

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
THE WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
ON TUESDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2018
At 7.30pm
IN THE TOWN HALL, WOODSTOCK.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Mrs T Redpath (Mayor)
Cllr. F Collingwood
Cllr E Poskitt

Cllr. A Grant (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr D Davies

WTC231/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs J Cooper, P Jay, U Parkinson, S Rasch and P Redpath

The Mayor confirmed that Cllr Dave Davies had formally signed his declaration of acceptance in front of the Proper Officer after the votes had been counted and the result of the election announced on Thursday 15th February 2018. She welcomed him to his first official Council meeting.

WTC232/17 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

There were no disclosures of interest.

WTC233/17 REVISED CHERWELL LOCAL PLAN

The Mayor brought Cllr D Davies up to speed on both the Cherwell and West Oxfordshire Local Plans. She confirmed that Woodstock will be affected by the increase in allocation of additional 90 houses proposed for the East Field site which will make the total allocation 500. The proposed site is adjacent to the Woodstock East site which comes under the West Oxfordshire Local plan where the recommendation to build 300 houses was approved by WODC in December 2017. The other sites at Hill Rise, Old Woodstock and north of Banbury Road as still being considered.

A discussion followed during which it was agreed to submit the additional points below for consideration at the Cherwell District Council meeting on Monday 26th February 2018.

- The Council has noted the increase in numbers from 410 to 500 on the land East of Woodstock in spite of the WTC strong objection to the 410. The comment made by the West Oxon District Council commissioned CBA heritage assessment and confirmed by the ICOMOS objections is that development in this area should stop (no further “salami slicing”) IF the adjacent site on the West Oxon boundary is accepted.
- The fact that the proposed piece of land is the one area proposed by Cherwell District Council which is not Green Belt land must not make it acceptable bearing in mind the heritage aspect of the impact on the Blenheim World Heritage Site (WHS) and the objections by heritage organisations as mentioned above.
- The objections by ICOMOS are for an open rural aspect approach setting to the WHS and the revised plan not only brings the development area closer to the A44 but plans to locate sports fields with floodlights closest to the junction. This is hardly conforming to the desire for a RURAL approach.

- This land has in recent times been successfully tenanted by a local farmer who has previously raised strong objections to its loss as agricultural land. This flies in the face of the suggestion that the land is of limited use as farmland and is an unacceptable loss when the heritage is for a rural setting.

Cllr E Poskitt confirmed that she would be willing to make representation on behalf of Woodstock Town Council if permitted. Council unanimously agreed to this.

ACTION: The Clerk will ascertain whether Cllr E Poskitt would be permitted to speak on behalf of WTC at the meeting. She will send the additional comments to the appropriate members of Cherwell District Council including Cllr Simon Holland who has already agreed to speak on behalf of WTC in advance of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.20hrs