

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2013
AT 7.45 PM

Present:	Cllr A Coomber -	Town Mayor
	Cllr Mrs L Little -	Deputy Town Mayor
	Cllr Mrs D Bulley	Cllrs Mrs C MacRae
	Cllr R Crapper	Cllr N MacRae MBE
	Cllr Mrs M Crossland	Cllr Mrs N Miah
	Cllr A Farmer	Cllr P Scott
	Cllr H Jobes	Cllr M Steward
	Cllr P Madden	

153 CO-OPTION

The Council voted to fill three vacancies. It was:

RESOLVED by an absolute majority that Martin McBride be elected to fill the first vacancy
RESOLVED by an absolute majority that Henry Howard be elected to fill the second vacancy
RESOLVED by an absolute majority that Michael Brennan be elected to fill the third vacancy

RESOLVED that Henry Howard represent Rock Farm ward and that Martin McBride and Michael Brennan represent Gateway ward.

The Mayor thanked all those who had expressed an interest in co-option and invited the three successful candidates to join the Meeting. Cllrs Brennan, Howard and McBride signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.

154 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2013, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record subject to an amendment to record that Cllr Mrs Crossland voted against the resolution at Item 146. The Minutes were signed by the Mayor.

155 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that another grant had been secured for the pavilion project. The Council thanked the Clerk and the CFF Project Manager for their considerable fundraising achievements over recent years.

156 ACADEMIES IN CARTERTON

Cllr Mrs Crossland presented a report which had been prepared jointly by the schools in Carterton. The report set out the background to academies and the position in Carterton where there are particular challenges as a result of low pupil numbers. All six schools had formed a group to investigate the options. St John's and St Joseph's are required by their Diocesan authorities to form a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) with their church partners, but the remaining four schools are considering forming their own MAT. The schools believe that this would be the most beneficial approach. The report went on to raise three questions for consideration: whether the schools current collaboration should continue; whether the schools

in Carterton should consider sponsorship, and whether a MAT is the best approach. Formal consultation would take place over coming months.

In discussion, Cllrs MacRae and Mrs MacRae said that they felt the report contained incorrect information and questioned the Council's involvement in the decision making process. Cllr Mrs Little asked whether strongly performing members of a MAT would be required to support weaker performing members and what the future role of Governors would be. The Clerk was asked to raise these matters with Mr Speke. Councillors were broadly supportive of creating a MAT and opposed to sponsorship, but wanted more information before reaching any conclusions.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Mrs Crossland and Steward should be nominated to be the Council's link with the group working on Academy Status and should keep the Council informed of developments.

157 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no DPIs. Cllr Scott declared an interest as Chairman of the Chamber of Trade and the NAG. Cllr Crapper declared an interest as a member of the Chamber of Trade. 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 Jobes declared an interest as a Governor of Edith Moorhouse School. 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. Cllr MacRae declared an interest in the ATC and as a school governor. Cllr Madden declared an interest as a school governor. Cllrs Mrs Crossland and Howard declared an interest in planning as members of the District Council planning committee. Cllr Brennan declared an interest as a member of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee at WODC and an employee of SERCO.

158 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor said that he had attended the 10K Road Race and the 5K Fun Run on 17 March at the Carterton Leisure Centre and had presented medals. Despite the appalling weather, more than 440 had taken part and the event had been very well organised.

159 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

No issues were raised.

160 ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Handley briefly reported on the road works that were being undertaken. He had recently attended the RAF/LA liaison meeting and had noted that there were 1320 units of accommodation behind the wire. The Mayor thanked Cllr Handley for the Big Society grants which he had presented to various voluntary organisations earlier in the evening.

161 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.

162 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 19 February and 5 March 2013. These were noted.

163 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Administration Committee held on 5 March 2013.

Cllr Farmer presented the Minutes. It was noted that proposals for the flower beds were still awaited. The Clerk had completed the staff appraisals. The Council noted the report of expenditure against budget and reserves.

RESOLVED to adopt the Standing Orders as recommended by the members of the Administration Committee and circulated to Councillors.

RESOLVED to adopt the Financial Regulations as recommended by the members of the Administration Committee and circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Scott thanked Cllr Farmer for chairing the meeting in his absence due to ill health.

164 PERSONNEL ISSUES

Cllr Farmer proposed that all personnel issues should come under the auspices of the Administration Committee and that the Administration Committee should make recommendations to full Council. This would provide continuity and establish a core of expertise. It was agreed that HR training should be provided to Councillors who would find this useful. RESOLVED that the Administration Committee should handle all personnel issues.

165 ALLOTMENT SECURITY

Cllrs MacRae and Mrs MacRae left the room for this item. Following a recent break in at the Allotments, that Clerk had invited the Allotment Association to put forward suggestions for improving security. The Association had surveyed the site and were recommending warning signs, 2 dummy cameras and 2 actual cameras. The Clerk said that the total cost of a little under £1,000 could be met from the current year's budget.

In discussion, Councillor expressed concern that although the system seemed expensive, it might not be robust enough given the remote location of the allotments. The Clerk was asked to go back to the Association to seek their views on alternative security systems. Cllr Scott said he would ask the NAG whether it might be possible to have one of the mobile CCTV cameras located at the Allotments for a period.

166 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

167 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.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.

16 April 2013

Town Mayor

1. Recruitment of new Clerk. The post has now been advertised with the SLCC, Opportunities, Jobs Go Public, The Oxford Times Group, on RAF Brize Norton and at the County and District Councils. It has also been placed with an agency dealing with admin posts covering Oxford, Swindon and Cheltenham. There is a closing date of 12 April. To date there have been 7 applications. The Working Group will meet on 22 April to carry out the sift, with candidates making presentations to the Council on Tuesday 14 May and the recruitment working group carrying out interviews on 15 May. I will put a paper to the April meeting with more details about the recruitment process. **Noted that the Chair of Admin would chair the recruitment process and that, subject to the consent of applicants, the presentations would be recorded**

2. Town Hall Extension. Work on the extension will start on 8 April. From that date there will be no parking to the rear of the Town Hall. I will re-designate the Town Clerk's space as being a disabled space. All groups hiring the Town Hall over the 20 weeks of the construction period have been notified that building work is going on and offered a 50% discount. I attach a table showing details of the budget allocated to this project and will update it each month. **Noted.**

3. Forthcoming meetings and events:

2 April 2013	Planning
16 April 2013	Planning and Council
20 April 2013	St George's Day Celebration
24 April 2013	Apprentice Town Crier Competition 4.00pm
7 May 2013	Planning
8 May 2013	Town Assembly, 7.00pm, St John's Church
14 May 2013	Presentations from Town Clerk candidates
21 May 2013	Planning and Annual Meeting of the Town Council