

CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN HALL  
ON TUESDAY 22 JANUARY 2019  
COMMENCING AT 7.45 PM

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

Cllr J Bull Cllr N Leverton  
Cllr R Crapper Cllr D Melvin  
Cllr J Hayes Cllr D Wesson  
Cllr E Hatton

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

Cllr P Handley - County Councillor  
Cllr N Field-Johnson - County Councillor

Officers: Ron Spurs – Town Clerk

In attendance: Cllr M Crossland - District Councillor  
15 members of the public

148 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr McBride (Chairman) declared a pecuniary interest in Accounts for Payment as he is the recipient of a cheque.

149 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 December 2018, previously circulated to Members, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

150 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:

December

- 13<sup>th</sup> Churches Together Carols - Market Square  
Masonic Panto Oxford.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Cllr Crapper attended Oxford carol service to represent the Council.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Town Hall Staff Christmas meal.

January

- 13<sup>th</sup> United Churches Service Community Centre

Future Events

January

- 24<sup>th</sup> Informal meeting with Brize Norton Councillors
- 31<sup>st</sup> RAF briefing at Fairford

February

- 8<sup>th</sup> ARRG Public Consultation at the WI Hall
- 9<sup>th</sup> Vale of White Horse Civic Dinner
- 16<sup>th</sup> Banbury Bollywood night- Cherwell District Council

Outreach Programme – the Mayor outlined his plan for an outreach plan for the community. Further details to follow

NAG meeting- The Mayor attended a meeting of the Neighbourhood Action Group.

District Councillor Report - The Mayor will consult with District Councillors to establish if they wish to submit reports to Council meetings.

Legal paperwork has been served on the Council and the Clerk by Cllr Little claiming £20,000 for Harassment by the Council and the Clerk.

#### 151 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.

#### 152 ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS

Several members of the public spoke on the proposal from Carterton Football Club Ltd to reinstate the football pitches at Swinbrook Road Recreation Ground. All of the members of the public present were opposed to the proposal.

District Councillor M Crossland provided a summary of the objections:

*“Regarding an article in the Witney Gazette on 4 January 2019 and documents which I have received regarding the future use of Swinbrook Road Recreation Ground, in my opinion this appears to be a desire to reinstate a football pitch irrespective of the impact on others.*

*Submission full of inaccuracies/half-truths. Misleading in crucial areas. Recreation ground has not been shut since 2004. Football used to be played here on a fairly regular basis when the open-air swimming pool was in use. The players changed and showered in the swimming pool changing rooms – from my memory often failing to clear up behind themselves and leaving a dreadful muddy mess for pool staff to deal with. The building of Baldwin Mews meant players had to walk up to the Kilkenny buildings to shower and change. This marked the effective end of adult games on this pitch because the teams found it inconvenient, but for a time it was also used by children's teams for practice. However, this did not mean the field area has been unused since then. It serves the needs of 436 homes on the Glenmore Park development which have only small gardens. It is well and regularly used by a wide range of local people including, to name but a few:*

- *Toddlers learning to walk in place of safety*
- *Small groups/families playing ball games*
- *Dogs being exercised while their owners socialise (very valuable to older people)*
- *SERF cadets use it for drill exercises*
- *Scouts etc use it for learning skills and games*
- *In summer, family picnics*

*To say “this has left a large grass area not being used for any recreation except the occasional dog walker and metal detector enthusiast digging the occasional hole” could not be further*

*from the truth and I say that as a resident of 47 years. It is only football which has moved elsewhere.*

*Residents of Baldwin Mews are alleged to have blocked the road and verbally abused members of the public. In my election campaigning, door knocking etc, I have never received a single complaint or comment on this issue. Stark contrast to the widespread uproar associated with the issue of bollards on neighbouring Swinbrook Road, when my email system almost went into meltdown under the fury of local residents. Important to remember that Baldwin Mews is a small private road, with limited rights of access to the general public.*

*Provision has been made for parking by residents and users of the Squash Club. The parents of SERF cadets are encouraged to drop off their youngsters at the junction of Swinbrook Road because Baldwin Mews cannot cope with the extra volume. An increase in cars at this end could more than double the demand for parking spaces when football practice/matches are on.*

*A new car park accessed via Speyside Close brings its own problems. Access via Swinbrook Road and Glenmore Park – again quiet, twisty residential roads designed specifically for use by local people. Any increase in traffic flow carries with it a safety risk to the residents, many of whom are young children and elderly people. Creating a car park here would require the loss of natural habitat, whether you clear the scrubland adjoining the Brook or take down the trees which are just coming to maturity within the recreation ground itself and were planted specifically to provide a natural oasis for our wildlife and for the air-cleaning qualities trees are known to possess. Given the huge amount of building around north Carterton in the last few years, these natural refuges are more necessary than ever to support local wildlife and to preserve a pleasant picnic spot for people in the summer.*

*The site is less than ideal as a football pitch for several reasons. The nearest changing facilities are at Kilkenny Lane. From past experience I remember this means a trail of muddy boots dirtying the footpath whenever the ground was wet. What about toilet facilities? The grass itself suffered from all the kicking and running and the surface became quite rough and uneven, which is not comfortable for the less robust members of the public, especially those who, like me, are a little unsteady on their feet.*

*The land is used on a daily basis as a place to exercise their dogs. With the best will in the world, you cannot stop dogs relieving themselves while out. It is one of their main pleasures and sadly not everyone is scrupulous about cleaning up after their dog. Grass which is safe to walk on in ordinary shoes is not necessarily safe for children falling and sliding on in the rough and tumble of a competitive game. Again, I remember the numerous complaints CTC used to get about the “disgusting” mess left behind. I have no reason to believe things have changed.*

*It is hard to see how the needs of the various interested groups can be easily reconciled. What is the best way forward for the greatest number of people? Should CTC be prepared to ban dog walking on the rec for the benefit of footballers? Should the residents of Glenmore Park be faced with a potential traffic hazard which will bring no benefits to their homes? Should we sacrifice one of the few naturally wild places left in their part of town?*

*During my ten years on CTC I remember us making donations of over £60K to the football clubs in town for equipment, kit etc. How well did they use that? I don't know how much more has been donated since I moved up to WODC in 2013, but now I suspect they are hoping you will once again pay for their facilities. I do not know what effort the club has made to raise money themselves. Have they attempted to come to an agreement with other local clubs about sharing facilities? Are they just looking to you as the easiest way out? You must decide whether you think this would be another wise investment of Council funding or whether some other options could be explored and be prepared to justify it to the local residents who will be affected by your decision.*

*I do not underestimate the importance of sport to the health and wellbeing of our young people, indeed two of my own grandchildren are keen and active footballers, but you must weigh in the balance what will provide the greatest good for your electors as a whole. You must consider how your decision will affect the 436 households – people of all ages and interests – for whom this is the only designated area for recreation provided for their homes. These people use the Rec at present for a whole range of different purposes. Then I would ask you to please balance this against the needs of the young footballers, especially as there are other pitches available in town. Surely it should be possible for all our footballers to put aside their past disagreements and get together to sort out something for the good of their sport. Something which will not cause harm to the environment and affect the quality of life of so many other local people”.*

#### 153 CARTERTON FOOTBALL CLUB PROPOSAL

Council did not Resolve to discuss the Agenda item relating to the Proposal by Carterton Football Club Ltd in closed session and following a request from Cllr M Crossland, District Councillor, the item was brought up the Agenda.

The Clerk outlined his recommendation. He recommended that the Proposal is refused. The grounds for this are that despite the discussion he had with Mr Godfrey, no consultation with the local community had taken place and the Proposal is incomplete.

Cllr Wesson suggested that perhaps they could use RAF pitches.

Cllr Leverton said that we were twenty years behind where we should be in relation to the provision of pitches. That area was used for football a long time ago.

Cllr Melvin said that there had been no public consultation, but the Football Club had gone to the press.

Cllr Hatton stated that she used the Recreation Ground regularly and no one had asked her opinion. She felt that there was plenty of other land the Football Club could use. The ground is not suitable. It is likely that Baldwin Mews will be used as a drop off and pick up point and this is not suitable.

Cllr Bull asked if Monahan Way could be used. The Clerk and Cllr Leverton discussed the future use of Monahan Way. There had been a plan to use it for light industrial units, but Cllr Leverton believed that this had changed.

Cllr Mead proposed that the Council follows the Clerk’s recommendation and this was seconded by Cllr Leverton. The vote was unanimous. The Proposal was **REJECTED**.

#### 154 ADJOURNMENT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MATTERS

There were no County Councillors present.

#### 155 EVENTS WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Council received the Minutes of the Meetings of the Events Working Group held on 23 October and 20 November 2018.

The Minutes were noted.

156 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council received the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18 December 2018.

The Minutes were noted.

157 HR REVIEW - INTERVIEWS

Council had approved the appointment of Peninsula HR at its meeting on 18 September 2018 to conduct an HR Review. The first element of the Review had been completed and the revised Staff Handbook would be submitted to the next Administration Committee for consideration. The next element is to ensure job descriptions fit with the roles undertaken by staff and that pay is commensurate with the role, which would take the form of staff interviews and reporting, at a cost of £895 plus VAT.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE that Peninsula HR be appointed to carry out this task.

158 APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CONTRACTOR

Council received a report from the Town Clerk seeking approval to appoint Peninsula HR to manage the Council's Health and Safety legal requirements, at a cost of £1,680 per annum. The Health and Safety Policy had been circulated to Members.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the appointment of Peninsula HR.

159 AMENITIES WORK FOR AUTHORISATION

(a) Carterton Community Centre. Replacement of the wooden fence around the car park with permanent metal fencing, at a cost of £8,775 plus VAT.

(b) Carterton Community Centre. Repainting of the three outside canopies, at a cost of £3,300 plus VAT.

(c) Carterton Football Club. Removal of broken boundary fencing, at a cost of £485 plus VAT.

(d) Streatfield House. Replacement of five windows at FitFigures with double glazed white UPVC, at a cost of £2,200 plus VAT.

(e) Swinbrook Road Playground. Replacement of worn wooden fencing and gate with metal fencing and gate, at a cost of £5,985 plus VAT.

(f) Trefoil Way Playground. Repairs to wet pour safety surface around ten bases, which had become a trip hazard, at a cost of £7,529.55 plus VAT.

(g) Trefoil Way and ARRG Playgrounds. Replacement of 18 sleeper steps that had rotted and been removed, secure the matting at take-off point of zipwire and fit new bearings on rowing machine at ARRG Playground. Replacement of missing fittings on two multiplay units at Trefoil Playground.

(h) Burford Road. The area in front of the shops had been cleared by UBICO in preparation for a new planting plan. UBICO have quoted for seven tons of topsoil, grass and seven Silver Birch trees to be planted, at a cost of £3,500 plus VAT.

(i) Town Hall. A new automatic front door had recently been installed and a release button is required in the Reception Office. Permission is sought to fit a digital lock to one set of Toilets for use by staff only. The cost would be £232.03 plus VAT.

(j) Black Bourton Cemetery. NBC Environmental have quoted for 40M of rabbit proof fencing along the southern boundary, at a cost of £3,879.94 plus VAT.

Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the above works, with the exception of item (i), a staff only toilet.

#### 160 LEAP AT STANMORE CRESCENT

A letter had been received from Annington Homes formally offering the Town Council the LEAP at the new Stanmore Crescent housing development, together with a commuted sum for maintenance of the playground.

Council RESOLVED to accept the Playground on the terms offered.

#### 161 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement to 31 December 2018, set out at Annex B, was APPROVED.

#### 162 INCOME RECEIVED

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

#### 163 DEBIT CARD TRANSACTIONS

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

#### 164 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council RESOLVED that the Accounts for January 2019, set out at Annex C, be APPROVED for payment.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.

19 February 2019

---

Town Mayor

1. Clerk's Authority has been used as follows:
  - a. Urgent electrical repairs Streatfield House - £400.
  - b. Advertisements in the Witney Gazette re Public Consultation ARRG - £174+VAT  
**Noted**
2. Mrs Tony Spurrett phoned in December to say how delighted she was that her late husband's name had been used for the development being built in Lawton Avenue, and she sent her sincere thanks to the Council for suggesting it. **Noted**
3. The Carterton Lions have written to thank the Town Council for donating space to the Lions for the Christmas Lights Switch-On. Father Christmas was extremely popular and contributed to more than £4,000 they managed to raise during the festive season. **Noted**
4. Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley have written to thank the Town Council for the grant of £275 approved at the December meeting, which will enable every child at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School to take part in their health, drug and well-being workshops. **Noted**
5. The organisers of Carterton Open Gardens have asked if they could use the Town Hall to display entries in their colouring competition two weeks prior to the event. The date of the Open Gardens is yet to be decided (last year it was Sunday 24 June). **Council agreed to this request.**
6. Diary Dates:

5 February 2019	Planning Committee
5 February 2019	Amenities & Economic Regeneration Committee
8 February 2019	Public Consultation re ARRG
19 February 2019	Planning Committee
19 February 2019	Town Council

Ron Spurs  
Town Clerk