

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING
ON TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2020
COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

Present: Cllr N Leverton - Chairman
Cllr J Bull - Vice-Chairman

Cllr S Baylis Cllr M McBride
Cllr R Crapper Cllr M Mead
Cllr M Crossland Cllr J Sangster
Cllr C James Cllr D Wesson
Cllr K Wood

Apologies: Cllr C Cook, Cllr E Hatton, Cllr L Little

Absent: Cllr P Handley

In attendance: Cllr N Field-Johnson (County Councillor)

Officers: Ron Spurs – Town Clerk
Katie Zasada

90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Wood - Item Payments relating to Allotments (allotment holder)

91 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 October 2020, previously circulated to Members. Cllr Crossland asked for one amendment, that she had not been a member of WI for a number of years. The Chairman would sign the Minutes once the amendment had been made.

92 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 20 October 2020, which were Noted.

93 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the Meeting of the Administration Committee held on 27 October 2020, which were Noted.

94 ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

There were no members of the public present.

95 ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Field-Johnson gave a verbal report. He continued in his efforts to get the flooded underpass on Upavon Way repaired. The County Council are still working on obtaining pumping equipment. A timetable for completion of the work is currently unavailable.

His pledge of funding for the Community Bus Service requires the Town Council to submit a form, which he has forwarded to the Clerk for completion before the year end. The Clerk said the service was expected to start from Spring 2021.

The funding is now available for the testing equipment for the River Windrush and a new testing site will be set up in due course.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Field-Johnson for his report.

96 ADJOURNMENT FOR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Crossland – Carterton North West. Cllr Crossland has been assisting individual residents with various issues, including a particularly difficult planning issue, which had now been resolved and planning permission granted.

Cllr Bull - Carterton North West, Inclusion Champion and member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Cllr Bull has been assisting residents with issues relating to fireworks. She had been asked if the Council would support the RSPCA's initiative to use fireworks responsibly and she had taken this up with the District. She had also had concerns raised by residents with planning issues, particularly the problem of there being a short gap in the footpath coming out of Swinbrook Park where it does not link up with the path on Shilton Road. The Clerk would liaise with OCC, WODC and the developer, but should progress not be made, he would prepare a report for the Town Council to take the project forward.

Cllr Mead – Carterton South and Cabinet Member for Health and Leisure. She officially announced that she had been elected as Leader of WODC. The biggest focus currently is that Covid-19 figures in West Oxfordshire are increasing at the highest rate in the whole of Oxfordshire, especially in the over 60s. The District Council has approved a recovery plan that will be circulated to towns and parishes in due course and a town and parish forum will be held in the new year.

Cllr McBride – Carterton North East and Deputy Chairman of the WODC Environment Committee. Cllr McBride stated that he was working with WODC following a complaint regarding a Willow Tree which required removal. Also, in his role as Deputy Chairman of the WODC Environment Committee he has been working with colleagues regarding the Bring Sites issues and a decision will be made next Wednesday regarding this by the Cabinet.

Cllr Leverton - Carterton South and Armed Forces Champion. Together with Cllr Bull he attended a meeting concerning domestic violence, which continued to be a major issue.

97 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Leverton reminded Councillors that Zoom meetings were formal meetings.

Together with Cllr McBride and Cllr Crossland, he is working with members of the Women's Institute regarding the future of the WI Hall.

During the previous month he has formally visited businesses in the town and had received a very warm welcome.

He was pleased to report that the Market was operating well and the Council continued to encourage traders.

Cllr Leverton thanked Cllr Hatton and Cllr McBride for their work relating to Remembrance activities at St John's Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School. Many good comments

had been received regarding the poppy displays in the Market Square. He thanked Cllr Wesson for his invaluable help with the prayers. The staff were thanked for delivering a Remembrance Sunday which was appreciated by all of the community.

98 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerk updated Councillors on the latest working arrangements for the Town Hall during the Covid crisis. Staff were working from home with only one member of staff in the office at a time when necessary and meetings taking place via Zoom. The team continued to work well to provide the best possible service to the town.

The Remembrance ceremony had been adjusted in accordance with the latest government guidance, with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor laying the wreaths on behalf of local organisations. Members of the public who attended adhered to social distancing guidelines.

Discussions were taking place regarding switching on the Christmas Lights and he would circulate details in due course.

99 GRANT APPLICATIONS

(a) An application had been received from Volunteer Link Up requesting £600 to support their ongoing activities.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE a grant of £1,000.00 to VLU in recognition of the excellent work they undertake in the Carterton and West Oxfordshire area.

(b) An application had been received from the RAF Brize Norton Airplay Youth Club, seeking funding of £5070.78 to redevelop the Youth Club garden. The matter was referred back to the applicant at the last meeting of the Council and some additional information has been provided for the Council to consider.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE a grant of £3,000 to the RAF Brize Norton Airplay Youth Club.

100 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Bank Reconciliation Statement to 31 October 2020, set out at Annex A, was noted.

101 INCOME RECEIVED

Income Received to 31 October 2020, previously circulated, was noted.

102 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts for November 2020, set out at Annex B, be APPROVED for payment.

103 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.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

104 MINUTES OF URGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING

Confidential item.

105 APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR TO INSTALL NEW KITCHEN IN THE TOWN HALL

Confidential item.

The meeting ended at 8.02 pm.

15 December 2020

Town Mayor