

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN HALL  
ON TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2015  
COMMENCING AT 7.45 PM

Present: Cllr Mrs L Little - Town Mayor  
Cllr M McBride - Deputy Mayor

Cllr R Brooks Cllr Mrs M Mead  
Cllr Mrs D V Bulley Cllr P Scott  
Cllr Miss S Coul Cllr Mrs S Scott-Stovold  
Cllr Mrs C Delaney Cllr M Steward  
Cllr N Leverton Cllr Mrs C Wilson

Apologies: Cllr M Brennan, Cllr R Crapper, Cllr D Melvin

Absent: Cllr Mrs N Miah

Officer: Mrs Tan Marchant

In attendance: Mr Ron Spurs - Town Clerk Designate  
OCC Cllrs P Handley and N Owen  
2 members of the public

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr P Scott declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning Application 15/03075/FUL.

50 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 July 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record, with the amendment of the word 'would' to 'should' in regard to Cllr P Handley's report on budget cuts and the Carterton Children's Centre. The Minutes were then signed by the Mayor.

51 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that she attended a reception of 70 Sqn on the occasion of the new Squadron standard being presented by HRH Princess Anne in late July and was invited to take part in the *Get Stuck In* programme at the Carterton Community College. Also in July she and Cllr Scott had attended a meeting of the parishes held at Brize Norton Elderbank Hall, which was chaired by Cllr Neil Owen. The meeting covered transport links, road repairs, the emerging Local Plan and also the Carterton Masterplan. Concerns were shared regarding future development and the Mayor said it is hoped that another joint meeting will be organised in the near future.

In August the Mayor attended the Woodstock Civic Service to commemorate VJ Day and attended a lunch with Grp Cpt Perkins to discuss community cohesion.

In September the Mayor hosted a Fish and Chip Supper at Brownes Hall to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, with entertainment provided by the Military Wives Choir and the Swing Sisters. The Mayor gave her particular thanks to Cllrs Sarah Scott-

Stovold, Michele Mead and Chris Delaney for all their help in decorating the hall, and also to the ICE Centre. Over £370 was raised for the Mayor's Charities.

Ted Little enjoyed another Teddy Bears Picnic with the help of the RAF Falcons and joined by over 300 guests, and the Mayor gave thanks to Cllr Dee Bulley and Mike Bulley, Julian Carlin, Cllr Michele Mead, Cllr Sarah Scott-Stovold, Steve Gibson and Scott Edwards for all their help at this event. Special thanks also go to Cllr Mike Steward for producing the Ted Little booklet.

Finally, the Mayor hosted the Battle of Britain Civic Service at St John's Church on 13 September where 6 standards were displayed by RAF Brize Norton.

The Mayor took this opportunity to announce the appointment of and a welcome to the new Town Clerk for Carterton, Mr Ron Spurs, who will take up his role on 5<sup>th</sup> October. She recorded her thanks to Mike Bulley for all his years of service on his retirement as Mace Bearer and welcomed Phil Lewis into this role.

## 52 ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

Mr David Wesson said it had been a pleasure to attend the Civic Service on Sunday. He also said that, in his opinion, the new metal bin in Carter's Walk is the wrong design and could be harmful if someone tripped and fell against it.

## 53 ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE ISSUES

Cllr Neil Owen reported that the County Council budget process is now starting in earnest, and when cuts are made which affect Carterton, he would be happy to pass on any objections or concerns that the Council has. He said that the OCC Chief Executive is leaving at the end of September and the saving on her salary should help the budget a little. He reported a slight problem with OCC funding to the Carterton Community Centre but reassured Council that he was dealing with it.

Cllr Owen said that the road situation is on-going, and he will have a meeting next Tuesday in Kidlington with the Area Highways Steward about potholes. He confirmed that the road at Brizewood is currently receiving attention. Cllr Scott raised continuing concerns about the Carterton South Industrial Estate and Upavon Way by Lord Close, and Cllr Owen confirmed that these areas will be discussed with the Area Steward. Cllr Leverton asked who he should speak to if he had concerns about new estates and proposed roads, and Cllr Owen said he would be happy to pass on any issues of this nature.

Cllr Peter Handley then came to the table. He said that £80M worth of cuts would be made at the County Council and a recent announcement was that all children's centres will close. However, as with similar announcements of closures to libraries and youth clubs, this need not be the case if funding can be found and if the Town Council would consider increasing its precept to cover any shortfall if this proved necessary after consultation. Cllr Handley said he has met with RAF Brize Norton and they are looking to part fund the Carterton Children's Centre in the future. He said that more than 250 children per week go through the Centre, and it is therefore a very valuable resource. Cllr Mrs Little observed that the town needs a families centre covering ages 0-19 rather than just a children's centre.

Cllr Handley said that the Carterton Safety Centre is taking a long time to finalise because of the Covenant on the land, and the Town Council needs to chase this before another round of cuts are made in December. He said that a four-way junction at Minster Lovell is in the

Local Transport Plan but there is no money to finance it. The RAF housing at REEMA North has been put back again and Cllr Handley felt that he should have been made aware of this. It is now agreed that he will have four meetings a year with the RAF for updates.

Cllrs Owen and Handley were thanked for their reports and for their continuing support for Carterton.

#### 54 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 had been previously circulated. These were noted.

#### 55 POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee Meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> August had been previously circulated.

Council APPROVED the Recommendation that Hickman's quote of £2,710 be accepted for the construction of a concrete base and installation of a heavy duty storage shed to be sited at the rear of the Town Hall. Cllr Scott mentioned the possibility of using the small parcel of land to the side of the Vets for additional storage and this would need to be considered by Policy & Resources at its next meeting.

Council APPROVED the Recommendation that the updated Financial Regulations be accepted. Cllr McBride reiterated the need for Chairmen of Committees to put forward any proposals to the Assistant Clerk before the next Policy Meeting in October.

#### 56 ECONOMIC REGENERATION COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Economic Regeneration Committee Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 had been previously circulated.

Council APPROVED the expenditure of £100 in vouchers for the 'Most Unusual Photo Competition' in respect of the Carterton 'Bag for Life'. Bags were distributed to all Councillors at the end of the meeting.

#### 57 EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015. These were noted.

#### 58 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015, previously circulated, were noted. The Assistant Clerk will look into the query about the Community Covenant Reserve and will report back to the next Finance Meeting.

#### 59 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Council received an application for grant funding under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 from the Carterton Winter Lanterns Project.

Council unanimously APPROVED a grant of £1,500 to the Carterton Winter Lanterns Project.

60 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statement to 31 August 2015, set out at Annex A, was APPROVED. Detailed Income & Expenditure to 31 August 2015 was also APPROVED.

61 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts for Payment for August 2015, set out at Annex B, be APPROVED for payment. Cllr Leverton queried whether we could seek sponsorship for some of the new town centre benches recently purchased, and the Chairman recommended that this be discussed by the next Amenities Committee.

Debit card transactions, set out at Annex C, were noted.

62 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.

63 WAR MEMORIAL RAILINGS

Confidential Item.

64 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Confidential Item.

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

20 October 2015

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Town Mayor