

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
THE WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 25th APRIL 2017
IN THE TOWN HALL, WOODSTOCK**

PRESENT:

Cllr. E Poskitt (Mayor)
Cllr. J Cooper
Cllr. P Jay
Cllr. P Redpath
Cllr. E Stokes

Cllr. F Collingwood (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr. A Grant
Cllr. S Parnes
Cllr. T Redpath
Cllr. B Yoxall

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

WTC/334/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. S Rasch and Mr Dennis Allen (who had requested to speak about the planning application for Upper Brook Hill).

WTC/335/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr. Poskitt: WODC Cllr. Item 7. Planning. General interest because she is a member of WODC Uplands planning sub-committee.
Cllr. Cooper: WODC Cllr. Item 7. Planning. General interest because he is a member of WODC.

Cllr. Collingwood: Item 7a. Planning. Floodlighting on Old Woodstock Football Club ground would be visible from his residence.

WTC/336/16 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 24 JANUARY 2017:

It was proposed by Cllr. Poskitt and seconded by Cllr. Collingwood that **the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 24 January 2017 be approved and signed by the Mayor** as the Environment Committee had been disbanded at the April WTC meeting along with the other committees but several members of the EC were present at this ETC. .

For: 6 Against: 2 Abstain 2

The Motion was carried.

WTC/337/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr Gujural addressed the meeting objecting to the proposed floodlighting at the Old Woodstock Football Club ground. He stated that many objections had been submitted by residents to WODC. Residents in bordering roads had been good neighbours, not objecting to the Club's activities, the new bar or the extended licencing hours. However they were steadfastly against football being played after dark. The floodlight structure was not acceptable and planning permission for a very similar arrangement of floodlights had been refused within the last two years. He put forward the alternative of sharing the playing field facility in front of the Marlborough School with the School.

WTC/338/16 COMMUNICATIONS

- The Mayor announced that an applicant had been offered the post of Town Clerk subject to references but the start date would not be before mid-June.

- The Assistant Caretaker had resigned with effect from the end of March. The process of advertising for a replacement has commenced. The ideal candidate would preferably have some handyman skills. S/he could be asked to assist with arranging chairs for events at the Town Hall and Community Centre when users were prepared to pay for this. .
- Pieces of a sycamore tree in the Hensington Road Cemetery had fallen into a resident's garden and other branches were identified as an H&S matter. The Acting Town Clerk was arranging for a tree surgeon to deal with the problem urgently.
- Another H & S issue had arisen with a bench near Spencer Court, which had damaged slats which could cause injury so the bench should be removed. Consideration will be given to a replacement bench at a future meeting.
- David Shepherd was trying to arrange a hustings for General Election candidates on 23rd May.
- Canada Day is on 1st July and it will be 150 years since John Macdonald united Canada from East to West. The Mayor had received a letter from Kingston, Ontario, where Macdonald was born, inviting Woodstock to declare Canada Day, July 1st 2017, 'Sir John A Macdonald-Canada Day'. The Mayor stated that she felt, with all the other activities in Woodstock around that time, it would be difficult to interest residents in this concept. Council agreed.
- The Mayor reported that she had been invited both as Chair of the Friends of the Museum of Oxfordshire and as Mayor, to meet Peter Latchford who had been asked by the Resilience Group looking into the future of the Oxfordshire Museums service, to carry out initial exploration of views on the Museum services. She had met with Mr Latchford that morning to discuss the value of the Museum to the community and to the whole county and beyond. She had stressed to Mr Latchford that he or the Resilience group, should meet up with Councillors and residents. She was told that there would be further stakeholder meetings to do exactly that later in the year.
- The Mayor and Cllr Peter Jay had just come from a small meeting at Blenheim looking with a company hired by Blenheim, at relations between Blenheim and local communities now and in the future.

WTC/339/16 QUESTIONS:

In response to the question on the agenda: *Is the Mayor willing to write to Dominic Hare, Blenheim's Chief Executive, to thank him for supporting calls to open the JCTPD meetings to the public? At the Annual Town Meeting on March 21st, Mr Hare was told of the Council's resolution calling upon the JCTPD to open its meetings to public attendance. When a motion was in the process of being put to the Annual Town Meeting that the Meeting ask for the Joint Committee for Town and Palace Dialogue [JCTPD] to open its meetings to public attendance, so people can witness, hear, feed back and understand the things discussed - in contrast to JCTPD's reluctance to do that until now, Mr Hare responded: "You don't need a motion. I'll do that". Will the Mayor seek that this is commenced at the next JCTPD meeting?* the Mayor stated she had already written to Mr Dominic Hare, Blenheim's Chief Executive, thanking him for attending the Annual Town Meeting and did not think it necessary to write again to thank him on this specific matter. Further she would not inform residents that the meeting would be open to the public as she felt this was something for Cllr. Yoxall, as co-chair of the Dialogue meetings, to implement.

WTC/340/16 PLANNING

(a) Ref: APPLICATION NO: 17/01145/FUL Old Woodstock Town Football Club: Erection of six, 15m high floodlighting columns.

Cllr P Redpath proposed a motion that:
WTC strongly object to the application

Points raised by Councillors included:

- No calculation had been made of the level of light on adjacent properties.
- The lights would lead to an extension of the use of the facilities.
- The lights were a requirement of the Hellenic league.
- The application should be refused under policy BE2,1b, and BE2 as unreasonable disturbance to neighbours.
- The Inspector investigating WODC's housing needs was reviewing WODC's Dark Skies policy.
- There had been inadequate notice about the application which would affect a much wider area than that covered by the notices so affected residents may not be aware of the proposals.
- The roads are not suitable for the additional traffic expected if the Club has floodlighting and moves up a league. .
- It is not possible to make satisfactory comparisons of the light levels unless the lights are *in situ*.
- The proposed masts for the lights are considerably taller than the surrounding houses.

Mr Neil Roberts, who was present in the audience at the meeting, was invited to speak on behalf of Old Woodstock Football Club. He stated that the lights would be used only once a fortnight from September to April. If the lights were not erected by the Club before the start of next season the Club would be relegated.

Cllr. Jay praised the valuable role of the Football Club in the Woodstock community and regretted WTC's lack of support and provision of facilities for the town's youth and recommended support for the application.

Cllr. Mrs T Redpath proposed an amendment to the motion which was seconded by Cllr Yoxall and accepted by the original proposer so that the amended motion was:

WTC objects to the proposed development because the proposed lighting due to the level of illumination and glare would have a detrimental impact on the residential amenities enjoyed by neighbouring residential properties. The level of light pollution would be unacceptable and result in unreasonable disturbance and loss of amenity. As such the proposal is considered to be contrary to policy BE21 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011.

A named vote was requested

In Favour: Cllrs Collingwood, Cooper, Grant, Parnes, Poskitt, P Redpath, Mrs T Redpath and Yoxall.

Against: Cllrs. Jay and Stokes

The motion was passed.

RESOLVED that

WTC objects to the proposed development because the proposed lighting due to the level of illumination and glare would have a detrimental impact on the residential amenities enjoyed by neighbouring residential properties. The level of light pollution would be unacceptable and result in unreasonable disturbance and loss of amenity. As such the proposal is considered to be contrary to policy BE21 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011.

The Mayor stated that despite Council's decision the whole Council wished the Football Club well as it recognised the value of what the Club was doing for the youth of the town.

(b) Ref: APPLICATION NO: 17/00675/FUL 16B Market Place Woodstock: Two new additional dormer windows to consented residential scheme (15/04221/FUL).

RESOLVED that Woodstock Town Council wishes to make no comment about this planning application PROVIDED THAT the proposed dormer windows do not inappropriately overlook the new house being built in Angel Yard opposite this building.. .

(c) Ref: APPLICATION No.: 17/00710/FUL 1 Upper Brook Hill Woodstock: Construction of new dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.

WTC felt that the proposed development was inappropriate to adjacent period properties and was worried about the traffic implications, had concerns about parking and access and was unhappy with a design where the only windows (north facing on to the road and one facing west on to the courtyard for parking one car, would all be likely to be looking out on to cars parked immediately outside and thus liable to take the limited available light.

A motion was put that *the Council objects to the development on the grounds that parking is a major issue.*

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 2

The motion was passed.

RESOLVED that

the Council objects to the development on the grounds that parking is a major issue.

WTC/341/16 MUGA

Cllr. P Redpath proposed and Cllr. Yoxall seconded a motion that:

The panels of the MUGA are brought back and stored in the basement of the Town Hall to be used for fencing New Road playground and that the posts be recycled.

For: 9 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

RESOLVED that

The panels of the MUGA are brought back and stored in the basement of the Town Hall to be used for fencing New Road playground and that the posts be recycled.

Cllr P Redpath volunteered to go to WODC to arrange implementation of this resolution.

WTC/342/16 BROADBAND FIBRE CONNECTION

A quotation from Triumph Technology for installing Broadband at the Town Hall was noted. The Acting Town Clerk was asked to get other quotes for this work. After discussion it was

agreed to defer any decision and undertake further investigations into improving computer download speed in the Town Clerk's office.

WTC/343/16 FENCING AT MARLBOROUGH SCHOOL

The School was about to put up security fencing on land bordering the Budd's Close playground and the new OWL reserve. The School was planning to remove old concrete posts on Council land along this border. It was agreed that the old concrete posts should be removed. However the proposed fencing, as illustrated in the School's email, appeared high, harsh, intimidating and ugly and would destroy views from the new OWL reserve footpath..

Cllr. Collingwood proposed and Cllr. P Redpath seconded a motion that:

WTC strongly objects to the proposed fencing.

For: 10 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

RESOLVED that

WTC strongly objects to the proposed fencing.

WTC/344/16 SIGNING AND SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

It was resolved (*nem con*) that the new lease on Suite 1 in the Community Centre should be signed and sealed by the Mayor..

The meeting closed at 21.05

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