

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN HALL
ON TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2016
COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

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

Cllr M Brennan Cllr N Leverton
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 R Crapper Cllr Mrs C Wilson
Cllr Mrs C Delaney

Apologies: Cllr D Melvin
Cllr P Handley - Oxfordshire County Council

Absent: Cllr Mrs N Miah

Officers: Ron Spurs - Town Clerk
Tan Marchant - Assistant Clerk

In attendance: Cllr N Owen - Oxfordshire County Council
3 members of the public

125 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

126 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 January 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

127 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor started her announcements by reporting that Councillor Mike Steward has resigned from the Council as he and his partner are moving to the Forest of Dean. The Mayor wished to record her thanks for all his hard work during the last four years and especially for his help with the Carterton Masterplan and his support of the staff during a difficult 2015.

The Mayor had attended a Service of Remembrance at Keble College, Oxford, and was invited to a Veterans Evening at the Families Club in Carterton sponsored by SSAFA. She was invited by Tom Amer to look at the proposed new indoor facilities at the Football Club and attended several meetings with the Clerk and the Manager of the Carterton Day Centre.

128 ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

Members of the public did not speak at this point.

129 ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE ISSUES

Cllr Handley had given his apologies.

Cllr Owen reported that the County Council had voted on their budget today and he was pleased to say that both Labour and Conservative Councillors had voted together to support it. He said the latest news is that the Government have just made an announcement to say there is an additional £4.5M for the next two years, and that there was much debate on what to do with this additional funding. A lot of Councillors felt it should be invested and saved for a rainy day but the majority felt that it should be used immediately for Children's Centres. The extra funding may also be used on bus subsidies. Cllr Owen said money still needs to be raised from various sources to keep the Carterton Centre going in addition to a portion of the £4.5M.

Cllr Owen made reference to the Witney Gazette article concerning the state of the roads on the Carterton South Industrial Estate. Cllr Owen had visited a while ago with the Highways Area Steward, and he felt the only solution was to use what is known as a Dragon Patcher. There is only one such machine available which is shared between three or four counties. Cllr Owen will write a letter tomorrow to request it as he feels it would certainly be the best solution.

Cllr Owen then moved on to the problems being experienced on Shilton Park with vehicles parking on grass verges, churning up the grass and the mud and also blocking driveways. The problem is knowing who the land belongs to in each case, and Cllr Owen said that this could become a recurring issue.

Finally, Cllr Owen was pleased to report that Fire Station plans had been approved and in a year's time there should be a Fire Station in Carterton. Cllr Scott mentioned the flooding problem on the Shilton road near to the Blue Cross Centre and Cllr Owen said he would investigate.

Cllr Owen was thanked for his report.

130 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's Report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was received. The Report is attached at Annex 'A'. See below.

131 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 19th January and 2nd February 2016, previously circulated, were noted.

132 EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Events Sub-Committee Meeting held on 26th January 2016, previously circulated, were presented by Cllr Mrs Little. The meeting had been principally concerned with a 'wash-up' of the Christmas Lights event, and the possibility of purchasing or hiring wooden huts for the future. Cllr Ms Coul asked if the dates of Events Sub-Committees could be circulated to all Councillors and this was agreed. The Minutes were Approved.

133 APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

(a) Blue Cross Centre, Burford.

Councillors considered the application submitted by the Burford Blue Cross Centre for funding of £2,000 towards a Community Fun Day to raise funds and awareness for the centre. Cllr Ms Coul pointed out that Blue Cross funds held nationally were in excess of £64M and Cllr Mrs Mead queried the purpose of the grant and felt that it wasn't specific enough.

Cllr Scott suggested that Tina Burdett from the Blue Cross Centre be invited to come forward at this point and put forward her own aspirations for the funding applied for. Ms Burdett explained that the initial budget had covered the cost of a bungee jumping event, but talking to businesses and local people she had realised that the event could be so much more. It was therefore decided to turn it into a larger community event. Additional funding is therefore required for stalls, a dog show, a tea party, entertainment, etc.

The Chairman proposed that the Town Council sponsor the PA system at a cost of £160. A second proposal by Cllr Leverton was to give funding of £1,000. A vote was taken and a grant of £1,000 was APPROVED.

(b) St Joseph's Church, Carterton.

Council considered the application submitted by St Joseph's Church for a grant to repair and refurbish the parish hall inside and out. The total cost of the refurbishment is estimated at £612,000 with just £80,000 having been raised so far. Cllr McBride spoke first and said that he supported such an application in principle but was concerned at what stage any grant would actually be spent. The Clerk responded that he would speak to the Church and if the grant would not be spent immediately, then approval could be given in principle with a cheque not being raised until required.

Council APPROVED a grant of £1,000 to St Joseph's Church.

(c) Oxfordshire Play Association

The OPA had submitted an application for funding towards the delivery of a Play and Activity Day on the Alvescot Road Recreation Ground in Carterton on the same day as Armed Forces Day on 25 June 2016.

Council unanimously APPROVED a grant of £1,000.

(d) Save the Children May Day Fair Sponsorship

The local branch of the Save the Children Fund will be holding their annual May Day Fair on the Recreation Ground in Carterton and have written to ask if the Town Council would be willing to give sponsorship.

After some discussion, it was APPROVED that STCF be awarded a grant of £700. Additionally, it was agreed to take up their offer of a free gazebo at the event and several Councillors volunteered to attend on the day.

134 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 31 January 2016, set out at Annex B, was APPROVED. Detailed Income & Expenditure to 31 January 2016 was also APPROVED.

135 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Accounts for Payment for February 2016, set out at Annex C, had previously been circulated. Cllr Scott queried the payment for 17 iPads when approval had previously been given for 16, and the Clerk responded that this would be explained at Agenda Item 16 in Confidential session.

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts be APPROVED for payment.

Debit card transactions for January 2016, set out at Annex D, were NOTED.

136 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.

Confidential items follow.

137 CARTERTON LEISURE CENTRE - PHASE 2

Confidential item.

138 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PROJECT

Confidential item.

139 PURCHASE OF IPADS

Confidential item.

140 TOWN WARDEN - PENSION SCHEME

Confidential item.

Part 2

Sitting as Trustees of the Carterton Recreation Ground Charity

141 ARRG PAVILION

Confidential item.

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

15 March 2016

Town Mayor

- 1 **Streatfield House** - Contracts have now been exchanged in relation to the above premises. We are expected to complete in the next 7 days.

There has been considerable interest from prospective tenants and I have engaged Bidwells to act as the Council's agents in this matter. Any shortlist of prospective tenants will be circulated to Councillors for a decision to be reached as to the most suitable. Contracts will be drawn up by Bidwells. It is important that the chosen tenant has undergone appropriate due diligence and bankruptcy checks etc. **The Clerk advised that completion would take place on 25 February 2016, and he is currently seeking quotes for conversion of the first floor.**

- 2 **IT** - Officers have met with a second IT company and a report will be submitted to Council in the near future outlining how the Council's IT and Wi-Fi systems can be improved and at what cost. **Noted that further quotes are being sought.**

- 3 **Planning Committee - Decision Reporting** - Officers met with staff from WODC Planning and were provided with a demonstration relating to live online reporting of planning decisions by Planning Committees and/or full Councils. The system is very easy to operate and Officers will provide a demonstration to Councillors once our Wi-Fi speed in the Chamber has been improved. As an incentive, WODC are providing participating Councils with an inducement of £500 to adopt the system. **Noted.**

- 4 **Diary Dates** -

Planning	1 st March
Planning	15 th March
Town Council	15 th March

- 5 **Use of Barclays Bank Car Park by Market Traders** - Cllr McBride queried if this had been progressed and the Clerk said that he had spoken to the market traders and their initial reaction was that the site would be too small.
- 6 **Highways Signage** - Cllr McBride asked if the lack of appropriate signage on the approach roads to Carterton and within the town had been followed up. The Clerk responded that he had contacted OCC Highways but was still awaiting a response.
- 7 **Carter's Walk Statues** - The Clerk confirmed that following a meeting with Heather McCulloch of the District Council, the Carter's Walk statues are now owned by the Town Council.

Ron Spurs
Town Clerk
17 February 2016