

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 03 JANUARY 2012
IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs J Dunsmore (Town Mayor)	Cllr B Yoxall (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr J Cooper	Cllr Mrs A Grant
Cllr C Carritt	Cllr Mrs E Jay
Cllr P Jay	Cllr Mrs E Stokes
Cllr Mrs P Richardson	Cllr P Redpath
Cllr Mrs T Redpath	Cllr T Gardiner
Cllr Mrs V Edwards	Cllr E Poskitt

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr M Lunt from WTC's professional property advisors Carter Jonas.

WTC/246/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs L Glees. The Mayor reported that Cllr A Glees had resigned from the Council.

WTC/247/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

WTC/248/11 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/249/11 COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT

Cllr P Jay reported minor numerical error in the papers considered by the Council at the meeting on 20th December 2011. Cllr P Jay and Cllr Mrs V Edwards had reviewed and revised the figures and the project was now within budget, subject to Carter Jonas review. The revised figures along with a brief summary report had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Carter Jonas had now reviewed the figures. Cllr P Jay explained the items that had been amended in the figures reflect the comments of Carter Jonas in the provisional figures as 'V6'. The revised financial position showed that the project should be delivered, spending £335.97 less than available committed earmarked funds for the Community Centre project. The Mayor asked if the figures included the contingency and it was confirmed that they did.

Discussion followed on the following matters:

- (i) Lighting Donation
Cllr Mrs E Jay confirmed that a village hall was donating 10 wall up-lighters and 4 pendent lights to the project and that spare parts can still be obtained for these lights.
- (ii) The Building Regulations Required for the Proposed New Meeting Room
This item was listed as an optional extra in the budget. Cllr T Gardiner and the Mayor queried whether Building Regulations were legally required for this item as this was currently unbudgeted expenditure. Mr Lunt said that this

item was not included in the current building regulations submission as no change would be required to the ceiling.

(iii) Bar Area

The Deputy Mayor considered the budget for the upgrade of the bar area to be insufficient.

(iv) WREN Grant

Cllr Mrs V Edwards explained the WREN grant content and why some items had been removed from the specification until further money was secured.

(v) Donations

Cllr Mrs V Edwards reported that since the last meeting £1k had been confirmed from an anonymous donor though this was not included in the V6 figures as circulated and that she was hopeful that further donations would follow.

Cllr Mrs V Edwards proposed that the Council accept the revised figures and authorise the following:

- 1) That the structural project total of £147,664.03 including VAT, with a total contractual element to BHL and Carter Jonas of £135,069.63 including VAT, be sent to WREN along with the provisional building regs letter. Likewise with WODC as required
- 2) That on confirmation from WREN that the project may begin, and WODC as required, that Carter Jonas are instructed to appoint BHL and commence work immediately.

This motion was seconded by Cllr P Jay.

Discussion followed on a variety of matters including:

- (i) the content of the minutes of the Community Centre Working Party meetings
- (ii) the new garden at the Community Centre and the funding thereof
- (iii) the importance of energy efficiency and the availability of grants
- (iv) the possible risk of compromising the WREN and WODC grants with the changes now proposed
- (v) items listed in the grant applications that had been removed from phase 1 of the current scheme: blinds, double glazing, roof lights, audio visual, de-stratification equipment and updating the bar area.
- (vi) the kitchen relocation not being included in the first phase of the project
- (vii) the potential PR implications for the council of not delivering the significant structural changes that have been promoted locally
- (viii) financial and other implications of delaying and extending the project time line
- (ix) confirmation that WTC does not intend to apply for charitable trust status for the Community Centre

The motion was then voted upon. A member called for a named vote:

For: Cllrs E Poskitt, Mrs E Jay, P Jay, J Cooper, Mrs V Edwards and C Carritt (6)

Against: Cllrs T Gardiner, Mrs A Grant, Mrs T Redpath, P Redpath, Mrs E Stokes, Mrs P Richardson and B Yoxall (7)

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs J Dunsmore abstained.

The motion failed.

Cllr T Gardiner proposed the following five part motion that:

- 1a) WTC stop the process temporarily and take stock
- 1b) Review the scheme for consistency with the Grant Applications to WODC and WREN
- 1c) Report back to WTC at the February meeting or before if possible
- 1d) Agree any project changes to the grant applications and communicate with WREN/WODC to ensure Grant finance remains in place
- 1e) On confirmation Grant finance is intact WTC instructs Carter Jonas to reinitiate the process.

This motion was seconded by Cllr B Yoxall. Discussion followed. Cllr J Cooper suggested that S.O. 36a) might be applicable as this appeared to be a reversal of a council resolution made on 20th December 2011 and asked the Mayor to rule on this matter.

Cllr Mrs A Grant said that the new figures constituted new information and so S.O. 79 might be applied if necessary.

At 8.40pm the Mayor thanked Mr M Lunt for attending the meeting and said that he need not stay for the rest of the meeting. Mr M Lunt told WTC that he had spent a lot of time on this project and that any changes made now will be beyond his remit. He will therefore have to charge extra for any work undertaken until WTC comes to a resolution and the project starts moving forwards again. Mr M Lunt noted that he had now attended two evening meetings at no charge to WTC. The Mayor thanked Mr Lunt once again. Cllr Mrs V Edwards briefly left the meeting and escorted Mr M Lunt from the room.

Cllr C Carritt asked the Mayor for a 5 minute adjournment to the meeting.

Cllr Mrs V Edwards returned to the meeting and said that Mr M Lunt had provided her with some new double glazing figures before he left.

In response to a query from Cllr Mrs T Redpath Cllr C Carritt said that the reason he was seeking an adjournment was to consider the motion from Cllr T Gardiner which he considered to be fundamentally new.

The Mayor said that SO 36 a) did not apply because WTC was not rescinding the motion of 20th December. Because WTC was working on erroneous information it was now exploring how we should move ahead and re-checking the information. S.O. 79 did not therefore need to be applied. The Mayor did not agree to Cllr C Carritt's request for an adjournment.

Cllr C Carritt proposed that the motion be now put.

The motion was then voted upon. A member called for a named vote:

For: Cllrs Mrs A Grant, T Gardiner, Mrs E Jay, Mrs T Redpath, P Redpath, Mrs E Stokes, Mrs P Richardson, C Carritt and B Yoxall.

Against: Cllr E Poskitt, Mrs V Edwards, J Cooper and P Jay.

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs J Dunsmore abstained.

RESOLVED

that:

- 1a) WTC stop the process temporarily and take stock
- 1b) Review the scheme for consistency with the Grant Applications to WODC and WREN
- 1c) Report back to WTC at the February meeting or before if possible
- 1d) Agree any project changes to the grant applications and communicate with WREN/WODC to ensure Grant finance remains in place
- 1e) On confirmation Grant finance is intact WTC instructs Carter Jonas to reinstate the process.

At 9pm Cllr Mrs V Edwards resigned from WTC. The Mayor asked Cllr Mrs V Edwards to reconsider and noted the significant amount of work that she had put into this project. Cllr Mrs V Edwards still wished to resign and so left the meeting.

Cllr T Gardiner proposed that Cllr B Yoxall chair the Community Centre Working Party. Cllr P Redpath seconded this motion. The Mayor said that this was not a valid proposal as members of the Community Centre Working Party must elect a new Chairman.

It was suggested that the Community Centre Working Group should meet as soon as possible in order to do so. The current members were confirmed as: Cllrs Mrs L Glees, Mrs P Richardson, P Redpath, Mrs J Dunsmore and E Poskitt. Cllrs B Yoxall, C Carritt, Mrs E Jay and Mrs E Stokes asked to join the group. The Mayor said that she would come off the group and attend in her ex-officio role.

It was agreed that the Community Centre Working Group would meet immediately after this meeting to appoint a temporary Chairman until Cllr Mrs L Glees returned from her holiday. The working group will then meet and appoint a permanent Chairman on the evening of Thursday 12th January 2012 when Cllr Mrs L Glees is able to attend.

Cllr Gardiner said that he hoped that Cllr Mrs L Glees would remain on the working group and that Cllr P Jay would continue to help the group manage the project finances. The Mayor reiterated this view and said that she very much hoped that Cllr Mrs L Glees would continue with her fundraising and other work for the Community Centre Working Group. The Mayor thanked Cllr P Jay for his work on this project. The Mayor proposed that Cllr P Jay continue with his current role and this motion was seconded by Cllr J Cooper. Cllr P Jay initially said that he wanted 24 hours during which to consider whether he wished to do so. However, he agreed to continue assisting on this project in response to a personal request from the Mayor for him to do so.

The meeting rose at 9.15pm.

Signed Date