

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 April 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 N Miah
	Cllr A Coomber	Cllr P Scott
	Cllr R Crapper	Cllr Mrs S Stone
	Cllr B Crossland	Cllr Mrs L Walcott,
	Cllr A Farmer	Cllr W Walcott MBE
	Cllr P Madden	Cllr E Wearing

Apologies: Cllr E Liston

160. MINUTES

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

161. MATTERS ARISING

It was confirmed that the Town Council had offered to help the police publicise future public meetings. Cllr MacRae said he was encouraged by the proactive response from the police to problems on the NE Carterton estate. Cllr Farmer reported that the temporary car park on the nursery site would have a planning condition requiring that it be blocked paved in the future. After the meeting the Community College confirmed that they are offering post 16 education and that they do not yet have a sixth form.

162. PRESENTATION BY AIRTANKER

The Council received a presentation from Peter Saunders and Sophie Watts of AirTanker. Mr Saunders explained that AirTanker was a PFI project which would provide the RAF with 27 years of transport capability and included planes, a hangar, maintenance and training. The project was running on time and on budget. Ms Watts explained that AirTanker employed 40 people but that this would increase to about 500, of which 300 would be on secondment from the RAF and the remaining 200 would be civilian posts. Of the 200, perhaps 150 might be recruited locally. The main contracts had been let to members of the consortium but a number of smaller contracts had still to be let. Some of these should be local. There would also be opportunities for apprenticeships. Mr Saunders said that AirTanker had already made a contribution to the infrastructure as part of the planning approval for the hangar and that no additional money would be available.

The Mayor thanked Mr Saunders and Ms Watts and it was agreed that they would keep in regular contact with the Council.

163. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Madden declared an interest in Item 169 by virtue of his membership of the WODC Planning Committee and did not take part in discussions on this item. Cllr Scott declared an interest as Chairman of the NAG and the Chamber of Trade. Cllr Farmer declared a

prejudicial interest cheque 9502. Cllr MacRae declared a prejudicial interest in Items 166 and 172 (allotments) and left the room when these were discussed. He also declared a personal interest in Item 177.

164. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had attended civic receptions in Witney, Cherwell and South Oxfordshire and the Civic Service in Faringdon. She had been to the High Sheriff's Reception and had accompanied Cllr Coomber when he received his award from the High Sheriff. She had opened the new Haldanes supermarket, and presented medals at the Carterton 10K. She had attended the Continental Market, a Neighbourhood Watch meeting and the planting of a rose by the Brownies to mark their 100th anniversary.

The Mayor reported concerns about the poor level of coverage of Carterton events in the Witney Gazette. It was agreed that the Town Hall staff should carry out a review of publicity material with a view to reporting back to full Council.

The Mayor thanked Committee Chairmen, Councillors and Town Hall staff for all the help and support they had provided during her two very enjoyable years as Mayor.

165. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

A resident asked if there were plans for a hotel in the town. It was explained that planning permission existed but that the developer had so far failed to take this forward.

166. ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr. Couchman apologised to the Council for the negative approach adopted by the OCC Officer at the recent TAC meeting. He went on to explain that OCC was between contractors for road repairs, but it was expected that the new contractor would work to a much higher standard. An additional £1.1m of government money had been made available to OCC to pay for road repairs, taking the total fund to nearly £3m. Cllr Couchman reported that he had taken up a new position as Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Procurement.

Cllr Handley reported that he had become a member of the New Growth and Infrastructure Group. He was continuing to press for a fire station, was talking to the Allandale about funding and was helping a lady hurt in a fall.

167. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Council received an application from Mrs Carole MacRae.

RESOLVED that Mrs MacRae be co-opted onto the Council to represent the Rock Farm Ward.

168. 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.

169. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16 March and 6 April 2010. These were noted.

170. RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Council received the Minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held on 6 April.

RESOLVED that the non-confidential items in the Recreation Committee Minutes be noted.

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

171. STANDING ORDERS

The Council received the draft Standing Orders discussed at the previous meeting.

RESOLVED to revoke the Standing Orders adopted in 2001 and to adopt the new Standing Orders.

172. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council received two applications for assistance under s137. These were being taken in advance of the other applications, as they were time critical.

RESOLVED to make a grant of £500 to the Allotments Association to improve security on the site.

RESOLVED to make a grant of £300 to the British Heart and Lung Transplant Association to support Jill Edwards' attendance at the European Games.

173. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 31 March 2010, set out at Annex 'B', was approved. A summary of Income and Expenditure by Budget Heading is also provided at Annex 'B'.

The Clerk reported that she was to have a meeting with Nat West to explore whether it was possible to achieve a better level of interest on investments than was currently being paid by WODC.

174. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

175. 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 Town Centre.** Simons and Box Clever have confirmed that they have now entered into legal agreements with Robert and Doris Watts Healthcare Limited and Wadworth & Co. They have also agreed a Heads of Terms with the Mid-Counties Co-op on the release of the covenant. They anticipate entering into legal agreements with the other landowners (WODC and CTC) by July with a view to public consultation over the summer. The aim is to submit a planning application in the autumn. Meanwhile, WODC's consideration of the Sainsburys planning application has been delayed until mid May. **Council welcomed this news.**
2. **Review of Subsidised Bus Services.** OCC is reviewing a number of bus services including No. 19 (Carterton – Bampton-Witney), the 64 (Carterton-Lechlade-Swindon) and No. 113 (Fulbrook-Burford-Shilton-Carterton). These services are under threat. Would any Councillors like to meet to consider whether we can make a case for their retention? **Several Councillors said they had been approached by concerned residents. It was agreed that Cllrs Coomber, Mrs Crossland, Farmer, Madden and Mrs Walcott would meet to agree a response to the County Council.**
3. **Meeting with Inspector Mark Johns TVP.** A note of the meeting held on 9 April is attached. **Noted.**
4. **Response to the LDF.** As agreed at the last Council meeting, Terry Gashe of DPDS has been appointed to help the Town Council formulate its response to the WODC core strategy document. **Noted.**
5. **Forthcoming meetings and events:**
 - 23 April – St George's Day Celebrations – CCC 7.30 pm
 - 26 April – Award of Exceptional Citizen's medals. Town Hall 4 pm
 - 29 April – Councillors meeting with David Neudegg & Andrew Tucker. 10am
 - 4 May – Planning Committee
 - 11 May – Annual Town Meeting at CCC. 7 pm
 - 11–13 May – Internal audit of Town Council
 - 18 May – Planning and Annual Meeting of the Town Council
6. **It was noted that Carterton Town Council had held its first meeting in April 1985 meaning that this was its 25th anniversary. This would be marked as part of Carterton Celebrates to be held in the autumn.**