

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JANUARY 2013
AT 7.45 PM

Present: Cllr A Coomber - Town Mayor
Cllr Mrs L Little - Deputy Town Mayor

Cllr Mrs D Bulley Cllr P Madden
Cllr R Crapper Cllr N Miah
Cllr A Farmer Cllr P Scott
Cllr H Jobes Cllr M Steward
Cllr Mrs C MacRae

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Crossland, Cllr Mrs Leeming and Cllr MacRae.

124 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 December 2013, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

125 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that a Community Covenant grant of £40,000 had been awarded for the adaptations to the pavilion and that the project could now go ahead.

126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no DPis. Cllr Scott declared an interest as Chairman of the Chamber of Trade and the NAG and in planning application 62/2012. Cllr Crapper declared an interest as a member of the Chamber of Trade and in cheque 10437. Cllr Farmer declared an interest in Carterton Football Club, Cllr Mrs Little declared an interest as a Governor of Edith Moorhouse School and in the Community College. Cllr Coomber declared an interest in RAF/MOD matters as a member of the armed forces. Cllr Mrs Miah declared an interest as a Governor at St John's School, as did Cllr Mrs MacRae, who also declared an interest as an allotment holder and member of the PCC.

127 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed the news that funding had been secured for the adaptations to Carterton Sports Pavilion and thanked all those who had worked to secure the funding.

128 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No issues were raised.

129 ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Couchman reported on the OCC budget setting process. There would need to be another two years of austerity with a further £30m to £40m of savings to be delivered. In previous years OCC had been given freeze grants worth 2.5% but these would end and be replaced by grants worth only 1%. There was also a £9m shortfall in the grant from central government. All of these things taken together meant that OCC was likely to have to raise its rates for

2013/14. The annual revenue budget of the Council was approximately £1,000m, of which £500m went to Education and the remaining £500m being for other services. Its capital budget was approximately £100m, most of which was spent on schools. There are reserves of about £100m.

Cllr Handley reported on pothole repair and explained that there were problems with the materials that councils were being required to use. Pot holes are a national problem and it was hoped that Government would make a bad weather payment to allow the worst to be tackled. Cllr Handley emphasised that it was a very tight budget round. The Stewards Fund was ending in February. He was still waiting for a price for the roundabout on Swinbrook Road and if there was any money left, would ask for another Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on Brize Norton Road. Cllr Scott agreed to ask the police if the VAS displays had had any obvious impact on speed.

The Mayor thanked Cllrs Couchman and Handley for their reports.

130 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.

131 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 18 December 2012 and 8 January 2013. These were noted.

132 RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation Committee held on 8 January 2013.

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Recreation Committee be accepted.

133 STREET LIGHTING IN BALDWIN MEWS

The Council received a report from the Clerk on street lighting in Baldwin Mews. Councillors expressed concern about the long-term maintenance of the road given that it had not been adopted.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should establish with OCC the process that needed to be followed to get the road adopted and then to contact the Swinbrook Road (Carterton) Management Limited with a view to encouraging them to get Baldwin Mews adopted. The Clerk would also ask the Management Company to make a contribution of 50% towards the cost of the lighting.

134 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

135 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

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 Precept.** WODC has advised that the tax base for next year is 4851.7 dwellings compared to 5196 this year. The reduction is due to Council tax benefit changes, which we discussed at the last Council meeting. We have been awarded a grant of £22,249 from WODC which pretty much cancels out the impact of the reduction. The Council set the precept at £388,000, the WODC grant reduces that to £365,751, which means the precept will be £75.39 per dwelling next year. **Noted.**

2. **Swimming Gala:** We have been asked by Rachel Mills, School Sports Co-ordinator, whether we could move the Swimming Gala from July to February this year in order for the winners to go forward to the district final of the Oxfordshire School Games in March. The Leisure Centre has given us a date of Monday 25 February from 10.30am – 1.00pm and the first race would start at 11.00am. We are aiming to reduce the number of races to enable the event to finish between 12.30/12.45pm. If any Councillors are free to help on the day, it would be very much appreciated. **Noted.**

3. **Forthcoming meetings and events:**

5 February 2013	Planning
?12 February 2013	Policy (TBC – subject to attendance by WODC)
19 February 2013	Planning and Council
20 February 2013	Highways Surgery 10 am.
20 February 2013	Meeting with David Neudegg and Andrew Tucker (pm tbc)
25 February 2013	Swimming gala. 11 am

4. **It was noted that Curtin and Co had approached a number of Councillors inviting them to take part in a workshop to develop proposals for the development to the west of the town. It was felt that this would not be appropriate at this stage and the Clerk was asked to decline the offer.**

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

19 February 2013

Town Mayor