ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Handley reported that WODC planning had passed the proposed link road although the junction with the Shilton Road was still under discussion. An s215 order had been used to force a resident in Bampton to tidy their front garden and it was agreed that the Clerk should see if the same power could be used on problem areas in Carterton. Cllr Handley reported on the first meeting of the RAF/LA Liaison Group meeting, which had been helpful. He was involved in a legal claim following damage to a car caused by potholes. OCC had advised that if the pothole has not been reported prior to the accident, the County has no legal liability.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Handley for his report and particularly for establishing the RAF/LA Liaison Group.

151. 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.

152. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16 February and 2 March 2010. These were noted.

153. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Council received the Minutes of the Administration Committee meeting held on 2 March

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Administration Committee (Items 14 to 22) be approved.

RESOLVED that at the April meeting the Council's existing Standing Orders be revoked and that new Standing Orders be adopted.

154. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Council considered its response to the WODC consultation on new development in the town to 2026. In discussion a number of points were raised. These included the need:

- for the town to increase its population to reach a point (about 20,000) that would attract additional retail;
- to generate s106 funding to improve the infrastructure of the town particularly the roads and the link to the A40 and
- to decrease the dependency of the town on RAF Brize Norton.

It was noted that residents in Brize Norton had serious concerns about any expansion to the east, particularly the impact on traffic and flooding. It was recognised that there were limitations to expansions in the north with the buffer zone for the quarry. It was felt that the option to grow to the west had not been fully explored and that more consideration needed to be given to this. It was agreed that the Town Council need to develop a robust case to support future development and that professional advice would be needed to help with this.

RESOLVED that the Clerk should reply to the consultation exercise restating the Town Council's wishes for the further development of the town and stating that more time was needed to allow the Council to fully understand the options.

RESOLVED that the Council should allocate up to £5,000 from the reserve to employ a planning consultant to advise on the various options proposed by WODC and, if necessary, to represent the Council at an Inquiry.

155. ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Cllr MacRae reported concerns about antisocial behaviour at the local centre on the North East Carterton estate. He emphasised that residents had the right to go about their everyday activities without feeling threatened by a small group of badly behaved young people. The problem was spreading to other parts of the town. Cllr Scott said that the NAG was aware of the problem. By its very design, the local centre was attractive to youths.

The Mayor invited Sgt Turner to the table to respond to concerns. Sgt Turner said that the police were looking to tackle anti-social behaviour but this was not something they could do on their own. The police had been aware of the problems at the local centre for a number of weeks. Extra patrols had been provided and the troublemakers identified. The police had informed the parents of the young people involved and some had been banned from the Co-op. Action was being taken against one person for harassment and this had acted as a warning to others. She confirmed that evidence was being gathered with a view to applying for ASBOs but that more resources were needed. An application for funds had been made to WODC. She agreed that the problems might become worse as the evenings become lighter and the youngsters move onto the country park.

The Town Mayor thanked Sgt Turner for her report and emphasised the efforts that the Town Council was making to bring together all those working with youngsters in the town. Cllr Scott reported that there was to be a meeting at the Community Centre on 13 April to consider anti social behaviour.

156. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 28 February 2010, set out at Annex 'B', was approved. A summary of Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading is also provided at Annex 'B'.

157. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

158. 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. **The Maples.** Work has started on the refurbishment of the Maples play area. It is expected to take about four weeks to complete. The area will remain closed for a short period to allow the turf to establish. We are planning on a formal opening in May. **Noted.**
2. **RAF Brize Norton/Local Authority Liaison Group.** This group had its first meeting on 8 March and brought together senior people from the County, the District and the RAF. It will meet quarterly. It was agreed to set up an officer level group to support the main group. The immediate priorities were recognised as being highways/transport, schools and housing. **The Council was pleased to note that this group had now been established and hoped it would result in a better understanding of the issues.**
3. **Meeting with Inspector Mark Johns TVP.** A meeting has been arranged for 12 noon on Tuesday 6 April. All Councillors are invited to attend. **Noted.**
4. **Forthcoming meetings and events.**
 - Sunday 28th March – 10K Road Race
 - Tuesday 6th April – Planning and Recreation
 - Tuesday 20th April – Planning and Council
 - Friday 23rd April – St George's Day
 - Monday 26th April – 4 pm -Exceptional Citizen's Awards
 - Thursday 29 April – 10 am Meeting with Chief Exec WODC
 - Tuesday 4th May – Planning
 - Tuesday 11th May – Annual Town Meeting
 - Tuesday 18th May – Planning and Annual Town Council meeting
5. **The Clerk reported that there had been an accident at the Trefoil Way play area when a swing had collapsed. There had been other problems with these swing seats and she had contacted the manufacturer. As yet there had only been a phone call from the child's parent reporting the accident.**