

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 22 APRIL 2008
IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr C Carritt (Town Mayor)
Cllr Mrs A Cooper (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr J Cooper Cllr R Edwards
Cllr Mrs A Grant Cllr P Redpath
Cllr Mrs T Redpath Cllr Mrs P Richardson
Cllr B Yoxall

WTC/370/07 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Airey, Mrs J Dunsmore, T Gardiner, Mrs S Hazell, Mrs E Jay, P Jay, and I Lenagan.

WTC/371/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs A Grant declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item No. 9, Environmental Warden/Manual Staff.

WTC/372/07 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

WTC/373/07 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – CONSULTATION ON ISSUES AND OPTIONS

The Town Council considered the Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation document issued by West Oxfordshire District Council and how to make a response. By seven votes to none, with two abstentions, it was agreed that the Council's response should take the form of a statement along the lines of a draft prepared by Cllr B Yoxall, rather than completing the questionnaire supplied by the District Council.

It was MOVED by Cllr R Edwards, seconded by Cllr Mrs A Cooper

That the following statement be included in the Council's response:

Woodstock needs a By-Pass.

The Proposal was put to the meeting and was defeated by four votes to two. A Member called for a named vote, the result of which was as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
Cllr Mrs A Cooper	Cllr Mrs A Grant	Cllr C Carritt
Cllr R Edwards	Cllr P Redpath	Cllr J Cooper
	Cllr Mrs T Redpath	Cllr Mrs P Richardson
	Cllr B Yoxall	
 TOTALS		
2	4	3

RESOLVED

(a) That the response to the District Council's consultation on Planning for the Future – Core Strategy Issues and Options, be as follows:

Factors Influencing Choice of Housing Development

- 1 Shortage of affordable homes is the main housing problem in West Oxfordshire.
- 2 The areas of greatest need are the three major towns, Witney, Carterton, Chipping Norton, but Woodstock Town Council believe that there is a need for a higher ratio of affordable to market priced homes in appropriate villages.
- 3 These three towns are the ones with the most developed infrastructure and public transport services.
- 4 The three major towns option is likely to exclude major development in Woodstock on which there is a general consensus i.e. we don't want our town to change significantly over the next twenty years.

Key Considerations for Woodstock are:

- 1 The growing age of the population with young people being forced to move away because of the high cost of housing.
- 2 Woodstock Town Council is against the development of major green field areas and existing recreational grounds.
- 3 Development to the north of Woodstock would put unacceptable congestion on the A44 through Woodstock.
- 4 The need for additional long term off-street parking and better enforcement.
- 5 The pressure on the existing health centre and a need for a new central location.
- 6 The number of units available for vulnerable people.
- 7 The Town Council seeks assurances from the District Council that they will address more vigorously the problem of empty properties.
- 8 More creative ways for young people to get a stake in the property market (eg multi-occupancy).
- 9 Youth and community centre facilities require updating.

(b) the Department for Communities and Local Government be asked to state whether the allocation of an eco-town would be deducted from the Oxfordshire share of homes in the South East of England.

(c) (By six votes to two)

That, as this subject was not put to the Strategy Committee for consideration, the new Council consider whether there is a need for a Strategy Committee.

WTC/374/07 REQUEST TO SITE SEAT IN FRONT OF ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

The Town Council considered a request by Mrs E Vickers for permission to site a two or three seat bench by the War Memorial in memory of her late husband, together with an inscription.

RESOLVED

- (a) that Mrs Vickers be advised that the Town Council is very appreciative of the offer of the donation of a seat;
- (b) it believes that there is not enough room for another seat in front of the War Memorial, as sufficient room needs to be retained for cleaning and maintenance, and the placing of wheelchairs, children's buggies, etc;
- (c) that alternative locations for the siting of a seat be offered to Mrs Vickers for her consideration;
- (d) that Mrs Vickers be asked to re-consider the wording of the proposed inscription, as a more formal wording would be preferred;
- (e) that the style of seat be selected from the "Gloucester" catalogue to match the existing seats in the town.

WTC/375/07 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Ref: 08/0533/P/FP

Removal of attached garage and erection of single storey side extension. Erection of detached double garage

1 The Covert

Mr and Mrs Richard Allen

Decision: No comment

b) Ref: 08/0534/P/FP

Erection of two storey and single storey extensions to form self contained ancillary accommodation

2a Hensington Close

Mr G Brown

Decision: Object. Overdevelopment and inadequate parking.

c) Ref: 08/0537/P/FP

Installation of replacement windows

27 – 29 Oxford Street

Mr Roy Scott

Decision: Prefer painted window frames in the Conservation Area.

WTC/376/07 NEW BUS SHELTER IN WOODSTOCK

It was reported that the new bus shelter planned for the Blenheim Palace stop was due to be installed on either Wednesday 23rd or Thursday 24th April.

The County Council had requested agreement from the Town Council regarding the upkeep of this shelter. The Town Clerk had responded that the Town Council was happy to agree to the terms set out in the County Council's standard agreement.

WTC/377/07 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

WTC/378/07 ENVIRONMENTAL WARDEN/MANUAL STAFF

Cllr Mrs A Grant had declared a Personal Interest in this matter.

At the request of Cllr Mrs A Cooper, Members gave general consideration to the duties currently being undertaken by the Environmental Warden and the implications arising therefrom.

RESOLVED

that this matter be referred to the new Council with the suggestion that the Mayor's Committee might be asked to look at it in more detail.

The meeting rose at 9.15p.m.

Signed..... Date.....