

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2009
IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Cllr T Gardiner (Deputy Mayor) (In the Chair)	
Cllr C Carritt	Cllr J Cooper
Cllr Mrs V Edwards	Cllr A Glee
Cllr Mrs A Grant	Cllr G Myatt
Cllr P Redpath	Cllr Mrs T Redpath
Cllr Mrs P Richardson	Cllr Mrs E Stokes
Cllr I Thomas	Cllr B Yoxall

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

District Cllr Mrs J Dunsmore and eight members of the public.

WTC/89/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Cllr P Jay, and Cllrs Mrs E Jay and E Poskitt.

WTC/90/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr B Yoxall declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item No. 6, Literary Festival 2009, as he was a friend of one of the organisers of the festival.

Cllr J Cooper declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item No. 6, Literary Festival 2009, as he was acquainted with one of the Shareholders of Blackwells Book Shop.

WTC/91/09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mrs J Masters, a resident of Bear Close, advised the Council of her concerns about the poor condition of the top of the wall that separated her property from the Hensington Road cemetery. She felt that if no action was taken, the situation would get worse.

WTC/92/09 WALL AT HENSINGTON ROAD CEMETERY

It was reported that some residents of Bear Close had expressed concerns at the state of the wall that separated their properties from the cemetery in Hensington Road.

Two Councillors had inspected the wall in the company of Mr Greatbatch, a local builder, and a report on the result of that inspection was considered at the meeting. Members agreed that it was essential that the works should be carried out. The meeting also considered a report from Cllr Mrs T Redpath, the Chairman of the Environment Working Group, which expressed concern that the Council might agree to the works going ahead with no consideration as to how the Working Group might deal with it financially.

It was reported at the meeting that new information indicated that the wall was within the ownership of the Town Council.

RESOLVED

- (a) That, in view of the health and safety concerns in this matter, works to the wall as recommended by Mr Greatbatch be carried out at a cost of £700;
- (b) That the Environment Working Group, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Committee, submit a report to the September meeting of Council as to how this expenditure is to be funded.

WTC/93/09 LITERARY FESTIVAL 2009

Cllr J Cooper and Cllr B Yoxall had declared Personal Interests in this matter.

It was reported that the Literary Festival was scheduled to take place from 16 to 20 September 2009 inclusive and the Mayors Parlour was reserved for the event on each of those days.

The Festival had enjoyed financial support from the Town Council in the past, but this year the organisers were asking whether the Town Council would allow free use of the Parlour. An urgent decision had been requested. In return they would put a full page advert in the considerably larger festival programme for the Woodstock@900 event, at no cost.

Mrs J Dunsmore advised that 20,000 copies of the programme were distributed in the local area and London and the festival was also advertised in the Independent newspaper. She gave details of the programme for 2009 and advised Members that places like Blenheim Palace, the Feathers, the Bear etc were all giving huge support. A bus was going to be provided transporting people from Blenheim to Woodstock and vice versa. Last year, the footfall in Woodstock was 4000 people which was of great benefit to local traders. Mrs Dunsmore and her daughter answered questions from Members, in which they emphasised that the venture was non-profit making and that Blackwells Book Shop were willing to use the Mayor's Parlour for their book stall, even though it made a financial loss.

It was Moved by Cllr B Yoxall, seconded by Cllr Mrs E Stokes

That the Literary Festival be charged a token amount of £50 per day for the use of the Mayor's Parlour, making a total charge of £250 which represents a saving of £600 for the organisers over the charge made in 2008.

Some Members agreed that the Literary Festival was very beneficial for Woodstock as it produced much good will, generated publicity for the town, increased the number of visitors to the benefit of local traders, and resulted in repeat visits.

Other Members recalled the Council policy that local organisation were allowed one free use of the Council's premises only. The Council was being asked to subsidise the event at a time when the Council could not afford to do this, and it was felt that Blackwell's Book Shop should be charged for using the Parlour. It was not fair that other organisations were not treated in the same way.

An amendment to the Proposal was Moved by Cllr A Glees, seconded by Cllr P Redpath

That the same principle will apply to any other organisation expressing similar aims to the Woodstock Literary Festival.

The amendment was put to the meeting but was defeated by seven votes to five.

RESOLVED (By eight votes to two)

That the Literary Festival be charged a token amount of £50 per day for the use of the Mayor's Parlour, making a total charge of £250 which represents a saving of £600 for the organisers over the charge made in 2008.

WTC/94/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Ref: 09/0865/P/FP

Erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions, front porch and installation of new first floor window to side

4 Glovers Close, Woodstock

Decision: No comment

(b) Ref: 09/0895/P/FP

Erection of first floor rear extension

17 Hill Rise, Woodstock

Decision: No comment

(c) Ref: 09/0901/P/FP

Erection of sixty three residential units, access road, parking facilities, landscaping improvements and ancillary development.

Land East of Marlborough School, Shipton Road, Woodstock

Decision: Support the application but ask the District Council whether it has considered the junction of Shipton Road and the A4095 in the context of this application. If this has been considered and improvements to the junction rejected, please can the District Council explain why this decision was taken.

(d) Ref: 09/0910/P/FP

Erection of single storey front and two storey rear extensions

25 Bear Close, Woodstock

Decision: No comment

(e) Ref: 09/0929/P/FP

Installation of air condensing system, providing 5 internal units and 2 external units to rear flat roof area, together with visual screening

Barclays Bank 14 Park Street, Woodstock

Decision: No comment

(f) Ref: 09/0930/P/LB

Internal & External alterations to include installation of air condensing system, providing 5 internal units and 2 external units to rear flat roof area, together with visual screening

Barclays Bank 14 Park Street, Woodstock

Decision: No comment

(g) Ref: 09/0940/P/FP

Erection of first floor extension, replacement porch, attached single garage, two front dormer windows and new vehicular access.

9 Oxford Road

Decision: Object for the following reasons:

1 The two storey extension to the north of the house and the new garage will increase the width of the house so that it occupies the whole of the plot, with reduction of space and sky view between each of the neighbouring houses, producing a crowded look.

- 2 The pitch of the roof facing the road will have dormer windows and a flat window. No other houses in this road have this feature.
- 3 The new garage appears to have full-width doors both to front and rear.
- 4 Application is made for a second vehicular entrance. No other houses in this road have this feature and it is considered to be unnecessary. It will involve the loss of some grass verge and reduction of road space for parking.
- 5 The application, if approved, would result in an overcrowded site which is not visually attractive.

WTC/95/09 PROPOSALS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

It was Proposed by Cllr C Carritt that:

Woodstock Town Council rejects the District Council's judgement that the convenience of the Street Fair operators and the cost of £160 for towing away vehicles illegally parked outweighs the lost revenues of Woodstock traders during the peak Sunday lunchtime period.

It was stated that closure of the streets in the town at 12pm on the Sunday was unreasonable, given that the fair did not open until 4pm on the Monday. It was felt that the District Council should take a tougher stance with the fair operators over this matter.

It was reported that the necessary street closure public notice was already being advertised by the District Council for this year and it was, therefore, too late to change the arrangements. It was, therefore,

RESOLVED (by ten votes to one)

That a vigorous protest be lodged with the District Council about the earlier time that has been imposed for the closure of the streets for the Street Fair 2009 and that the time should change to 3pm in 2010.

Meeting rose at 8.45pm.

Signed Date