MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL MAYOR'S COMMITTEE
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 28th JULY 2015
IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

Cllr E Poskitt (Town Mayor)
Cllr S Parnes
Cllr J Cooper
Cllr M Robertson
Cllr C Carritt (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr B Yoxall
Cllr T Wray

Also in attendance were nine members of the public.

MC/16/15 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr P Jay.

MC/17/15 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr E Poskitt (the Mayor) declared a general interest in agenda item 6, Planning as a West Oxfordshire District Cllr involved in the Uplands Planning sub-committee. Cllr J Cooper declared general interest in Agenda Item 6, as a West Oxfordshire District Cllr.

MC/18/15 **MINUTES:** The minutes of the Mayor's Committee held on 26th May 2015 were received and considered. The committee

RESOLVED (unanimous) that the minutes of the meeting of the Mayor's Committee held on 24th March 2015 were approved as a true record.

The Mayor then signed the minutes.

MC/19/15 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:**

(i) Dr Bob McGurrin – Complaint, New Road Play Area

Dr McGurrin said that he is the nominated representative for all of the complainants in the complaint against the Town Council entitled "Inaction of Woodstock Town Council to Informal Complaints by Residents Concerning Noise Nuisance/Annoyance at New Road Play Ground". He requested to be present at all meetings between the Town Clerk and/or any member(s) of the Town Council. He thanked the Town Clerk for helping to clarify some of the issues involved and some of the demands for resolution namely:

1. Removal of the MUGA from its present site, possibly to an area by the Youth Club
2. Clear large signage stating (a) no ball games (b) it is a children's area with age restrictions noted
3. Enforced curfew on hours the playground is open
4. CCTV on site.

He noted that the complainants reserved the right to alter the complaint before any final decision by the Town Council. He also said that one of the residents present at the recent meeting with the Town Clerk disagreed with some of the content of the draft note for the record from the recent meeting and will write to her with the details.

(ii) Mrs Ulli Parkinson

Mrs Parkinson thanked the Town Clerk for convening a meeting of residents about the playground in New Road. She hoped that the following would be approved by this Committee:

1. The MUGA would be removed.
2. Signs would be erected to say this is a children's area for the use of children under the age of 14 and hours would be restricted to daytime, and
3. No ball games

MC/20/15 **MOTION:**

Cllr S Parnes proposed that the Mayor's Committee:

Condemns the placement of a 'Pye Homes Site Entrance' sign recently mounted at one Shipton Road's landmark stone display walls and adjacent to 'Woodstock Historic Town' sign bearing the Town Council's Coat of Arms on that wall; Notes lack of inclusion of Woodstock Town Council in any notice or consultation; considers it inappropriate for a developer's corporate logo to be affixed there in this way; is concerned about damage from fixings to the Cotswold Stone masonry and resolves to notify Oxfordshire County Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Cherwell District Council and Pye Homes of our request for its immediate removal remedying any damage from fixings. Cllr J Cooper seconded this motion and discussion followed.

Cllr T Wray proposed an amendment to the motion so that all the Woodstock Town Council does is writes to Pye regarding the site entrance sign in our wall, asks them not to do it again and repairs any damage. Cllr S Parnes did not accept the amendment.

Cllr M Robertson seconded the amendment and it was

RESOLVED (4 votes for and 3 abstentions) that the amendment is passed.

The motion as amended was then voted upon and there was a tied vote (3 votes for, 3 votes against and 1 abstention). The Mayor used her casting vote to maintain the status quo and voted against the motion. The motion therefore fell.

MC/21/15 **PLANNING:**

The Mayor and Cllr J Cooper both declared a general interest.

(i) Planning Applications. The following planning application was received and considered:

Ref: 15/02331/FUL - Sansomes Farm Studio, Wootton, Woodstock: Single storey rear extensions to existing buildings to form additional space for student common room and new director's office, together with new landscaping works to create new informal outdoor amphitheatre space. Cllr C Carritt proposed, Cllr B Yoxall seconded the motion and it was

RESOLVED (unanimous) that Woodstock Town Council supports this proposal but ask the applicant to consider additional parking at the site at the earliest opportunity.

ACTION: *The planning response for 15/02331/FUL will be sent back to WODC.*

(ii) Shipton Road Speed Limits

This item was deferred to the full Council meeting in August as the Mayor ruled that it was beyond the remit of the Mayor's Committee.

(iii) Un-notified Disruption by Thames Water on The Shipton Road Development

A report was received and considered by the Mayor's Committee. Cllr S Parnes proposed a motion that was not seconded and so fell.

MC/22/15 **COMPLAINT ABOUT WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL:**

The Mayor's Committee received and considered a report from the Town Clerk and

RESOLVED (unanimous) that it approved the actions that had been taken so far by the Town Clerk.

DRAFT

MC/23/15 **INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES:**

The Mayor's Committee received and noted a report from Cllr B Yoxall. Cllr B Yoxall proposed that the Mayors Committee recommends to the Town Council that it defers taking any action on what we agreed at the last Town Council meeting for the time being until there has been a proper debate about infrastructure issues. Cllr C Carritt seconded the motion but asked for an amendment that should the application for Woodstock East fail then we have time to proceed with a public consultation exercise. Cllr B Yoxall accepted this amendment.

RECOMMENDATION (3 votes for, 2 votes against, 1 abstention and 1 non-vote) that the Town Council defers taking any action on what we agreed at the last Town Council meeting for the time being until there has been a proper debate about infrastructure issues and that should the application for Woodstock East fail then we proceed with a public consultation exercise

MC/24/15 **OFFER TOWARDS COST OF GRAFFITI CLEANUP – BUDDS CLOSE:**

The Council received and considered a report from the Town Clerk. Cllr J Cooper proposed, the Mayor seconded the motion and the Mayor's Committee

RESOLVED (unanimous) that

1. That Woodstock Town Council accepts the apology and offers received so far from two of the three families and draws a line under this matter with these two families.
2. The Town Clerk liaises closely with the police until a third reasonable contribution is offered. If a reasonable contribution is not forthcoming the Town Clerk will liaise with the Police to receive their guidance as to what to do next.
3. The Town Clerk will report back to Council in due course.

ACTION: *The Town Clerk will liaise with the families and police.*

MC/25/15 **DELEGATED DECISIONS:** It was noted that the Town Clerk had made one notifiable delegated decision since the last meeting and that was to authorise the clearance of drains at the Community Centre and for the use of a camera to try and identify the cause of this recurring problem.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cllr J Cooper proposed that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1). The Mayor seconded this motion.

RESOLVED that members of the public are asked to leave the meeting temporarily whilst the Council considered confidential information.

MC/26/15 **STAFFING MATTERS:** It was noted that two additional members of staff had joined the Local Government Pension Scheme.

MC/27/15 **COMPLAINT ABOUT WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL (cont'd)**

The Mayor reminded all Cllrs that all of the following discussions were confidential. The complaint and threatened legal action against Woodstock Town Council was discussed. Cllr T Wray proposed, Cllr M Robertson seconded the motion and the Mayor's Committee

RESOLVED (unanimous) that WTC ask Henman's for legal advice about whether WTC should be conducting a complaints investigation whilst under the threat of legal action.

DRAFT

ACTION: *The Town Clerk will contact Henman's and ask for their legal advice before proceeding further with the investigation of the complaint.*

The meeting finished at 8.58pm

Signed..... Date:.....

DRAFT