

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2009
IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Cllr P Jay (Town Mayor)	Cllr T Gardiner (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr J Cooper	Cllr Mrs V Edwards
Cllr Mrs A Grant	Cllr Mrs E Jay
Cllr E Poskitt	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 one member of the public.

WTC/128/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were accepted from & District Cllr Mrs J Dunsmore and Cllr G Myatt.

WTC/129/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs P Jay and Mrs E Jay declared Prejudicial Interests in Agenda Item No. 7(f) ó Planning Applications ó The Retreat, Banbury Road, as they were the owners of the property.

WTC/130/09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mr Dennis Allen advised the Council of the positive reaction in the community to the news that the Council was willing to commit up to £10,000 to fight the appeal by Berkeley Homes against the decision to refuse planning permission for the development of the former Railway Station site. He queried why Berkeley Homes were appealing against the decision to refuse to permit a Doctorsø surgery on the site when the GP practice had indicated that the site was not suitable. He also suggested that members of the community should be encouraged to attend the public inquiry to show support for the Town Councilø position.

WTC/131/09 STAFF NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE

The Council received and considered a report of the Town Clerk which proposed options for the future structure of the Councilø administration in the light of the recent and purely coincidental resignations of the Town Clerk, the Responsible Financial Officer and the Administrative Officer, and the retirement of the Clerical Officer in April 2010.

RESOLVED (By eleven votes to one)

- (a) that the designation of Responsible Financial Officer be applied to the Town Clerkø post, that his hours be increased to 30 hours a week, and that a part time accounts administrator be employed to undertake the Councilø financial duties;
- (b) that a temporary Administrative Assistant be employed to work until April 2010, and that a new permanent member of staff be recruited to take on the combined duties of the Administrative Assistant and the Clerical Assistant with effect from April 2010;
- (c) that the applicants for the Town Clerkø post be assessed as to whether they are qualified to take on the role of Responsible Financial officer. If they are, the recruitment process do continue as planned, otherwise the vacancy be re-advertised on the basis of a revised Job Description including the RFOø duties.

WTC/132/09 PUBLIC INQUIRY COSTS

The Council received and noted the report of the Town Clerk.

WTC/133/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Ref: 09/1165/P/FP

Installation of two radon sumps and associated vent pipes
Barclays Bank, 14 Park Street
Decision: No comment

(b) Ref: 09/1166/P/LB

Internal and external alterations to include installation of two radon sumps and vent pipes
Barclays Bank, 14 Park Street
Decision: No comment

(c) Ref: 09/1157/P/FP

Erection of Single Storey Front and Rear Extensions and Detached Garage
27 Bear Close
Decision: No comment

(d) Ref: 09/1108/P/FP

Erection of Single Storey Rear Extension
39 Shipton Road
Decision: No comment

(e) Ref: 09/1120/P/LB

Alterations to Entrance Porch
Star Inn, 22 Market Place
Decision: No comment

(f) Ref: 09/1202/P/FP

Erection of two storey linked extension, conversion of garage to recreation room and alterations to existing vehicular access.
The Retreat, Banbury Road

Cllrs Mrs E and P Jay had declared Prejudicial Interests in this application. They left the room and took no part in the debate or the determination of the application.

Decision (By seven votes to three): No comment

WTC/134/09 PARK STREET ROOF

The Council received and considered reports from Cllr Yoxall and Carter Jonas LLP with regard to the condition of the roof at 2 ó 6 Park Street. Carter Jonas had recommended that the roof be overhauled before the winter as it was their belief that the slate fixings were failing and prediction when a slate might slip in the future was not possible.

The Council was reminded of a tender that had been previously accepted for the carrying out of these works and of subsequent suggestions for achieving the completion of the works at a lower price. This was particularly important in the light of the current difficult financial situation. The Council received a report from the Mayor on a revised projected end of year financial outturn, taking into account a number of new factors including the works to the Market Street properties and loss of rental income. This indicated an end of year balance in the region of £5,000 rather than the £34,000 originally

estimated. The Council considered the options open to it to ameliorate this difficulty, including borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board for a capital project, such as the works to the Park Street roof, and/or the sale of the Rectory Lane garage. With regard to this latter possibility, Council recalled that its current position was that the garage should continue to be rented out and that a reversal of decision would be required for a sale to proceed.

RESOLVED

- (a) (By eleven votes to one) That the advice of Carter Jonas be accepted and that an experienced Stonesfield slate roofing contractor who has these slates at his yard be commissioned to erect a couple of small scaffolding platforms to undertake some investigative works by removing sample areas of slates to establish the condition of the underside of the slates as there is a risk that many of them may not be re useable even though the external surfaces are generally satisfactory;
- (b) (By ten votes to nil) that Mark Meeson be instructed not to conclude the renting out of the Rectory Lane garage until the Council has a definitive view on its financial situation and that the possibility of selling the garage by auction be investigated.

***WTC/135/09* COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Council received an interim oral report from Cllr Thomas. It was indicated that the final report would be submitted to the November meeting of Council.

The meeting rose at 9.25pm.

Signed í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í .. Date í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í .