

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
IN THE TOWN HALL, WOODSTOCK**

**PRESENT:**

**Cllr. E Poskitt (Mayor)**

**Cllr. F Collingwood (Deputy Mayor)**

**Cllr. J Cooper**

**Cllr. A Grant**

**Cllr. P Jay**

**Cllr S Parnes**

**Cllr. S Rasch**

**Cllr P Redpath**

**Cllr. T Redpath**

**Cllr M Robertson**

**Cllr. E Stokes**

**Cllr B Yoxall**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** County Cllr. Ian Hudspeth and 10 members of the public.

**WTC/139/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None

**WTC/140/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**Cllr. E Poskitt declared a prejudicial pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 (2) and 10 because she lives in Hedge End.

Cllr. E Poskitt: WODC Cllr. Item 9, planning. General interest because she is a member of WODC.

Cllr. J Cooper: WODC Cllr. Item 9, planning. General interest because he is a member of WODC.

Cllr. F Collingwood Item 17, General interest as he works for the firm which used to be employed as legal advisers to the complainants.

Cllr. A Grant: item 9(d) general interest as a personal neighbour.

**WTC/141/16PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:**

Superintendent Kath Lowe of Thames Valley Police addressed the meeting informing the Council that the Woodstock Police station was to close and the police would have an office and work from the Woodstock Fire Station. The existing premises were to be sold. She advised that crime in Woodstock had fallen in the five months to 31 August 2016 compared to the same period in 2015. She gave the following figures:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	
All crime	173	134	22.5% fall
House burglary	4	3	25% fall
Violence without injury	32	26	19% fall
Violence with injury	13	10	23% fall
Grievous Bodily Harm	0	1	-

Superintendent Lowe concluded that Woodstock was a very safe place to live. She stated that, whilst property crime was down, internet crime and sexual crime reporting was increasing. The Chief Constable will have to make further cuts of £15million in 2016/7 with a reduction in front line officers for the first time but neighbourhood policing will not disappear. She announced that Woodstock's PC Chris Jones was the Thames Valley winner of Best Neighbourhood Policeman.

Superintendent Lowe then answered Councillors questions on 101 line service responses, traffic and road signs at Countryfile Live and the Community Safety Partnership.

Mrs U Parkinson addressed the meeting announcing that the Parkinson family had signed the legal agreement required by the Council.

**WTC/142/16 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** It was agreed to carry the minutes forward to the next meeting.

**WTC/143/16 NEW ROAD PLAY AREA:** the complainants intend to dismantle the MUGA on 15 September. Cllr. P Redpath proposed and Mr B Yoxall seconded a motion to accept the offer.

A named vote was requested.

For: Cllrs. Collingwood, Grant, Parnes, Rasch, P Redpath, T Redpath, Stokes and Yoxall

Against: Cllrs Poskitt, Cooper, Robertson, Jay.

**The Motion was carried.**

Cllr. Collingwood proposed and Cllr. Grant seconded a motion that the Mayor should arrange for:

- notices of temporary closure be prepared and put up at the Play area entrances,
- the gates be locked for the duration of the work and
- WODC be asked to attend on Friday afternoon to remove the pieces.

A named vote was requested:

For: Cllrs Poskitt, Collingwood, Cooper, Grant, Parnes, Rasch, P Redpath, T Redpath, Stokes and Yoxall

Against: Cllrs Jay and Robertson

**The Motion was carried.**

Cllr. Poskitt proposed and Cllr. Grant seconded a motion that, in the absence of the Town Clerk, Christine Inker as Town Clerk's Assistant be asked to sign the legal agreement with the Parkinson Family on behalf of the Council.

A named vote was requested:

For: Cllrs Poskitt, Collingwood, Cooper, Grant, Parnes, Rasch, P Redpath, T Redpath, Stokes and Yoxall

Against: Cllrs Jay and Robertson

**The Motion was passed.**

**WTC/144/16 PLACING OF THE MUGA:**

Reports from the Town Clerk and Cllr. T Redpath were noted but to understand the siting of the MUGA a meeting with WODC would be arranged to be attended by the Town Clerk, Cllr. Parnes and Cllr. P Redpath. Cllr Jay produced WODC's contemporaneous correspondence which may assist because he said it evidenced that WODC were not involved in the planning of the design of the playground or the MUGA .

**WTC/145/16 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S UPDATES:**

(i) Report from the County Councillor Ian Hudspeth

The report was noted. The recent report by OCC on the Woodstock East development was raised and several Councillors pointed out that the Council had previously supported other developments in the town but Cllr. Hudspeth maintained that the perception was that the Council opposed all development. He stated that more houses were needed because people were living longer and there were more children which created a demand for more homes. He stated that the Woodstock East site had good access to two railway stations and a dual carriageway road with cycle paths leading to it. In answer to a question he stated that development will only stop when the demand for housing abates.

The possible eviction of WUFA from its present location was raised. Cllr. Hudspeth stated that he had met the committee of WUFA and discussions were at an early stage. No imminent decision would be taken and dialogue was needed. However it was recognised that the Primary school would need more buildings. The land was owned by the Diocese.

Cllr. Cooper proposed and the Mayor seconded a motion that Woodstock Town Council should write to the Marlborough School congratulating them on their exam results.

The motion was passed with nine votes in favour and one against. two abstentions Cllr. Stokes abstained as she had a pecuniary interest being a staff member at the school.

(ii) District Councillors' report

Cllr Cooper confirmed that discussion of the SHELAA is not on the agenda for the September meeting and he would make inquiries to ascertain why. He also confirmed that there were no proposed changes to the West Oxfordshire constituency boundaries.

## **WTC/147/16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

i) (a) REF 16/0215/FUL- Long Close Oxford Road Woodstock- erection of three detached houses and associated works

Concerns were raised about the number of accesses onto the A44 with increased usage by three, instead of one, dwellings otherwise RESOLVED that Woodstock Town Council wishes to make no comment about this planning application.

b) Ref. 16/02638/FUL Owen Mumford, Green Lane, Woodstock - siting of portakabin for three years

RESOLVED that Woodstock Town Council wishes to make no comment about this planning application.

c) Ref: 16/02714/HHD 59 New Road Woodstock-Erection of rear conservatory

RESOLVED that Woodstock Town Council wishes to make no comment about this planning application.

d) Ref: 16/02740/HHD Rosebank 31 Brook Hill Woodstock- erection of a car port

RESOLVED that Woodstock Town Council OBJECTS to the proposal because the proposed car port is still too dominant compared to the house adjacent and below with nine votes in favour, one against and one abstention

e) Ref: 16/02788/FUL- 61 Oxford Street Woodstock- erection of replacement building

RESOLVED that Woodstock Town Council OBJECTS to the proposal under planning policy B5

f) Ref: 16/02857/HHD- Milverton 81 New Road, Woodstock- erection of single storey front and side extension.

RESOLVED that Woodstock Town Council wishes to make no comment about this planning application.

g) Ref: 16/02881/HHD- 17 Green Lane, Woodstock- single storey rear extension.

RESOLVED that Woodstock Town Council wishes to make no comment about this planning application.

h) Ref: 16/02981/HHD- 17 Green Lane, Woodstock- subdivision to create new dwelling

RESOLVED that Woodstock Town Council wishes to make no comment about this planning application.

ii) New WODC procedure of 'Prior approval applications'

This item was carried forward to a future meeting.

The Mayor had expressed a pecuniary interest in the next items and left the meeting at this point. The Deputy Mayor took the Chair.

### **WTC/148/16 MOTIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL**

Cllr. Parnes proposed and Cllr. Grant seconded the motion that:

Woodstock Town Council objects to any eviction or other forced displacement of the Woodstock Under Fives Association (WUFA) from its present site, and considers to be insufficient or unacceptable any Local Authority considerations disclosed publicly to date in relation traffic, safety, safeguarding and service implications of relocation - including ramifications for families benefitting from the range of WUFA services, especially those with siblings attending the primary school and WUFA and further that the Council will make an additional submission against the proposed Woodstock East development.

The motion was carried unanimously

Cllr. Parnes proposed and Cllr. P Redpath seconded the motion that:

Woodstock Town Council rejects and objects to the County Council's "Final Response" to the "Land East of Woodstock Proposals" including due to lacking considerations for the impact upon Shipton Road and insufficient transport-related considerations for which purported "mitigation" is insufficient and the Council will make an additional submission against the proposed Woodstock East development.

The motion was passed unanimously.

### **WTC/149/16 'LAND EAST OF WOODSTOCK' PLANNING APPLICATION**

It was noted that following the last Council meeting the circulated further objection had been submitted to WODC.

It was proposed by Cllr Parnes and seconded by Cllr Mr Redpath that WTC writes for the third time to the District Council, this time to the Chairman of the Uplands Area Planning sub committee

- a) Enclosing Minute WTC/135//16 and the Town Clerk's letter of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 to the Strategic Director, for reference;
- b) Expressing the Town Council's significant disappointment about the lack of WODC explanation in relation to its public labelling and treatment of yellow card objections as a petition; and
- c) Requesting a considered response and apology well in advance of the October Uplands Area Planning Sub-Committee Meeting

The motion was passed with the accepted amendment that the correspondence should be sent to the Leader of the Council.

The Mayor returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.

### **WTC/150/16 REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- i) It was proposed by Cllr Collingwood seconded by Cllr Cooper and passed **nem-com**. That the list of payments totalling £20,398.73 made in the month of August 2016 be received and accepted.
- ii) The bank reconciliation statement was noted.
- iii) The summary and detailed Income and Expenditure statement for August 2016 was noted.
- iv) It was proposed by Cllr Jay and seconded by Cllr Cooper that the Annual Return including the report by BDO has been approved and passed unanimously.

### **WTC/151/16 BUDGET REVIEW**

- i) The Budget Review 2016/7 Significant Differences Report was noted
- ii) The Budget Review Report was noted and Cllr Jay proposed and Cllr Poskitt seconded that none of the proposed expenditure items totalling £14,550 be included in the budget .
- iii) It was proposed by Cllr Collingwood seconded by Cllr Rasch, with a new accepted amendment that the recording equipment element £3,000 was removed but the election budget of £2,500 be retained, that expenditure in the budget totalling £17,700 be removed from the 2016/7 budget but postponed for priority consideration in the 2017/8 budget.

The motion was carried.

The Deputy Mayor's work upon the above matters was greatly appreciated.

### **WTC/152/16 COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor reported:

- i) Former Cllr. Carritt had fallen off his bicycle and is recovering from his injuries in the John Radcliffe Hospital. It was agreed that a card be sent from the Council.
- ii) Gill and Howard Morris are retiring from the production of the Woodstock & Bladon news. The Mayor agreed to write to thank them for their past work.
- iii) A journalist from "Cotswold Life" had visited Woodstock and an article will probably appear in the publication before the end of the year.
- iv) The Witney MP is retiring from Parliament. The Mayor agreed to write to thank him for his efforts in the constituency.

### **WTC/153/16 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the committee meeting on 23 August were received and the following matters:

- i) It was proposed by Cllr. Parnes and seconded by Cllr Poskitt that no land at the water meadows be sold to a resident and passed unanimously.
- ii) It was agreed to ask the Wychwood Group to look at the large bough overhanging a neighbour's property.
- iii) Discussion on the Christmas lights initiative was carried forward.

**WTC/154/16 COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP**

The minutes of the group dated 30 June 2016 were noted.

**WTC/155/16 TRANSPORT AND TOURISM**

Councillors were asked to send comments on the report direct to Cllr. Yoxall.

**WTC/156/16 THIS IS WOODSTOCK DAY**

The Mayor reported that 20 organisations had expressed an interest. The day will be open from 10am until 6pm. Help was requested from all available Councillors.

**WTC/157/16 PROPERTY**

It was proposed by The Mayor and seconded by Cllr, Jay that Cllr. Cooper should temporarily share the duties of Cllr. Robertson as member responsible for Property. The motion was passed.

For:4 Against: 1 Abstentions: 5

**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND 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 s1).

**WTC/158/16 NEW ROAD PLAY AREA**

It was proposed by the Mayor and seconded by Cllr. Jay that the two smaller invoices for legal advice be paid and that Cllr. Collingwood should write a letter about the third. A named vote was requested:

In favour: Cllrs. Collingwood, Stokes, Jay, Rasch, T Redpath, Poskitt and Cooper

Against: Cllrs Parnes, P Redpath, and Yoxall.

The motion was carried.

**WTC/159/16 STAFF MATTER**

The Mayor reported that a written grievance had been received from a member of staff and the Council's Grievance procedure was being followed.

The meeting closed at 22.30

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