

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016  
IN THE TOWN HALL, WOODSTOCK**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr E Poskitt (Mayor)	Cllr F Collingwood (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr J Cooper	Cllr Mrs A Grant
Cllr S Parnes	Cllr Mrs S Rasch
Cllr P Redpath	Cllr Mrs T Redpath
Cllr M Robertson	Cllr E Stokes
Cllr B Yoxall	

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** County Cllr Ian Hudspeth and 13 members of the public

**WTC/105/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr P Jay

**WTC/106/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr E Poskitt declared a prejudicial pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10 (i,ii,iii) because she lives at Hedge End  
Cllr J Cooper: WODC Cllr, Item 10, Planning. General interest because he is a member of WODC .  
Cllr Collingwood: Item 21, General interest as he works for the firm which used to be employed as legal advisors to the complainants  
Cllr S Parnes: Item 8, General interest as a recipient of complimentary tickets for CountryFile Live  
Cllr A Grant declared a prejudicial pecuniary interest in Item 10a as she is part owner in a dwelling in Hensington Road together with the privately owned Alleyway and this planning application includes

**WTC/107/16 MINUTES:**

**(i) RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Town Council meeting that took place on Tuesday July 12<sup>th</sup> were approved subject to the following amendments:

- a) WTC/87/16 OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW COUNCIL second line: replace *items for inclusion in a strategy* with '*items as priorities*'
- b) WTC/89/16 ACOUSTICS IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR  
Insert before last sentence: '*Cllr Yoxall pointed out he had recommended a company from Chipping Norton to WTC with equipment that might have resolved the problem, three years ago*'.
- c) WTC/92/16 WAKE UP TO WOODSTOCK TOWN GUIDE AND MAP Line two, insert '*from Cllr Parnes*' after *considered a report*
- d) WTC/93/16 UNSIGHTLY AND DEFECTIVE ROOF SLATES AT BENS CLOSE  
In line two after *report* insert '*from Cllr Parnes*'
- e) WTC/97/16 NEW ROAD PLAY AREA Transpose paragraphs three and four. Finish the third paragraph (now transposed so as to be fourth paragraph) after *the meeting at this point*. (Delete rest of sentence).

**(ii) RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting that took place on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 were approved subject to the following amendments:

- a) WTC/101/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Under 1. Mrs U Parkinson include after *Glover's Close etc. 'ignoring buffer zone guidelines and attracting the wrong sort of people'*. Further *at the end of the month* should be added at the end of the extract.

**b) Under 2. Mr C Carritt** After *Council's solicitors* insert '*which had been unhelpful and had limited open discussion*'

**c) Under 3. Mrs Matthews** At the end of the second paragraph put that '*Mrs Matthews was asked how she knew the matter was being discussed and she replied she had heard by chance from a Cllr not present*'.

After the comment from the Deputy Mayor it be inserted that '*Cllr P Redpath asked Mrs Matthews if she was aware of the guidelines that the MUGA should be 30m from a residential boundary*'.

**d) WTC/104/16 i** Replace last sentence of that item with '*Cllr J Cooper asked for it to be noted that the Council has voted to go against legal advice . Cllr Collingwood pointed out that the motion was against the legal advice on page 3 of the Freeth letter but not against the legal advice that was on page 1.*'

**e) WTC/104/16 ii** Change **RESOLVED** (7 votes for and 2 against) to **RESOLVED** (7 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention).

**WTC/109/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION** There was none.

#### **WTC/110/16 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS UPDATES**

(i) Report from County Councillor Ian Hudspeth Cllrs questioned County Cllr Hudspeth over traffic congestion during the CountryFile Live event although comments on the event itself were positive. Signing before the event had been of poor quality. Traffic congestion on the first morning had been very bad and had led to negative press coverage which probably accounted for Woodstock being like a ghost town during the days when the event was taking place.

(ii) Report from District Councillors Cllr Cooper stated that, overall, the CountryFile Live event had been very beneficial for the area. Answering a question from Cllr Collingwood, Cllr Cooper stated that the inspector for planning appeals was recruited by the Secretary of State and the District Council was not in a position to change the inspector. WTC could write to the Member of Parliament pointing concerns about the inspector but concrete evidence of significant concerns would be needed to make grounds for complaint. The matter could be discussed further at a future WTC meeting.

#### **WTC/111/16 COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor drew attention to the WaterMeadows Open Day on August 11<sup>th</sup>, the early start of the September WTC to discuss priorities for Council, the This is Woodstock Day in October and the ETC which had been called for August 16<sup>th</sup>.

She then addressed the Parkinsons, who were present as members of the public, reading to them **Resolution WTC/104/16** passed at the ETC on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016 about removal of the MUGA and indicating that a letter/agreement drafted by WTC solicitors had been despatched to them that day.

Cllr Philip Redpath thought the public should be aware that most councillors had only seen the letters from Freeths at the meeting. He considered it wrong that some councillors had access and others didn't creating suspicions.

Cllr Collingwood had drafted the letter but Cllr Yoxall had disagreed with some of the content. WTC was not a prime client and the solicitor could not turn round the advice quickly. Cllr Collingwood believed it correct to see the draft letter before it was sent out.

Cllr Cooper claimed Cllr Philip Redpath had actually chosen the location of the MUGA, but was rebutted by Cllr Trish Redpath who read out a minute of a meeting held February 2012 with WODC when Cllr Philip Redpath had discussed a site at the New Road football ground.

Cllr Philip Redpath believed approx £12K had been spent on legal fees on this matter, though this was denied by other members.

Cllr Philip Redpath requested and it was AGREED to bring forward item 15 (ii)

#### **WTC/112/16 NEW ROAD PLAY AREA**

Cllr P Redpath proposed and Cllr A Grant seconded that WTC

*Asks the Clerk to write a brief report specifically to identify which person or body recommended to WTC that the MUGA in New Road Playground be positioned under seven metres from the boundary fence of a domestic dwelling and the rationale for so doing in line with public comment both for and against and for this report to be circulated to all Councillors ten days prior to the September Council meeting.*

For: 9; Against 1; Abstentions 1.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That WTC asks the Clerk to write a brief report specifically to identify which person or body recommended to WTC that the MUGA in New Road Playground be positioned under seven metres from the boundary fence of a domestic dwelling and the rationale for so doing in line with public comment both for and against and for this report to be circulated to all Councillors ten days prior to the September Council meeting.**

#### **WTC/113/16 QUESTIONS**

There were no questions

#### **WTC/114/16 MOTIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL**

The following motion had been received from Cllr Parnes under Standing Orders

*Woodstock Town Council resolves to express to the Blenheim Palace Estate its disappointment about unsightly and non-notified installation of unlawful and non-compliant road signage changes on the public highway prior to the Country File Live event, and requests better monitoring and consideration by Estate management and their event planners during preparations for future events.*

The resolution was seconded by Cllr P Redpath.

Cllr Yoxall felt the motion was too negative and proposed amendment which was seconded by Cllr Cooper. The Mayor stated that the proposal from Cllr Yoxall was in effect a further motion. Cllr Parnes then suggested amending this motion to encompass his motion but this was not accepted by the proposer.

A named vote was requested.

Vote on the motion as printed in the agenda:  
For Cllrs Parnes, P Redpath, T Redpath, Grant.

Against: Cllrs Robertson, Cooper, Poskitt, Collingwood, Yoxall, Stokes, Rasch  
The motion as printed fell.

Cllr Yoxall then proposed (seconded by Cllr Cooper)

*WTC recognises that Country File Live was a wonderful family experience, congratulates Blenheim Estate on bringing the event to this area. However there are serious questions to be answered by the traffic management contractor employed by the event organiser.*

*WTC hereby requests Blenheim Estate to ask such question in relation to the short comings with the initial signage arrangements on the A44 approach to Woodstock, also traffic chaos on the opening morning of the event, reporting in due course to WTC accordingly*

On being put to the vote

**RESOLVED (unanimous)**

**that WTC recognises that Country File Live was a wonderful family experience, congratulates Blenheim Estate on bring the event to this area. However there are serious questions to be answered by the traffic management contractor employed by the event organiser.**

**WTC hereby requests Blenheim Estate to ask such question in relation to the short comings with the initial signage arrangements on the A44 approach to Woodstock, also traffic chaos on the opening morning of the event, reporting in due course to WTC accordingly**

**WTC/115/16 PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Cllr. Yoxall made a Personal Statement following what he considered to be unjustified attacks on his probity in the matter of the sale of the "Capability Brown" painting by Cllr. Julian Cooper in a recent email and by Cllr. Elizabeth Poskitt in an earlier email

Cllr. Yoxall stated that he believed his conduct in the matter had been exemplary. The key to the whole issue had been to consult the late Duke as to his wishes and that is all he had done. He had not attempted to pressurise anyone into acceding to the Duke's wishes.

Cllr. Yoxall considered the attacks on his probity unworthy of these two councillors holding the positions they do, noting that he was yet to receive an apology from either councillor concerned.

**WTC/116/16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**(i) a. Ref: 16/02405/FUL 4 Churchill Close, Woodstock – Erection of Annexe**

*Cllr A Grant left the room at this point as she had declared a pecuniary interest*

**RESOLVED** that Woodstock Town Council objects to this application. The footpath immediately adjacent to the proposed building and owned by the residents of 39 to 53 Hensington Road and is a private alleyway not a right of way. The Town Council is concerned that the gate to this proposed property opens on to this alleyway and seems intended to be the main pedestrian entrance for this proposed building.

The proposed building will be approximately 1metre from the gardens in Hensington Road. The Council therefore objects to this application on the grounds of Policy H2 in the WODC Local Plan 2011.

Also relevant to this are Policy OS2 in the emerging WODC Local Plan 2031 in that the Council believes the development would have a detrimental impact on the existing occupants in Hensington Road and OS4 in that the development would harm the use and enjoyment of land and buildings nearby, particularly living conditions for the inhabitants of properties in Hensington Road.

*Cllr A Grant returned to the meeting*

- b) Ref: 16/02408/HHD, 13 Vanbrugh Close, Woodstock – Alterations and erection of single storey rear extension  
**RESOLVED** that Woodstock Town Council wishes to make no comment about this planning application.
- c) Ref: 16/02449/HHD & 16/02450/LBC, 49 Oxford Street, Woodstock – Erection of rear conservatory  
**RESOLVED** that Woodstock Town Council wishes to make no comment about this planning application.
- d) Ref: 16/02243/FUL Barn at Grims Dyke Farm, Woodleys, Woodstock – conversion of redundant traditional barns to form two dwellings including new single storey link extension to barn one. Formation of parking area to serve both dwellings.

**RESOLVED** that Woodstock Town Council wishes to make no comment about this planning application, although it was pointed out that this planning application is situated in the Parish of Wootton, not Woodstock.

**ACTION:** *The Mayor wil advise the Town Clerk’s assistant over these responses to be communicated to WODC Planning.*

#### **(ii) Updates Re ‘Land East of Woodstock’ Major Development Application:**

*The Mayor left the room at this point as she had a prejudicial interest. The Deputy Mayor took the chair.*

A draft supplementary objection letter from the Town Council’s planning advisor Mr Huw Mellor had been amended by Cllr Jay but it was agreed to add a note concerning prospects of an appeal. Cllr Cooper stated that , in his memory, WODC Uplands sub-committee have never had costs awarded against them at an appeal. Cllr Collingwood wanted added that there was already 1000 vehicles per day on the A4095 and this would be further increased by new developemnts now agreed for Long Hanborough, was also expressed that additional houses at Woodstock East would make traffic congestion even worse and making it impossible for residents to to work during Blenheim special events.

There was also an additional point of contribution to pollution

It was agreed the Council would write back to Mr Mellor with these additional points.

**(iii) WODC yellow cards Community objections to 'Land East of Woodstock' Planning Application:**

Cllr Parnes asked that this item be deferred to the next week's ETC. This was agreed.

*The Mayor then returned to the room and resumed the Chair.*

**WTC/117/16 REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER AUGUST 2016**

**(i) RESOLVED**

**That the list of payments totalling £16,685.18 made in the month of July 2016 be approved**

(ii) Bank Reconciliation statement for July 2016: noted

(iii) Summary and detailed expenditure statement for July 2016: noted

**WTC/118/16 TOWN GREEN APPLICATION**

The draft application for Town Green status for the New Road Recreation area was approved and the Mayor and Town Clerk were requested to progress the matter.

**WTC/119/16 RESOURCES AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were noted. The following items arising from the meeting were considered.

(i) Motions to go on the agenda

The following motion was recommended for discussion by the Committee. The Deputy Mayor proposed and the Mayor seconded:

*That motions of less than four lines are published on the relevant Meeting's Agenda*

Discussion followed and a vote was taken.

For: 2 Against 9. The motion fell.

(ii) Delegated decisions After discussion in relation to the invoices from Freeths, Cllr P Redpath proposed and Cllr Yoxall seconded

*that the matter of the invoices relating to the engagement of Freeths in July to provide legal advice on matters relating to the MUGA be deferred until the September WTC meeting.*

For: 10 Against : 1

**RESOLVED that the matter of the invoices relating to the engagement of Freeths in July to provide legal advice on matters relating to the MUGA be deferred until the September WTC meeting.**

**Agreed** that the terms of reference on delegated powers regarding expenditure should be referred to the next meeting of the Resources and General Purpose committee

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

**RESOLVED (unanimous) that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted the public and the press be temporarily excluded from the meeting (Public bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 s1).**

### **WTC/120/16 PROPERTY REPORT**

The report from the CMfP was noted.

(i) Council accepted the quotation of Company A for the sum of £1830-00 to undertake work at 8 Park Street. Council also accepted Company C quotation of £795.00 for work at 24 Market Square.

(ii) Cobbles re: Italian Restaurant and negotiation of lease

Discussion followed and members would check their files for information regarding the setting of the original lease terms.

### **WTC/121/16 NEW ROAD PLAY AREA**

To receive and consider an oral update from the Mayor.

The Mayor stated she had nothing significant to add to what had been said earlier.

*The Council went back into open session.*

### **WTC/122/16 RELATIONSHIP WITH BLENHEIM ESTATES**

Cllr Yoxall presented a report on the relationship with Blenheim Estates where, despite 'irreconcilable differences' with them over housing development, he sounded a cautionary note that being too stringent in criticism would strain the need for a constructive approach to the Town /Palace dialogue.

*(At this point Cllr Robertson left the meeting)*

### **WTC/123/16 KEEPING THE TOWN TIDY**

The Deputy Mayor introduced an article about keeping the town tidy and dealing with litter which he proposed was submitted to the Woodstock & Bladon News from the Town Council. This was agreed unanimously.

### **WTC/124/16 UNSIGHTLY AND DEFECTIVE ROOF SLATES AT BENS CLOSE**

Cllr Parnes asked that this item be deferred until the ETC the following week.  
Agreed.

### **WTC/125/16 ASBESTOS ADJACENT TO THE OWL EXTENSION**

Cllr Parnes was requested to follow up the matter and report back to Council

### **WTC/126/16 LOSS OF RETAIL SPACE IN WOODSTOCK AS REVEALED IN THE LOCAL PLAN MONITORING REPORT**

Cllr Parnes requested this item be deferred until the ETC meeting the following week. Agreed.

**WTC/127/16 POLICE STATION UPDATE**

The Mayor said she had nothing new to report on this matter

The meeting closed at 22.20

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