

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY TOWN MEETING OF
THE WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 3rd JUNE 2014
IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Cllr J Cooper (Mayor)	Cllr B Yoxall	Cllr P Jay
Cllr S Parnes	Cllr E Poskitt	Cllr Mrs E Stokes
Cllr T Wray		

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 15 members of the public.

WTC/30/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received from: Cllrs C Carritt, Mrs V Edwards, Mrs E Jay, L Maybury and Cllr M Robertson (Deputy Mayor).

WTC/31/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: The following Cllrs notified the meeting of general interests:

Cllr E Poskitt: Agenda Item 4 Action Subsequent to Planning Decision and Agenda Item 5 Planning as a Member of WODC who is involved in planning.

Cllr J Cooper, The Mayor: Agenda Item 4 Action Subsequent to Planning Decision and Agenda Item 5 Planning as a Member of WODC who is involved in planning.

WTC/32/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mr P Redpath addressed the Town Council about the recent decision taken by the Uplands Planning Sub-Committee to give conditional permission to develop the playing fields east of Marlborough School. He said that policy H7 would usually call for it to be refused but that WODC had not yet met its requirement for a 5 year land supply. He noted that four of the five District Councils had now agreed to oppose the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) figures including the Leader of WODC. Mr Redpath noted that the WTC planning consultant had suggested possible actions to try and bring the decision back to WODC for re-consideration and now looked to WTC to progress these actions.

WTC/33/14 ACTION SUBSEQUENT TO PLANNING DECISION

The Council received and considered Huw Mellor's advice and possible further action by Woodstock Town Council following the decision of the Uplands Planning Sub-Committee on the planning application for residential development of the field between the Marlborough School and Budds Close. Cllr Parnes who had not been present at the start of the meeting arrived at this point.

At the Mayor's Committee Meeting that was held on 27th May a paper by Cllr P Jay and S Parnes had been discussed that outlined the options available to WTC. Cllr P Jay proposed the following motion, that was seconded by Cllr B Yoxall, discussed by the Council and

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That:-

a) the Town Clerk write on behalf of the Council and with drafting advice from Mr Huw Mellor of Kemp & Kemp and others as appropriate:-

i. to the National Planning Casework Unit challenging the WODC's planning decision on the grounds of material change in planning circumstances

since that decision, based around the purported challenge to the SHMA and the decision therefore being made on a flawed planning policy basis;

ii. to WODC to make a formal complaint based around the alleged mishandling and misrepresentation of the application by the case planning officer and the Planning Committee on the day; and

iii. to the Local Government Ombudsman alleging maladministration of WODC in its presentation and consideration of the application at the Planning Committee.

b) in the light of the success or otherwise of the action above, the Council then further consider as a last resort whether to apply for judicial review, noting that:-

i. This option exists for 6 weeks following the date of the formal issue of the decision notice; and

ii. counsel would need to be instructed at significant cost for this purpose.

After the motion was voted upon Cllr S Parnes left the Council table and sat with the public for the remainder of this meeting.

WTC/34/14 PLANNING

The Council received and considered the following planning applications:

(a) Ref: 14/0701/P/FP: The Crown Inn, 31 High Street, Woodstock. Alterations to include new dormer to North elevation and roof light to South elevation.

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

(b) Ref: 14/0715/P/FP: Blenheim Guest House and Tea Rooms, 17 Park Street, Woodstock. Change of use from tea room, shop and guest house to residential.

RESOLVED (unanimous) that Woodstock relies on its tourist trade and a variety of accommodation and refreshment facilities are crucial to support this, therefore WTC **objects** to this planning application on the grounds that it goes against WODC policy SH5 as it would deprive the town of a much valued amenity for tourists and residents which is in a prime location, with an authentic historical setting.

ACTION: *The Administrative Assistant will send the planning responses to WODC.*

The professional advice received from the Council's solicitors about possible judicial review proceedings was noted. The Mayor reported that he had received no response to his request for a representative from WODC planning department to attend the next Council meeting.

ACTION: *The Town Clerk will include an item about the Marlborough Field on the next Town Council agenda.*

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed Date