

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2011
AT 7.45 PM

Present: Cllr N A MacRae MBE - Town Mayor
Cllr A Coomber Deputy Mayor

Cllr Mrs D V Bulley Cllr Mrs C MacRae
Cllr R W Crapper Cllr P Madden
Cllr Mrs M Crossland Cllr P Scott
Cllr H Jobes
Cllr E Liston
Cllr Mrs L Little

Apologies: Cllr A Farmer; Cllr Mrs L Walcott and Cllr W O Walcott MBE

103 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 November 2011, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

104. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

105 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Scott declared an interest as Chairman of the Chamber of Trade and the NAG. Cllr MacRae and Cllr Mrs MacRae declared an interest as allotment holders and in cheque 10018. Cllr Mrs Crossland declared an interest in planning matters as a member of the WODC Planning Committee, and Cllr Mrs Bulley declared an interest in cheque 10025.

106 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that he had received the resignation of Cllr Garfield. The Council RESOLVED to declare a vacancy and the Clerk was asked to notify the District Council.

The Mayor noted that there had been seven Repatriations of fallen servicemen during November. The Clerk was asked to establish what arrangements would need to be put in place between Christmas and the New Year. The Council thanked the Town Hall staff for their continuing support with Repatriations.

The Mayor thanked all those who had helped with the switch on of the Christmas lights, an event which had been enjoyed by all. The Mayor and Mayoress had hosted children from Gateway and Edith Moorhouse Schools to tea, had been to the prize giving at the Community College, a concert by the Songsters, the Kids Lit Quiz, a fete at the Homestead and a Carol Service in Banbury. It was noted that no Carterton Schools had been represented at the concert in Oxford. The Olympic Committee had replied to the Mayor's letter saying that it was not possible to alter the route of the torch to pass the memorial garden.

Council agreed that the Town Hall should close at midday on 23 December and re-open on 3 January.

107 ADJOURNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES

No issues were raised.

108. ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Couchman reported that the County Council had frozen its Council tax for the next financial year. There had been 5,000 representations on the proposed closure of libraries. Cllr Couchman reported that Cllr Seale had been appointed as Military Champion for RAF Brize Norton. The Town Council expressed concern that Cllr Seale was not familiar with the issues facing the town and that it would make more sense for one of the Carterton County Councillors to be the Champion. Cllr Couchman assured the Council that the Champion was the link at County level rather than the link with the Town Council.

109 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'.

110 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15 November 2011. These were noted.

111 BUDGET FOR 2012/13 AND PRECEPT

Council received a budget which had been revised to take account of the comments made by the Administration Committee. This budget required a precept of £324,963 which was slightly lower than last year in total but the same per band D dwelling.

The Council RESOLVED that the precept for 2012/13 should be £324,963.

112 CARTERTON TOWN CENTRE

The Council received from the Carterton Fast Forward Town Centre Group a copy of the Town Centre Development Principles. The Council noted that this dealt with phase 1 of the development (the south west quadrant) and went on to look at principles for the longer term redevelopment of the town centre as a whole.

The Town Council RESOLVED to adopt these principles for development.

113 MORRISONS CONSULTATION

In the light of the principles for development, the Town Council considered the proposals for the Morrisons store on the old market site. It was noted that the proposals had been well received by those members of the public attending the exhibition.

The Town Council warmly welcomed the fact that Morrisons had purchased the site and would be providing much needed competition in the town. The Council was pleased to have been consulted at this early stage and to be given the opportunity to feed in comments. These comments included:

- the Morrisons store is the first phase of the redevelopment of the town centre and it would be useful to have an indication of how later phases might be developed.
- The store is of an uninspiring design and of materials which do not appear to have any connection with what is already in the town centre. The Council felt that the building would be improved by the addition of a second storey providing housing, parking or some form of community facility such as a café.
- The service area seems to be small and poorly located. It also presents an unattractive face onto the Black Bourton Road.
- There is concern that delivery lorries will be accessing the store via Filkins. Whatever the route into town, the Wycombe Way/Brize Norton Road junction will need improvement.
- The 'public realm' is a very small space. The Council feels it is important to be able to provide space for the Thursday market within the development and also a feature to commemorate the Jubilee.

It was agreed that these comments should be passed to Morrisons as part of the consultation exercise.

114 JUBILEE COMMITTEE

The Council received a report from Cllr Mrs Little. She outlined plans for the two day event on the Recreation Ground and also a series of other events which would run alongside the main event. She thanked her team for all their hard work and particularly Cllr Crapper for securing HGV trailers which could be used as stages. This would significantly reduce the budget. It was suggested that Browne's Hall be asked to consider arranging a dance for the Saturday evening.

Cllr Jobs presented a draft budget for the event and explained that this was still being developed. It was RESOLVED that the Town Council should contribute up to £4,000 to support the event. This sum would be funded from the contingency budget.

115 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'.

116 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

117 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. **Review of Civil Parking Enforcement.** To see attached letter from Oxfordshire County Council asking for comments on parking restrictions in Bluebell Way and Marigold Square. **Council felt that more extensive parking restrictions were needed on the estate. Cllr Jobses said that OCC had said that there was no funding to do more. Cllr Couchman offered to arrange for an officer from OCC to carry out a site visit.**
2. **Localism Act.** To see the attached briefing note on the Localism Act which came into force on 15 November 2011 A number of Regulations will need to be made before the powers contained in the Act come into force. **Noted**
3. **Technical Reforms of Council Tax.** To see the attached briefing on reforms to Council Tax. **Noted**
4. **Register of electors.** If you would like to receive a copy of the register of electors for your ward (either paper copy or by email), please complete the form below and return it to me no later than Friday 16 December. **Noted.**
5. **Grants.** The Council has received thank you letters for grants from the Life Education Centre and St John's Ambulance. **Noted.**
6. **Forthcoming meetings and events**

10 December -	Witney Town Band Concert at St John's Church
13 December-	Council Christmas Dinner
23 Dec -3 Jan -	Town Hall closed for Christmas
3 January -	Planning and Recreation
17 January -	Planning and Council
28 January -	Mayor's Burns Quiz Night
10 March -	Oxford Male Voice Choir
21 April -	St George's Day Dinner
7. **Tree planting by the Guides.** Council agreed that the Guides should be given permission to carry out some tree planting at Willow Meadows to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
8. **Council considered an application from Aldi to sell alcohol. It was agreed that there were no objections to the application but Council asked for clarification regarding sales on Sunday.**