

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN HALL
ON TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2018
COMMENCING AT 7.45 PM

Present: Cllr M McBride – Chairman
Cllr M Mead – Vice-Chairman

Cllr J Bull Cllr E Hatton (from Item 135)
Cllr S Coul Cllr N Leverton
Cllr R Crapper Cllr D Melvin
Cllr J Hayes Cllr D Wesson

Apologies: Cllr D Bulley, Cllr C Delaney, Cllr L Little,
Cllr P Scott, Cllr S Scott-Stovold, Cllr C Wilson

Cllr P Handley (County Councillor)

Officers: Ron Spurs – Town Clerk

In attendance: None

130 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr McBride declared an interest in Item 145, relating to payment for the Mayor's Christmas Cards.

131 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2018, previously circulated to Members, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

132 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had attended a number of events representing Carterton in the wider community as well as within the town:

- On 21 November, the Mayor and Town Clerk attended the Civilian Briefing at RAF Brize Norton.
- On 23 November, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor attended Oxfordshire County Council's Charity Dinner at Oxford Town Hall.
- On 29 November, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor visited the Carterton Women's Institute and, in the evening, attended the soft opening of the new Grapes & Tomatoes Bar (G&Ts).
- On 30 November, the Mayor led the Lantern Parade at the switch on of the town's Christmas Lights. The Parade consisted of just over 200 lanterns. The Lights were switched on by Robert Courts MP and Lewis Turner, nominated by the ICE Centre.
- On 5 December, the temporary Fire Station was opened on the Carterton South Industrial Estate.
- On 9 December, the Mayor attended the full Dress Rehearsal of the Acting Community Thingumybags Pantomime, Peter Panto, at Carterton Community College.
- On 11 December, the Mayor attended a Carol Concert at Carterton Community College.

133 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.

Cllr McBride said that himself and the Deputy Mayor meet every Monday morning to follow up on items discussed at Council meetings and bring up any items for future meetings. In the New Year he intends to circulate to Councillors a summary of what is discussed.

134 ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

There were no members of the public present.

135 ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Handley had sent his apologies for this meeting. Cllr Field-Johnson had sent a report for circulation to Members.

Cllr Field-Johnson said the County Council were in the process of their Budget Review for the coming year, which would contain a special budget of £120M for roads and schools. Ten million pounds had already been spent on roads this year.

He had been unable to attend the meeting regarding the bollards in Swinbrook Road, where he understood opinion was divided. Cllr Melvin reported on two recent incidents where ambulances had turned back when they came across the bollards. Cllr Coul asked if confirmation had been received that the Ambulance Service systems had been updated. The Clerk had received an email from Ian Hudspeth confirming they had received the information but it would seem that the information was not reaching every crew. Cllr Field-Johnson would look at the signage and speak to the OCC Officers to ensure the Ambulance Service understood the situation.

The spur road linking Carterton to the A40 had been included in the Capital Plan and would be going ahead and will be located adjacent to the current road at Minster Lovell. It has been included in the Capital Plan and work could start within the next 18 months.

Cllr Handley had attended the opening of the new temporary Fire Station.

Cllr Field-Johnson said it was expected that January/February would bring some very cold weather and asked the Council to let him know if further supplies of salt/grit were needed to replenish salt bins.

Cllr Hayes said the roadside hedges towards Shilton and Filkins were overgrown. Cllr Field-Johnson would ask the relevant OCC Officers to attend to it.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Field-Johnson for his report.

136 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council received the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 20 November and 4 December 2018.

The Minutes were noted.

137 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Council received the Minutes of the Administration Committee held on 4 December 2018. These were approved. The budget items for approval would be considered under Item 138 below.

138 BUDGET 2019/2020

The Administration Committee had considered a Draft Budget for the financial year 2019/2020 and had suggested some alterations, which were set out in the Minutes of that meeting. Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the Budget.

139 PRECEPT 2019/2020

The Administration Committee had considered a Draft Precept for the financial year 2019/2020, including a number of proposed projects. Council were asked to consider how these should be paid for, whether to increase or reduce the Precept and by what percentage. The Council had a total worth of £924,000 and budgeted expenditure for the coming financial year, including delivering the projects, would leave a total of £282,000. If the Precept were reduced by 25%, the net worth would be £620,000.

Cllr Coul said that the Administration Committee had resolved to recommend to Council that all the proposed projects be funded from Reserves and the Precept be reduced by approximately £83,000 (25%) reducing the Reserves by approximately £125,000.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE to fund the projects from Reserves and reduce the Precept by 25% to £388,049 for 2019/20.

140 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Council had received the following application:

(a) Life Education Centres. An application had been received for £275 towards the total cost of £1,260 to provide their Skills for Life project called 'Harold and the Life Bus' to the children of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in January 2019. The school had paid a proportion of the cost, leaving a shortfall of £550, which the £275 would go towards. The project will deliver two days of workshops to prevent mental health problems, obesity and substance abuse, together with year-round teaching resources and workshops for parents and teachers.

Cllr Bull proposed that the Council fund the shortfall. A vote was taken with all in favour. Council RESOLVED to APPROVE to grant to cover the amount of the shortfall to provide their Skills for Life project.

The Town Clerk would liaise with the Life Education Centre as to the actual figure needed.

141 AMENITIES WORK FOR AUTHORISATION

(a) Black Bourton Cemetery. A request had been received from the adjoining landowner regarding the hedge bordering her land. The hedge was inspected by the Council's tree surgeon, who recommended removing the Cherry trees, allowing the Field Maples more room to mature.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the above works at a cost of £500.

142 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 30 November 2018, set out at Annex B, was APPROVED.

143 INCOME RECEIVED

Income Received during November 2018, previously circulated, was Noted.

144 DEBIT CARD TRANSACTIONS

Debit Card transactions for November 2018, previously circulated, were Noted.

145 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts for December 2018, set out at Annex C, be APPROVED for payment.

146 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.

147 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Confidential items.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.

22 January 2019

Town Mayor

1. Diary Dates

Tuesday 11 December	Town Council
Tuesday 18 December	Planning Committee
Monday 24 December	Town Hall closes for Christmas
Wednesday 2 January	Town Hall reopens
Tuesday 22 January	Planning & Town Council

The above dates were noted.

**R Spurs
Town Clerk**