

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF
THE WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2019
IN THE TOWN HALL, WOODSTOCK**

PRESENT:

Cllr. A Grant (Mayor)
Cllr. J Cooper
Cllr. U Parkinson

Cllr M Parkinson (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr. P Jay
Cllr. E Poskitt

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Rachel Johnson, Responsible Financial Officer and Kate Begley attending as she will be writing a summary of the meeting for the Woodstock and Bladon News.

WTC151/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllrs D Davies, P Redpath, T Redpath, S Rasch and Cllr I Hudspeth

WTC152/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr P Jay	Passim: Personal interest as he is a resident of the Retreat, Banbury Road.
Cllr J Cooper	Item 5 Budget 2020-21 (iii) Personal interest as he is a member of the Woodstock Youth Club Committee and a member of Sustainable Woodstock.
Cllr J Cooper	Item 6 Planning Personal interest as he is a member of the WODC Uplands Planning Sub Committee.
Cllr A Grant	Item 5 Budget 2020-21 (iii) Personal interest as she is the Secretary of Woodstock Youth Club
Cllr M Parkinson	Item 5 Budget 2020-21 (iii) Personal interest as he is the Treasurer of Woodstock Youth Club, he is a member of the Mock Mayor Committee and he is a Trustee of the Chapel Trust for the Memorial Gardens
Cllr U Parkinson	Item 5 Budget 2020-21 (iii) Personal interest as she is a Trustee of Woodstock Exhibition Foundation
Cllr E Poskitt	Item 5 Budget 2020-21 (iii) Personal interest as she is a member of Sustainable Woodstock, she volunteers for Volunteer Link Up West Oxfordshire and she is the Chair of Friends of the Oxfordshire Musuem the recipient of funds from the Mock Mayor 2019.
Cllr E Poskitt	Item 6 (b) Planning Personal interest as she lives three houses away from the applicant.

WTC153/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

None

WTC154/19 QUESTIONS:

There were no questions.

WTC155/19 BUDGET 2020-21:

Cllr P Jay proposed that the grant applications be considered before the 2020-21 Budget to which Council agreed unanimously.

Council approved for £3,000 to be allocated and distributed across the groups and organisations that had applied for a grant.

All applications received were discussed and Council agreed unanimously to the £3,000 being allocated to the following applicants:-

Woodstock Scouts and Guides	£500
Volunteer Link	£100
Woodstock Youth Club	£800
Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire	£200
Sustainable Woodstock	£300
Oxford Association for the Blind	£100
Mock Mayor	£500
Woodstock Exhibition Foundation	£200
Memorial Garden	£150
Woodstock Ladies Circle	£150

Cllr E Poskitt reiterated that recipients of the grants should provide the Council with a written report on how the money has been utilised prior to the period when the next grant applications are submitted.

Cllr P Jay, CMFF presented to Council the 2020-21 Budget (appendix 1). He thanked the Mayor for her good management and skill when dealing with Council financial matters which have resulted in the profile of expenditure over the 5 year period being so good.

Cllr P Jay explained that all projects proposed within the budget plan would need to be considered and agreed by Council before a project was undertaken regardless of whether the bids for the funds had been approved.

The bids tree planting project, noticeboards, re-decoration of the Reception Office and the Office doors, External PA system were all discussed.

Cllr J Cooper queried the amount allocated in the budget to cover the costs of the 2020 Town Council Elections. The Responsible Financial Office confirmed that those costs would come out of the 21/22 Budget.

Cllr P Jay proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr A Grant:-

that the Council:

- *sets the precept for 2020-21 at £100,000;*
- *approves the publication by the RFO of the spreadsheets supporting this paper as the council's budget for 2020-21 and its budget plan for the following five years;*
- *approves an application for a Public Works Board loan of £20,000 for the cemetery extension, to be repaid in 2022-23*

A vote was taken.

VOTE: For: 5 Against: 1 Abstaining: 0

RESOLVED: The motion was carried.

Cllr Poskitt proposed that the Council thank the Responsible Financial Officer Rachel Johnson for her hard work in producing the Budget papers. The Council agreed unanimously.

WTC156/19 PLANNING:

The following planning applications were considered by Council and their responses are shown below:-

Ref: APPLICATION NO: 19/02956/HHD 5 Hedge End Woodstock
Erection of replacement front porch.

RESOLVED: WTC had no objection to this application.

Ref: APPLICATION NO: 19/02791/HHD Damson House 18B Hensington Close, Woodstock
Removal of existing detached garage. Erection of two story side extension.

RESOLVED: WTC had no objection to this application.

WTC157/19 OXFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD SURVEY:

Council discussed at length their response to the Oxfordshire Growth Board Survey and considered the response Cllr P Jay had presented in his paper before he proposed the following motion at the table :

That:-

WTC submit the response contained within his paper as their collective response to the Oxfordshire Growth Board Survey.

As the motion was not seconded it fell.

Cllr J Cooper then proposed the wording below as WTC's response to the Growth Board Survey which was seconded by Cllr E Poskitt:-

That:-

Woodstock Town Council is disappointed in the proposals put forward by the Growth Board over several years.

It seems until recently to act on a basis that was not robust in its original foundation. Taking lack of account on the infrastructure consequences of its proposals. Ignoring all normal planning constraints such as the Green Belt and a World Heritage Site.

We request that properly accountable structure plans be reinstated in the County Council and District Council having the restoration of powers to alter Local Plans.

A vote was taken.

VOTE: For: 6 Against: 0

RESOLVED: Council voted unanimously in favour of the motion and it was carried.

Cllr E Poskitt provided a response to Question 6 in the Survey - "Please describe how you think the Growth Board should be perceived in three words" - By another name.

The Mayor finished by advising Council that WTC collected £19.30 towards the British Legion Poppy Appeal and the total raised for the District was £3,500.

The meeting closed at 20.28hrs