

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2012  
IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs J Dunsmore (Mayor)	Cllr B Yoxall (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr J Cooper	Cllr Mrs A Grant
Cllr Mrs L Glees	Cllr P Jay
Cllr C Carritt	Cllr Mrs P Richardson
Cllr P Redpath	Cllr Mrs T Redpath
Cllr T Gardiner	

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

One member of the public.

**WTC/337/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs E Poskitt and Mrs E Stokes.

**WTC/338/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**WTC/339/11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Honorary Townsman Dr Robert Edwards addressed the Town Council and invited each Cllr to spend a few minutes helping to deadhead the daffodils.

**WTC/340/11 HONORARY TOWNSMEN**

The Mayor informed Cllrs that the presentation to the Honorary Townsman would take place at 6.30pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April in the Mayor's Parlour as 'Pilates' does not finish in the Assembly Room until 6.30pm. The Town Council Meeting will therefore be held upstairs in the Assembly Room.

**WTC/341/11 QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS IN CHALLENGE**

Cllrs received and considered a report from the Town Clerk that had been prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Environment Working Group. Cllr Mrs T Redpath said that the document that had been circulated recently to Cllrs was the same document that she had referred to at the Annual Town Meeting. She said that this could cause a lot of work for the office staff and was really better suited to a new site. The Town Clerk said that it could be a lot of work for relatively little benefit. Cllr P Redpath considered it important to retain the integrity of the area and that it might be inhibiting. He suggested that the Youth Club might be ideal for this scheme and could apply independently. They have a new lease, fulfil the criteria and it could help their cause.

Cllr T Gardiner suggested that the Council accepts the report. The Mayor thanked Cllr Mrs T Redpath and the Town Clerk for preparing the report so quickly and agreed with their findings.

Cllr T Gardiner proposed that WTC resolve to move in line with the conclusions of the report that:

1. The Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club facility is not an ideal option for consideration for the QE2 challenge.
2. There appears to be limited benefit to be gained from registering the play area at New Road.
3. There are no other suitable sites to consider that are owned by WTC.

Cllr Mrs A Grant seconded this motion. Discussion followed. Cllr T Gardiner suggested that the field beyond the Football Field might be a suitable site. Cllr Mrs T Redpath considered this to be a good idea but said that it was owned by Blenheim Estate. The Mayor suggested that the information, including the criteria, be copied to both organisations in order that they can review whether it has any benefit to them. Cllr P Redpath suggested that both organisations might benefit.

Cllr C Carritt wondered whether it might benefit the Community Woodland. Several Cllrs contributed to drafting an amendment that would be an addition to the existing motion. This was that notwithstanding the three conclusions any Cllr could bring forward any other suggestions or proposals for possible sites.

**RESOLVED** (Unanimous)

That

1. The Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club facility is not an ideal option for consideration for the QE2 challenge.
2. There appears to be limited benefit to be gained from registering the play area at New Road.
3. There are no other suitable sites to consider that are owned by WTC, but
4. Notwithstanding the three conclusions above any Cllr could bring forward any other suggestions or proposals.

***EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS***

It was proposed 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 asked to withdraw.

**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 asked to withdraw.

***WTC/342/11 COMMUNITY CENTRE***

The Chairman of the Community Centre Working Group reported that the removal of the ceiling has enabled Mr Lunt from Carter Jonas to re-assess the options. He has concluded that WTC should consider altering the height of the ceiling. The original plan was for the ceiling height to be 2.09 metres but it was now recommended that the ceiling be lowered to sit just above the top of the gable end window. The Chairman of the CCWG distributed plans and said that option B is the current option and option D the proposed change. He said that option D would look better, result in a larger ceiling area and provided better heat conservation and light distribution. It was noted that at the recent CCWG meeting 2 Cllrs voted against the proposal, 1 for and 1 abstention. Discussion followed. Cllr P Redpath said that he seriously opposed this proposal and reminded Cllrs that they only had one chance to do this. He said that proposal D would ruin the idea of opening up the ceiling space, damage the aesthetics and also lose the architectural flavour. He considered the heating and lighting arguments to be flawed and that the current proposals for insulating were very good. Cllr P Jay asked Cllr P Redpath to provide evidence to support his energy efficiency argument.

The Mayor suggested that WTC should follow the recommendation of the Council's property advisors and noted that it was the greener option.

Cllr T Gardiner felt it would look messy and preferred option C. Cllr P Jay agreed but that if option C was not available option D was no worse than option B. Cllr Mrs T Redpath reminded the Council that WTC had agreed upon option B as a compromise position. She also considered option C to look better but thought that option B achieved the aesthetics and energy efficiency considerations. Cllr C Carritt agreed with Cllr P Redpath about the aesthetics but would support options B or D as insulation must be considered. Cllr P Redpath explained the lighting implications in response to a query from Cllr Mrs P Richardson and was sceptical as to whether the predicted saving would materialise.

Cllr T Gardiner queried whether energy was the main driver and if so asked what the savings would be between the two schemes. He wanted an aesthetically pleasing building with environmental credentials but would still prefer option C. The Chairman of the CCWG said that Mr Lunt would be unable to answer the question but the cost differential between the schemes would be around £500. He guaranteed that there would be no additional costs between schemes B and D and it could result in a saving and also heat conservation. The Mayor then asked Cllrs to vote for their preferred scheme. Four Cllrs preferred option B but seven preferred option D.

#### **RESOLVED**

That option D is approved.

Cllr J Cooper asked it to be noted that he had security concerns about the proposed courtyard garden and that there must be a gate to make it secure. The Mayor agreed to note his concerns.

#### ***WTC/343/11 PROPERTY UPDATE***

It was noted that Cllr Mrs L Glees was deputising for the CMfP at this meeting.

##### **(i) 24 Market Place Correspondence**

It was noted that none of the prospective tenants had come forward with better or firmer proposals.

##### **(ii) 8 Park Street**

The credit agency report for the prospective tenants was positive; they are offering the full rent and are ready to move in.

#### **RESOLVED**

That WTC approve the prospective tenants

The Mayor said that the tenants want a fridge freezer and curtains and/or blinds. She suggested that WTC should fund a fridge/freezer for this property. Most Cllrs expressed general support for the fridge freezer but less for the provision of curtains or blinds. Cllr P Jay suggested that the tenants be allocated a certain budget in order that they could choose what they wanted. Cllr T Gardiner was opposed to both the fridge freezer and curtains and queried if these were standard in an unfurnished let. Cllr J Cooper suggested that the tenants be given a discounted first months rent on

condition that they purchased their own fridge/freezer and window dressings. The Mayor asked Cllrs to vote on the separate parts. The results were as follows.

(i) Provision of a fridge /freezer

**RESOLVED** (8 votes for and 3 against)

That WTC will provide a fridge /freezer for the 8 Park Street property.

- (ii) Provision of Curtains and/or blinds – 2 votes for but 8 against so this motion fell
- (iii) Discount on the first months rent to enable the tenants to buy their own fridge/freezer and window dressing – 2 votes for but 9 against and so this motion fell.

Cllr P Redpath suggested that a good long term option would be to install a fridge freezer in the area situated under the stairs. Cllr Mrs A Grant reminded WTC that the washing machine was second hand and should therefore be tested.

The Town Clerk provided Cllrs with information about a product that she had already sourced from a local supplier who could deliver on Friday. Some Cllrs had reservations about the model being proposed.

**RESOLVED** (8 votes for and 3 against)

That the Clerk be authorised to spend £300 on the provision of a fridge/freezer and that she would try to avoid buying one particular brand which was considered to be inferior.

***ACTIONS:***

- 1. The Clerk will advise Carter Jonas that WTC approve the tenants and will supply a fridge/freezer.*
- 2. The builders will be asked to measure up the available space under the stairs.*
- 3. The Clerk will arrange for the purchase and delivery of a fridge /freezer.*
- 4. The Clerk will arrange for the existing washing machine to be tested to confirm that it is safe.*

***WTC/344/11 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF HOLIDAY***

The Town Clerk reported that the Finance officer had requested payment for 20 hours leave that he had been unable to take. The Town Clerk recommended that the Council approved this request and confirmed that the Finance Officer had been unable to take his annual leave because of this workload.

**RESOLVED** (8 votes for, 1 vote against and 2 abstentions)  
That the payment in lieu of 20 hours annual leave be approved.

The meeting rose at 8.30pm.

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