

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN HALL
ON TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2017
COMMENCING AT 7.45 PM

Present: Cllr Mrs L Little - Town Mayor

Cllr M Brennan	Cllr J Hayes
Cllr R Brooks	Cllr Mrs M Mead
Cllr Mrs D V Bulley	Cllr D Melvin
Cllr Miss S Coul	Cllr P Scott
Cllr R Crapper	Cllr Mrs S Scott-Stovold
Cllr Mrs C Delaney	Cllr Mrs C Wilson

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

Apologies Cllr N Leverton, Cllr M McBride

In Attendance: Mr D Wesson

The meeting was preceded by a presentation by Kay Francis from Carers Oxfordshire, to raise awareness of their organisation and the important work that they do.

154 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

155 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2017 had been previously circulated to Members. One amendment was required at Item 147 - Motion by Cllrs Mrs M Mead - to record a vote of five for and eight against the Motion, rather than seven against.

The Minutes were APPROVED and signed by the Mayor.

156 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor visited BFBS to take part in a radio interview about what was happening in Carterton, to promote the town and talk about the charity work that she had undertaken.

She attended the opening of the new Carterton Family Centre on 27 March, together with Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Cllr Peter Handley, Cllr Mrs Chris Delaney, the Station Commander, Jo Smith, the Town Clerk, the RAF Benevolent Fund, personnel from RAF Brize Norton, members of the Trustees and, more importantly, children and parents. It was a great success and her thanks go to everyone involved. The following day saw the launch of the New Mums Group and Messy Play, which would be held every week during term time.

Later that afternoon she presented certificates to all the businesses who had sponsored the ten new Tikspac stations in the town, which dispense free bags for residents to pick up their dog

waste. She gave her thanks to Teresa Whitford who had provided names of potential businesses to sponsor this new initiative.

On Wednesday 29 March the Mayor was joined by children from Gateway and Carterton Primary Schools and members of the public for the Great British Spring Clean-up to litter pick around the town centre. Thanks go to Teresa Whitford for her help on the day, to the schools and to everyone else involved. The rubbish collected included clothes, footwear and bottles.

The Mayor hosted Robert Courts MP on his recent visit to the town. He was pleased to hear that Morrisons was performing well against its sales target. There was a photo opportunity with the Manager of the store in support of the Armed Forces, followed by a meeting at the Town Hall to discuss the impending closure of Lloyds Bank in September this year. Mr Courts was in support of the petition by District Councillors to collect signatures of those opposed to the closure. They also discussed the withdrawal of the 64 bus to Swindon. Mr Courts also agreed to join SSAFA's Veterans Forum held annually at Dalton Barracks.

Cllr Mrs Little was again invited to BFBS to take part in a media campaign spearheaded by the actor, Ray Winston, in support of Armed Forces Day around the country. He would read out all the comments of people who took part.

Another successful drop in lunch was held in conjunction with Victory Christian Fellowship who provided homemade soup and French bread, followed by coffee and cakes. This was enjoyed by many of our senior residents. Thanks also to the Fruit and Vegetables stall on the Market who donated a bowl of fruit for the event.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Brennan and Cllr Scott for hosting Robert Courts MP on his visit to The Siege. She also thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending two events that she was unable to attend herself. She was a guest at a Charity Dinner for the Mayor of Witney, where over £1,000 was raised for the Mayor's charity. She was also a guest at the Mayor of Abingdon's Charity Dinner.

On Easter Sunday the Mayor attended the annual 5K and 10K runs, where she started both races and presented medals and awards afterwards. It was well attended, with participants coming from all over the county. The fastest time for the 5K was under 16 minutes.

Finally, on behalf of the Town Council, the Mayor sent her very best wishes to Mike Bulley for a speedy recovery from his recent illness and hoped to see him here on 28 April when the Lord Lieutenant would be at the Town Hall.

157 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.

158 ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

The member of the public present had no matters to raise.

159 ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllrs Peter Handley and Neil Owen had given their apologies.

160 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council received the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 21 March 2017 and 4 April 2017. These were noted.

161 PURCHASE OF SUMMER BEDDING

The Clerk had previously circulated a report asking Council to consider the purchase of summer bedding plants for the hanging baskets, planters and tiered planters in the town centre. A quote of £4,125.40 plus VAT had been received from UBICO, which had been budgeted for in this financial year. Cllr Miss Coul asked whether sponsorship had been considered and the Clerk said his attempts to secure sponsorship for other areas, such as roundabouts, had not been successful and he had not looked for sponsorship specifically for the planters. Cllr Mrs Little asked whether the contract was to supply a basic level of plants and the Clerk said that the contract included supply of the planters and winter bedding last year and that any future plants would be extra. The Clerk had been assured that the quality of the plants would be of a high standard. The Mayor said that the Council had received positive feedback from members of the public.

Cllr Brennan commented on the state of the bedding plants on the Brize Norton Road/Wycombe Way junction, as well as the plants just past the main entrance to RAF Brize Norton, which were not looking very good at present. He also thought the plants in the hanging baskets were not particularly impressive. The Clerk said that the lesson has been learned that trailing plants would be better in the hanging baskets and would follow this up with UBICO.

Cllr Scott asked for an update on relocating the seats/sculptures from Carters Walk. The Clerk said that he had contacted Oxfordshire County Council to ask whether they could be placed on a roundabout, and West Oxfordshire District Council to ascertain whether planning permission was required, but so far there had been no decision from either. The Clerk would pursue the matter and report back.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the purchase of summer bedding plants at a cost of £4,125.40 plus VAT.

162 TOWN HALL HIRE FEES

The Clerk had previously circulated a report asking Council to consider providing Town Hall facilities free of charge for local groups that meet certain criteria, as follows:

- The majority of members of the group are over 65 years of age.
- More than 80% of the members live within Carterton parish.
- The objectives of the group are to provide company, stimulation and improve wellbeing by undertaking a specific activity.
- The majority of the members live on a state pension.

This would save approximately 20 hours per annum of officer time at a cost of £218. Offering the Town Hall free of charge would primarily benefit Carers Oxfordshire, who gave a presentation on their work prior to this meeting, and The Visions Club who meet monthly to support those with sight problems. These two groups provided an annual income of £322. Cllr Scott asked whether this would affect the budget and the Clerk said that it would show as a reduced income.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE that the hall be offered free of charge to local groups that meet a minimum of three of the four criteria as set out above.

163 BUS 64 SERVICE TO SWINDON

A report had been circulated to members detailing the current position with the 64 bus service to Swindon, which had been withdrawn in July 2016. Two public meetings had been held at the Town Hall to discuss this, including bringing back either the full weekly service, a reduced service, or a service from Carterton to Faringdon or Lechlade where users could connect to the daily service to Swindon. Cllr Mrs Little had held a meeting with the CEO of Pulhams Coaches, who had previously supplied the service, and he would be willing to negotiate a viable service to Carterton and the surrounding parishes. She had met with Robert Courts MP and presented him with a 300+ petition last week. She had also spoken with the Clerk of the three parishes affected by the loss of the service (Filkins, Langford and Kelmscott).

It was evident that no funds were available from the Government and in order to reinstate a limited service to Swindon, funding would need to be sought. A further public meeting would be held in May.

164 APPLICATIONS FOR S137 GRANT FUNDING

RESOLVED that the Council in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure here set out:

(a) Base 33 had applied for a grant of £2,000 to provide a range of summer activities to young people in Carterton. Council felt that the work done by Base 33 was invaluable to youngsters in the town and had no hesitation in supporting their application.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE a grant of £2,000 to Base 33 to provide summer activities to young people in Carterton.

165 BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Bank Reconciliation Statement to 31 March 2017, set out at Annex B, was APPROVED.

166 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cllr Miss Coul asked for confirmation that the Town Council had 40 litter pickers for its use and this was confirmed.

Cllr Scott queried the payment to Bower & Bailey Solicitors and the Clerk said that this related to professional advice that was sought regarding a Council asset. The matter was commercially sensitive and could not be discussed in open session. The Clerk would bring a paper to the next meeting to be discussed in closed session.

Cllr Scott queried the payment to WODC for Town Hall waste collections. He wondered whether this service could be provided more cheaply by another supplier. The Clerk said he would investigate this. He queried the payment to ICCM and asked what this was for. The Assistant Clerk explained it was the annual subscription to the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. He also queried the payment for the Omega Accounts Contract and the Assistant Clerk said that this was the annual fee for the Accounts system.

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts for Payment for the period 22 March to 18 April 2017, set out at Annex C, be APPROVED for payment.

167 DEBIT CARD TRANSACTIONS

The Debit Card transactions for March 2017, set out at Annex D, were APPROVED.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

16 May 2017

Town Mayor

- 1 **Market** - The Market has expanded and now there are regularly eleven stalls operating on a Thursday. It is likely that this number will increase over the summer months. **Noted.**
- 2 **Enclosure** - The work to enclose the outside area adjacent to Tremain Vets and the Council's garage has been completed. This has enabled the Council to have a secure outside storage area for the first time. **Cllr Brennan suggested putting a higher fence around the area to prevent the possibility of theft by people being tempted to look over to see what was there.**
- 3 **Dog Fouling** - The Council has received a lot of positive publicity following a campaign to change the behaviour of irresponsible dog owners who fail to clear up after their dogs 'make a deposit'. This anti-social behaviour is particularly dangerous for young children who may be exposed to serious infections. **Noted.**
- 4 **Family Centre Operation** - The new Family Centre is operating as anticipated. There has been no impact on the Town Hall facilities or staff caused by the Centre using the Main Hall for a number of sessions per week. **Noted.**
- 5 **Clerk's Expenditure** - I authorised payment of £400, being the balance for the entertainment for the St Georges' Day Dinner, which was due for payment prior to 30 March 2017. Total cost £850. **Noted.**
- 6 **Easter Closure** - The Town Hall will close at 4.00pm on Thursday 13 April and re-open to the public at 9.30am on Tuesday 18 April 2017. **Noted.**
- 7 **Diary Dates**

Friday 21 April	St George's Day Dinner
Tuesday 2 May	Planning and Amenities & Economic Regeneration
Tuesday 9 May	Annual Town Meeting at St John's Church 7.00pm
Tuesday 16 May	Planning & Town Council & Mayor Making

Ron Spurs
12 April 2017