

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014  
IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr J Cooper (Mayor)  
Cllr B Yoxall  
Cllr S Parnes  
Cllr Mrs E Jay  
Cllr L Maybury

Cllr C Carritt  
Cllr P Jay  
Cllr Mrs E Stokes  
Cllr E Poskitt

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** One member of the public.

**WTC/159/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Robertson, S Rasch and T Wray.

**WTC/160/14 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr S Parnes disclosed a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 the Budget 2014/15. He said that this pecuniary interest had only become apparent after clarification had been sought from the Monitoring Officer and so it was noted that it also applied to Agenda Item 14 (iv) (iii) Grants, of the Town Council Meeting that was held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

The following general interest was also recorded by Cllr E Poskitt - Agenda Item 5, Budget 2015/16, as she volunteers for the Woodstock Good Neighbours scheme.

**WTC/161/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Mr P Redpath addressed the Council and reminded the Council of the recent Poll that had been undertaken in the Town. He referred Cllrs to the Woodstock East, Note of Stakeholder Presentation – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014 that took place 1800-1945 in the Marlborough Room, Blenheim Palace and noted his continuing concerns about the sale of the Police Station. He passed a copy of the note to the Town Clerk and advised Cllrs to read it.

**WTC/162/14 QUESTIONS:**

The following question was received under Standing Order No 8 from Cllr C Carritt:

*“Does the Mayor agree that any attempt to destabilise the present negotiations between the Police Authority and the NHS represents a very serious threat to the future provision of a modern health service infrastructure for this town.”*

The Mayor said that the answer to the question was yes.

The following question was received under Standing Order No 8 from Cllr S Parnes:

*“Does the Mayor agree that in the event of any foreseeable opportunity for the local medical surgery to move to new premises on or near the Thames Valley Police Station site in Town, the decision on suitability of any new premises for the GPs' surgery should rest entirely with the partners of Woodstock Surgery; and, that the partners should not be pressured into moving to any premises which they may deem inadequate?”*

*An array of recent, anticipated and pending major development proposals (ie, field between Marlborough School and Budds Close, the so-called "Woodstock East", and two sites in Long Hanborough) are foreseeably likely - if planning consent(s) will be issued - to increase the capacity needs of the surgery which already has patients from nearly two dozen villages.*

*Bearing in mind the result of the Nov 6th Town Poll in which more than 85% voted "Yes", does the Mayor agree that Woodstock Town Council should not support any Police Station site proposals that would be associated with, support, or be linked to residential development on fields surrounding or abutting Woodstock?"*

The Mayor said that he would hand Cllr S Parnes a copy of his election address that he had put out this year that clearly stated his stance.

**WTC/163/14 MOTIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL** None

**WTC/164/14 THE BUDGET 2015/16**

Although Cllrs E Poskitt and S Parnes had declared interests in the grant allocations these were not being discussed further at this meeting and so Cllr S Parnes did not need to leave the room during the budget discussions.

Cllr P Jay referred Cllrs to the report called Budget 2015-16 Version 6. He explained that the differences between this version and the '<budget 2015-16 Version 4 pj>' that had previously been discussed at the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were that an error in the calculations had been amended and the Council decisions made at that meeting included.

Cllr P Jay proposed, Cllr B Yoxall seconded the motion and the Council

**RESOLVED** (8 votes for and 1 abstention) that it

- a) Adopt the budget set out in the table called Budget 2015-16 Version 6
- b) Set the precept for 2015/16 at £90,000.
- c) Approve the forward plan to 2020/21

Cllr S Parnes asked that it be noted that he had abstained due to the precept

The Council thanked Cllr P Jay and Paul Thomas for their work on the budget.

**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Mayor proposed that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1).

**RESOLVED**

That members of the public leave the meeting temporarily whilst the Council considered confidential information.

The Mayor noted that the Council needed to address an H&S matter at the end of the meeting concerning loose slates on the Town Hall roof. This was particularly urgent due to the forthcoming 'Night of a 1,000 Candles'.

The Council agreed to take Agenda item 9, the Exhibition Foundation, next.

**WTC/165/14 EXHIBITION FOUNDATION**

The Mayor reported that Cllr L Maybury had agreed to become a trustee on the Woodstock Exhibition Foundation.

**ACTION:** *The Town Clerk will notify the Chairman of the Exhibition Foundation of Cllr Maybury's appointment.*

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

**RESOLVED** that in view of the commercial nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1).

### **WTC/166/14 TRAFFIC SURVEY**

The Council received and considered the quotation for a traffic survey that had been received from a specialist traffic consultancy (previously circulated) to undertake a critical appraisal, from a transport perspective, of the proposal to erect circa 1,500 dwelling and associated uses at Woodstock East.

Cllr P Jay proposed that WTC employ Glanville Consultancy to undertake a critical appraisal, from a transport perspective, of the proposal to erect circa 1,500 dwelling and associated uses at Woodstock East at a cost of £2k plus VAT. Cllr B Yoxall seconded the motion. Discussion followed. A Cllrs called for a named vote the results of which were

For: Cllrs J Cooper, Mrs E Jay, P Jay, L Maybury, S Parnes, Mrs E Stokes and B Yoxall (7)

Cllrs E Poskitt and C Carritt did not take part in the vote.

**RESOLVED** that WTC employ Glanville Consultancy to undertake a critical appraisal, from a transport perspective, of the proposal to erect circa 1,500 dwelling and associated uses at Woodstock East at a cost of £2k plus VAT.

**ACTION:** *The Town Clerk will award the contract to the contractor.*

### **WTC/167/14 TREE WORK FOR WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL**

The Council received and considered a report from Cllr C Carritt about the tree works to be undertaken in Woodstock. Five qualified tree surgery companies had been invited to submit quotes for work on the Council's trees based upon the survey report carried out earlier in the year by Dowdeswell Forestry and Management Services, Three companies replied within the deadline. Discussion followed. Cllr Carritt, proposed, The Mayor seconded the motion and the Council

**RESOLVED** (unanimous) to engage Boward Oxford Ltd to undertake the tree works at a total cost of £1940.00 subject to the receipt of a copy of their insurance certificates.

#### **ACTIONS:**

1. *The Clerk will ask Boward to supply a copy of their insurance certificates.*
2. *The contract will be confirmed if the Boward insurances are adequate.*
3. *The unsuccessful companies will be notified and thanked for their interest.*
4. *Boward will be invited to meet Cllrs C Carritt and Mrs E Jay at the Water Meadows to discuss additional work that will be undertaken on a day rate.*
5. *Residents living adjacent to the OWL extension will be notified before the tree work scheduled for this area is undertaken.*

### **WTC/168/14 'CAPABILITY BROWN' PICTURE**

The Council received and considered a report from the Deputy Mayor. This report included the advice of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) that had been requested, and two recommendations. The Council also received and

considered information that had been received from an auction house since the last meeting. Discussion followed.

The Mayor proposed, Cllr B Yoxall seconded the motion and the Council

**RESOLVED** (7 votes for and 2 abstentions) that WTC resolves to dispose of the alleged Capability Brown picture by auction to be conducted by an auction house chosen on the basis of the information received from three auction houses by 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

The Mayor proposed, Cllr B Yoxall seconded the motion and the Council

**RESOLVED** (6 votes for, 2 abstentions and 1 non-vote) that WTC place the business with Bonhams.

**ACTIONS:**

1. *The Town Clerk will notify Bonhams that they have been awarded the contract.*
2. *The Town Clerk will contact the other auction houses and thank them for their interest.*

**WTC/169/14 TOWN HALL ROOF**

The Town Council has been made aware by the Christmas Lights contractors that some of the tiles on the town hall have become loose and require attention. A specialist roofing contractor has viewed the roof and confirmed that the tiled hip of the Town Hall roof needs to be re-bedded. They have quoted £2,507.00 to undertake this work. The Mayor proposed that this work be approved as it has significant H&S implications.

**RESOLVED** (unanimous) that Abbey Roofing be employed to repair the Town Hall roof at a cost of £2,507.00 as soon as they are able.

It was noted that the 'Night of 1,000 Candles' will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> November so a safety cordon will be installed below the relevant area of the roof if the repair cannot be completed before then.

**ACTION:** *Abbey Roofing Contractors will be instructed to repair the Town Hall roof as a matter of urgency.*

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed .....

Date .....