

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2011
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 R W Crapper	Cllr N Miah
	Cllr B Crossland	Cllr P Scott
	Cllr Mrs M Crossland	Cllr Mrs S E Stone
	Cllr A Farmer	Cllr Mrs L Walcott
	Cllr E Liston	Cllr W O Walcott MBE
	Cllr Mrs C MacRae	Cllr E Wearing

142. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2011, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

143. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that David Wilson Homes had asked to meet the Council to discuss a new development for 290 houses to the north of the town. She would circulate dates. Cllr Crossland reported that the CCTV system had been installed at the Community Centre. Cllr Farmer reported that the car park to the rear of the Community Centre was nearing completion. It was agreed that further consideration should be given to the Jubilee celebrations in the summer.

144. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had attended a performance by the Youth Orchestra at the Sheldonian, the pantomime on the base and the Candlemass Service at Christchurch. He had been to the Carterton Celebrates Planning meeting and the launch of the Good Neighbours Scheme. The Mayor thanked the Councillors for their support at the Burn's Night Quiz. The Mayor passed on thanks from the Air Cadets for the grant towards their new mini bus.

The Mayor reminded Councillors of the 10K Road Race on 27th March and the St George's Day Dinner on 16th April. He briefly outlined details of the planned Town Crier competition, which would involve two cash prizes totalling £100 each.

The Mayor noted that the final payment was to be made on the Community Centre. He thanked all of those who had played a part in bringing the project to fruition.

145. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All WODC District Councillors declared a personal interest and Cllr Farmer a prejudicial interest in the Local Development Framework. Cllrs Mrs Crossland and Madden declared an interest in planning (Item 151) by virtue of their membership of the WODC Planning Committee. Cllr Scott declared an interest as Chairman of the Chamber of Trade and of the NAG and in planning application 03/2011. He also declared an interest in Item 154. Cllrs MacRae and Mrs MacRae declared an interest as allotment holders and in cheque 9818. Cllrs Crossland and Mrs Crossland declared an interest in cheque 9825.

146. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council received an application from the Youth Council to support a s137 grant to the Carterton Race Team. The Council noted that the Race team had received a considerable level of financial support from the Council and should be working towards being self-sustaining. However, it was felt to be important to support the Youth Council.

RESOLVED that the Town Council would buy equipment to the value of £500 and that the Youth Council should present this to the Race Team. Cllr Scott said he would secure the items at trade price.

147. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No matters were raised.

148. ADJOURNMENT FOR TVP REPRESENTATIVES TO RAISE ISSUES

No representative was present. It was noted that Inspector Jack Mahli was moving to a new post in April and it was agreed that the Clerk should send him a letter thanking him for his support.

149. ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Apologies were received from Cllr Couchman who was at the budget setting meeting.

150. 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' attached.

151. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 18 January and 1 February. These were noted.

152. POLICY COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 1 February 2011.

Cllr. Farmer reported on the recommendations and the Clerk confirmed that there had not yet been an announcement on Repatriations. The Mayor said that it had been agreed that OCC or RAF Brize Norton press officers would handle all future requests from the media.

There was a discussion about the presentation by the Youth Council. It was noted that mentors needed to ensure that Youth Councillors had realistic expectations. Most Councillors had found it very useful to learn about the priorities of the younger residents. It was suggested that different Youth Councillors might make presentations to the Council to ensure that they all gained experience.

The recommendations regarding the Core Strategy were agreed with the additional comment that new developments should continue the tradition of planting trees along the sides of roads.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Policy Committee meeting be approved.

153 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Mrs Crossland spoke on this report. She emphasised the need for Councillors to share the workload between them and highlighted the work involved in chairing one of the Committees, mentoring the Youth Council or representing the Council on the Management Board of the Community Centre. Cllr Crossland reminded the Council that the Community Centre was a Town Council asset and that the Management Board was running the Centre at minimal cost to the Council.

It was noted that a number of Councillors occupied other voluntary roles in the town and that some are also in full time employment.

RESOLVED that there should be a briefing session in early June where new and existing Councillors would be given details of the various Committees, Advisory Committees and other bodies in existence and be encouraged to sign up for at least two major roles. It was noted that priorities would need to be set and some low priority commitments dropped if there were insufficient volunteers.

154. RATEABLE VALUE OF THE TOWN HALL

The Clerk reported that the valuation officer had refused to accept evidence that the Town Hall meeting room was not an office. This adversely impacted on the rateable value of the building. The Town Council's advisor was recommending that the Council should take this to tribunal but that doing so would result in fees of £1,500. Cllr Farmer explained that challenging the 2005 figure in this way would not result in a huge saving to the Town Council because of the fees involved. But there was a significant impact rolling the figures forward. He suggested that if successful at Tribunal the Council might expect to save about £4,000 between 2010 and 2015.

RESOLVED that the Council should instruct its advisor to take this matter to tribunal at a cost of £1,500.

155. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

156 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts for the month of January, attached at Annex C, be approved for payment. It was noted that the final payment to Stepnells for the Community Centre had been signed and that Playbuilder funding had been secured to cover the first payment for the work on the Alvescot Road Recreation Ground.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.

15 March 2011

Town Mayor

1. **Electoral Review of Oxfordshire** – see attached correspondence from the Local Government Boundary Commission. **Council felt that there should be two County Councillors representing the town. In considering population figures it was important to remember increases in the electorate as a result of the redevelopment of the MOD housing and other new developments.**
2. **Proposed Solar Farm at Kencot Hill** – see attached letter. Does the Council have any views? **Councillors said they would welcome a presentation from Robinson and Hall.**
3. **Publications**
 - The Playingfield – Winter 2010/11
4. **Forthcoming meetings and events.**
 - Tuesday 1 March – Planning and Administration Committee
 - Tuesday 15 March – Planning and Council
 - Sunday 27 March – Carterton 10K (volunteer helpers needed)
 - Tuesday 5 April – Planning and Recreation Committee (moved from May)
 - Saturday 16 April – St George’s Day Dinner
 - Tuesday 19 April – Planning and Council
 - Tuesday 3 May – Planning
 - Tuesday 17 May – Planning and Annual Council meeting (Mayor Making)
 - Tuesday 24 May – Annual Town Assembly
5. **WODC have undertaken to review the use of Browne’s Hall as a polling station.**
6. **The Clerk reported that there had been a raid on the market. Contraband cigarettes and tobacco had been taken away.**
7. **The Clerk reported that the Council’s insurers are investigating a claim for damages to a car parked by the Community Centre.**

Accounts for Payment - February 2011

Cheque	Transaction Detail	Date Paid	Amount	Payee Name
9748	PAYE & NI - January 2011	01/02/2011	£1,840.81	Inland Revenue
9749	Staff Pensions - January 2011	01/02/2011	£1,684.32	Oxfordshire County Council
9810	CFF Project Management Feb 11	15/02/2011	£1,733.00	Catherine Chater
9811	Grounds Maintenance Jan 2011	15/02/2011	£3,084.48	McCracken & Son Limited
9812	Professional Planning Advice	15/02/2011	£534.60	DPDS Limited
9814	Town Hall: Boiler Room Repairs	15/02/2011	£6,038.24	Faringdon Electrical Services
9816	Xmas Lights Storage Dec-Jun 11	15/02/2011	£550.00	Foddy Bros Plant Hire
9822	Community Centre Final Payment	15/02/2011	£32,234.21	Stepnell Limited
9823	Community Centre: Fees	15/02/2011	£3,163.81	Stanhope Wilkinson Associates
9826	ROSPA Play Inspections 2010	15/02/2011	£798.66	West Oxfordshire District Council
9827	Grant to Allandale Youth Club	15/02/2011	£7,000.00	Oxfordshire County Council
100095	Supervision of Play Area Works	15/02/2011	£1,790.00	Anthony Stiff Associates
100096	ARRG Litter Clearance/Dog Bins	15/02/2011	£277.00	McCracken & Son Ltd
100096	ARRG Cut back overhanging tree	15/02/2011	£240.00	McCracken & Son Ltd
100097	ARRG Building Works	15/02/2011	£41,972.00	EJ Services (UK) Limited
100098	ARRG Pavilion Electrical Work	15/02/2011	£1,000.00	CD Electrical Contractors Ltd