

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING
ON TUESDAY 19 MAY 2020
COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM

Present: Cllr M Mead – Chairman
Cllr N Leverton - Vice-Chairman

Cllr S Baylis	Cllr L Little
Cllr J Bull	Cllr M McBride
Cllr C Cook	Cllr D Melvin
Cllr R Crapper	Cllr D Wesson
Cllr M Crossland	Cllr K Wood
Cllr C James	

Apologies: Cllr P Handley, Cllr E Hatton, Cllr J Sangster

In attendance: Cllr N Field-Johnson (County Councillor) – from Item 219
One member of the public

Officer: Ron Spurs – Town Clerk

212 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bull - Grants Policy relating to Lantern Project
Cllr James - Grants Policy relating to May Day Fair and Carterton Celebrates
Cllr Melvin - Grants Policy relating to Lantern Project and Volunteer Link Up
Cllr Wood - Payment relating to Allotments

213 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 April 2020, previously circulated to Members, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Cllr Little said that she was recording this meeting. She said that her query relating to the Urgency Committee had not been recorded in the minutes and she abstained from voting. Cllr Mead would look into this.

214 ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

The member of the public present did not wish to speak.

215 ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Field-Johnson joined the meeting later at Item 219. His report for May was circulated with the agenda. The report highlighted the following:

A wide range of research projects and clinical trials are taking place in Oxfordshire to find drug treatments and vaccines for the Covid-19 virus. New clinics to support patients with the virus have opened across the county and a home visiting service will soon become available.

Attendance at Emergency Departments in the Oxford hospitals for other health conditions had been lower than usual and people are urged to seek medical attention if needed. Cancer treatment continues to be provided in accordance with government guidelines.

He expressed his thanks to all the residents who continue to work to get us through this difficult time.

216 ADJOURNMENT FOR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

Cllr Bull - Carterton North West and Inclusion Champion: District Councillors had been given a list of vulnerable residents to contact. The majority were doing well and required little help. She expressed her thanks to the Carterton and Brize Coronavirus Community Assistance Group (CCA) for looking after the residents with learning disabilities in the ICE Centre's house in Burford Road. There had been a few problems getting staff tested locally, but the residents were coping well.

Cllr Crossland – Carterton North West: Her husband, Brian Crossland DL, had been asked by the Lord Lieutenant to find out what the situation was with volunteers in Carterton. He was pleased to be able to report that there are in excess of 3,000 people volunteering and this speaks volumes about the residents of our town.

Cllr Leverton – Carterton South and Armed Forces Champion: He was very pleased to see how well the town had responded to take care of their neighbours and expressed his thanks to the public and Councillors who were helping out at this time. The District had held a successful full meeting of the Council via Zoom. The District Council, both Councillors and Staff, deserved a huge pat on the back for their fantastic work under these difficult circumstances.

Cllr McBride - Carterton North East and Deputy Chairman of the WODC Environment Committee: The majority of residents he had contacted on the vulnerable list were in positive spirits and required no specific help. Most of the WODC committees remained on hold, except for the Lowlands and Uplands Planning Committees.

Cllr Mead - Carterton South and Cabinet Member for Health and Leisure: She reported that there were approximately 2,700 people in the District on the shielded list due to pre-existing health conditions and the list was updated by GPs every other day. She echoed what other Councillors had said, that everyone is doing an amazing job in these difficult circumstances. It is very sad to have lost so many people to the Covid-19 virus and consideration would be given as to how to recognise and commemorate those losses locally.

217 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

This time of year is usually very busy for the Mayor, attending functions to represent the town and raising money for charity, but these activities have stopped for now.

She expressed her thanks to Josh and Lauren Grace of the CCA group and to the Town Hall Staff who had been keeping Council business running by working from home.

She asked if the Clerk had anything to add. He said that he had returned from his temporary secondment to WODC. There had been one concern raised recently over grass cutting at the Cemetery, but this had now been resolved.

Cllr Little expressed her gratitude to the people of Carterton for looking after each other at this time, with particular thanks to Blesson Kallimel who had kept the local Food Bank running during the crisis.

218 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETANCE AND GRANTS POLICY

The General Power of Competence was introduced as part of the Localism Act 2011 and came into effect in February 2012. It provides Councils with the power to do anything an individual

can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation. The Council needs to readopt the GPC annually.

Each year the Council receives a number of applications for Grants from local charities and organisations that make a real contribution to the town. These include Carterton Day Centre, West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice, Lantern Project, OXPIP, Carterton Celebrates, Volunteer Link-Up and May Day Fair. Council was invited to consider setting aside funding for these each year so that if they apply for a Grant, it would be automatically funded.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the re-adoption of the General Power of Competence for the year 2020/2021.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE that Grants should continue to be considered on an individual basis.

219 LOCAL AUTHORITY CORONAVIRUS REGULATIONS 2020

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) England and Wales 2020 Regulations came into force on 4 April 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The Regulations enable local councils to hold remote meetings via video conferencing and telephone until May 2021. They also remove the requirement to hold an annual meeting.

In accordance with the above regulations, Council RESOLVED to APPROVE that the current appointments of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, together with Committees Members and Representatives on outside bodies, continue until the next Annual Meeting or until such time as the Council determined appropriate. Cllr Little asked for her abstention to be noted.

220 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 30 April 2020, set out at Annex B, was noted.

221 INCOME RECEIVED

Income Received during April 2020, previously circulated, was noted.

Cllr Leverton asked what the credit of £15,000 related to. Cllr Mead explained that this was due to an administrative error arising from the setting up of payments from the new Unity Bank Account and had now been resolved.

222 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm.

16 June 2020

Town Mayor