Woodstock Town Council

The Town Hall, Woodstock, Oxford, OX20 1SL
Telephone: 01993 811216
Website: www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk
Interim Town Clerk: Karen Howe

Minutes of the meeting of Woodstock Town Council held in The Town Hall, Woodstock on Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7pm

Clirs. present: Elizabeth Poskitt (Mayor), Kate Bailey, John Bleakley, Ann Grant, Jo Lamb, Nick Manby-

Brown, Meg Manson, Mathew Parkinson and Sharone Parnes

In Attendance: Karen Howe – Clerk

Cllr J Cooper – West Oxfordshire District Councillor

Chair for the Meeting: Cllr Poskitt

Members of the public attended: 3

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WTC 18/04/23	1 - Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Addis, Cllr U Parki	inson & Cllr Spencer-Churchill
WTC 19/04/23	 2 - Minutes of last meeting a.) To consider for approval of the Minutes of the Tow The following changes were agreed: - To appendix to the minutes the five categories f To correct a spelling error in Cllr Manson name Decision 	rom Cllr Parnes report on Parking
	It was therefore resolved that the minutes of the Co 2023 be Approved as a true and correct record of b.) To sign the minutes of the 8 th November 2022 that Meeting of 13 th December 2023 Cllr M Parkinson duly signed the minutes as he way on the 13 th December 2023.	the meeting and signed by the Mayor. were approved at the Town Council
WTC 20/04/23	3 - Declarations of Interests Declarations of interests were received from: - Cllr Poskitt in relation to items under agenda Item 14 of West Oxfordshire District's Development Control Co Committee and also to knowing of the requestor from	ommittee and Uplands Planning Sub-
WTC 21/04/23	4 - Public Speaking and Question Time No members of the public requested to speak	
WTC 22/04/23	5 - County Councillor's Report Cllr Graham did not attend the meeting as he had rece meeting on the 18 th April 2023	ently report at the Annual Town Council
WTC 23/04/23	6 - District Councillor's Report There was no report from the District Councillors as the Town Council meeting on the 18th April 2023. Cllr Coolasked.	
WTC 24/04/23	7- Clerks Report The Clerk read from the report that was previously cir Under the item regarding the new cooker at the commouncillors that the electricity supply had been inspected electric fuse board was needed. Action: The Clerk was requested to obtains 3 quotes out	nunity centre the Clerk advised the ted and it was reported that a new

There was one item requesting approval in the report which was to approve the Clerk instructing Satswana to review WTC GDPR and Date Protection Policy.

Cllr Parnes requested that in addition to the above that the Clerk also follows up on the outstanding items from a previous motion (Minute WTC44/18) which are:-

- A Council briefing/training session at the Town Hall for Members and Town Hall staff – expressly on the topics of Data Protection, Privacy Rights, and related online information security issues;
- An application to the Office Information Commissioner (OIC) for a free-of-charge 'Voluntary Audit' (in order that the Town Council can have authoritative guidance on the Data Protection/GDPR – related processes and structures which it has or should be aspiring to develop.

Decision

It was **Agreed** that the clerk would instruct Satswana to review WTC GDPR & Date Protection Policy, arrange a Council briefing/training session on the topics of Data Protection, Privacy Rights, and related online information security issues and would apply to OIC for a free-of-charge 'Voluntary Audit'.

WTC 25/04/23

Responsible Financial Officers Reports & Other Finance Related Items

Items a) to e) should be read in conjunction with the RFO report (report circulated)

- a) To note the Receipts and Payments for March 2023 The receipts and payments for March 2023 were noted
- b) To note the Cost Centre report of budget against actual income and expenditure for March 2023 Month 12

A question was raised asking what the Public Works Loan drawdown was for. The RFO will need to research the loan and will provide the information when available. The report was noted.

c) The Bank Reconciliation for March 2023 was presented for approval

Decision

It was resolved to **Approve** the bank reconciliation for Unity Bank and for the Mayor to sign them

d) To approval the cancellation of the current Red Squid contract

Decision

It was Agreed that WTC would cancel its current contract with Red Squid

- e) To note items 4 & 5 of the RFO report.
 - The RFO explained they are currently uploading the budget on to Scribe. The items in the report were noted.
- f) To approve expenditure for the annual tree survey (quote to be provided at meeting)
 The quote was not available for the meeting

Decision

It was Agreed to give the Clerk delegated power to approve the expenditure on a tree survey as long as the cost was not significantly higher then the previous one which had a cost of £450.

g) To approve the purchase of 1 Individuals licence for Adobe Acrobat Pro at a cost of £238.75 inc. Vat for 1 year

Decision

It was **Agreed** to approve the purchase of Adobe Acrobat Pro for 1 year at a cost of £238.75 inc VAT

WTC 26/04/23

Request for Hire Charge Reduction

To consider the request from the charity Help Hub to hire facilities at the Town Hall at a reduced rate. (email circulated)

During the discussion it was identified that the request does not state how often it would be. There is no indication of the number of days or hours or how many people will be attending.

There was a request for the locking of doors due to privacy concerns but it was agreed this would not be possible, also is was suggested that any booking would be better to be within the Town Hall opening hours.

Cllr Grant suggested that Room 13 may be a suitable option for their meetings. Cllr Bailey requested that the Clerk contact the charity to request further information regarding exactly what time was needed. It was suggested that rather than agreeing to a reduced rate that it should be suggested to the charity that they could apply for a grant from WTC to assist with the cost. **Action:** The Clerk to contact the Charity to request further details and also to suggest applying for a grant. Once information is received the item will be brought back to Full Council. Decision The Council were not minded to approve a reduction in rates. Website Email 27/04/23 To consider the following motion from Cllr Manby-Brown Background The EMail facility from the Council website is not working, due to spam issues. The advice received is that we should use a bespoke application such as MailChimp to manage Council EMails to members of the public who have subscribed to our mailing list (NB: this is not for Councillor EMails). Motion to be Considered That the Council approves the expenditure of £10.58 per month to MailChimp. Cllr Manby-Brown explained that the Council email system is working fine and it is the website emailing system that there is a problem with. It is caused by the email system on external pc's treating bulk emails from our website as spam and this has meant emails are being blocked. The only way around this is to use a different software to send website emails. Cllr Manby-Brown requested to defer the item as he had found another cheaper email management system which he would like to bring details of to a future meeting. Item Deferred **Grants Process Review Working Group** To consider the following motion from Cllr Manson Motion to be Considered That the Council approves the creation of a Grants Process Review Working Group with

WTC 28/04/23

WTC

the confirmation of membership to be agreed as part of the allocation of roles and responsibilities at Council's Annual Meeting and if required the Terms of Reference to submitted for approval at the same meeting.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Bailey and the creation of a Grants Process Working Group was put to a vote.

For 9

Against 0

Abstaining 0

Decision

It was Agreed to create a Grant Process Working Group with members to be determined at the May Meeting with the Terms of References to be submitted for approval at the same meeting.

WTC 29/04/23

S106 Working Group

To consider the following motion from Cllr Manson

Motion to be Considered

That the Council approves the creation of a S106 Working Group with the confirmation of membership to be agreed as part of the allocation of roles and responsibilities at Council's Annual Meeting and if required the Terms of Reference to submitted for approval at the same meeting.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Grant and the creation of a S106 Working Group was put to a vote.

For 9

Against 0

Abstaining 0

Decision

It was **Agreed** to create a S106 Working Group with members to be determined at the May Meeting with the Terms of References to be submitted for approval at the same meeting.

WTC 30/04/23

Review of the Standing Orders

To review the revised Standing Orders and then to set aside the revised Standing Orders for consideration at the next ordinary meeting of the council. The Mayor thanked the working group (Cllrs Grant, Parkinson & Spencer-Churchill), who had spent many hours reviewing and revising the Standing Orders. The draft Standing Orders were deferred to the May meeting and Councillors were asked to send any requests for further amendments to the Clerk for consideration. Cllr Grant pointed out that any amendments to the Standing Orders had to stand aside for one month so if changes were made at the May meeting then the Standing Orders would not be able to be agreed until June. Item Deferred WTC **Planning** 31/04/23 1.) To note the responses submitted since the last meeting (Report Circulated) 2.) To consider response to the following applications: -Cllr Poskitt did not take parting in any voting or decision making regarding the following application: a.) 23/00919/LBC - Wychwood Cottage 23 Manor Road Internal alterations to carry out damp proofing works to kitchen and study/music room below floor ground level. The Councillors had no comments to make. b.) 23/00839/S73 - St Andrews 48 Manor Road Variation of Condition 2 of 19/01835/HHD to allow for a finished roof height higher than that previously approved The Councillors had no comments to make about the application specifically but would like to point out to WODC that the Council's comments from the original application are on the website and this may cause confusion as those comments are not for this application. c.) 23/00847/HHD - 25 Boundary Close Construction of first floor balcony above existing porch (South elevation) and metal framed veranda to rear (North) elevation. Conversion of existing garage into a garden room and loft conversion with dormer to create additional bedroom and ensuite together with associated works and landscaping. After a discussion it was **Agreed** that the council would object to this application on the following points:-Over development of the site Overlooking of the neighbouring properties which impinges on their privacy Is not in keeping with the surrounding area. 3.) Land South of Perdiswell Farm To agree which councillor will represent WTC at the appropriate CDC planning committee meeting, which is currently expected to be in May. It was Agreed that Cllr Poskitt would attend the committee meeting on behalf of the Town Council once it is confirmed when the application is going to committee. WTC Water Meadow Survey – Requested by Cllr Manson 32/04/23 To approve the request to allow RiverFly Monitoring including the testing of the water to be conducted monthly within the Water Meadows (email requested circulated) Decision It was Agreed to approve the request to allow RiverFly Monitoring including the testing of the water to be conducted monthly within the Water Meadows. **WTC** Coronation Update – Requested by Cllr Poskitt 33/04/23. To receive an update on the coronation celebration arrangements and approve any actions reauired. The Mayor confirmed that the commemorative mugs had been ordered. She also informed the meeting that there will be a Civic service at the Church on the Sunday at 10.30 and a parade from the Town Hall

Cllr Grant and Bailey gave their apologies as they would be away on holiday. It was suggested that a poster should be created to inform residents of these events and Cllr Manby-Brown offered to create the poster. Cllrs Manson and Bleakley will be putting up the flags prior to the coronation. Stagecoach Bus Service S7 – Requested by Cllr Manson **WTC** 34/04/23 To discuss the impact of the new route of the Stagecoach S7 bus and agree any actions that WTC would like to take. A discussion took place and main points were: -Cllr Manson said that residents are not happy with the situation. Cllr Lamb advised that a safety audit by OCC is to take place on 3 separate days and these days are still to be identified. It was suggested that the Councils letter to Stagecoach be placed on our website and also sent to the relevant Councillors at OCC. There is a meeting of OCC full council on the 10th May and Cllr Lamb has been asked to speak. Cllr Parnes suggested that we wait for more information. It was proposed if nothing is received from Stagecoach that Cllr Lamb attends the OCC meeting to represent WTC. **Decision** It was agreed the Cllr Lamb would attend the meeting should no further information be received from Stagecoach. 8.13pm Cllr Manson left the room **WTC** Update on Letter to OCC - Issues Connected to Shipton Road - Requested by Cllr Parnes 35/04/23 Update on any responses to letter to OCC regarding highways issues within the Shipton Road area, and consideration of any related matters arising since last month's ETC where the item was discussed under agenda item 8 An update had been included in the Clerks report but she added that the potholes are scheduled to be fixed week of the 25th April. 8.17pm Cllr Mason returned to the room. It was mentioned that more damage is occurring on Princes Ride, Hensington Road and Shipton Road. Also, that the camber on the junction of Shipton Road and the new development is an

issue.

WTC 36/04/23

Prioritise Road Surface Repairs

To consider a report and the following motion from Cllr S Parnes

Motion to be Considered

Woodstock Town Council RESOLVES to issue request to OCC to prioritise road surface repairs on Hensington Road, Shipton Road, Princes Ride and anywhere else in the town where substantial deterioration is presenting clear danger to vehicles, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Grant.

8.20pm Cllr Bleakley left the room

Cllr Parkinson suggested an amendment to the motion. This was to remove the wording "anywhere else in the town" and to add at the end of the motion the words "that are travelling to and from the school"

Cllr Parnes agreed to the amendment and the following amended motion was put to the vote. Cllr Bleakley was not in the room for the vote.

Amended Motion

Woodstock Town Council RESOLVES to issue request to OCC to prioritise road surface repairs on Hensington Road, Shipton Road, Princes Ride where substantial deterioration is presenting clear danger to vehicles, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians that are travelling to and from the school

For 8 Against 0 Abstaining 0

Decision

The amended motion was Approved and it was therefore resolved that Woodstock Town Council would issue a request to OCC to prioritise road surface repairs on Hensington Road, Shipton

Road, Princes Ride where substantial deterioration is presenting clear danger to vehicles, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians that are travelling to and from the school.

WTC 37/04/23

May Meeting

To consider the following motion from Cllr Grant

Background

At the ETC meeting held on Tuesday 4th April due to the time needed for the Clerk to explore the use of s106 money as per the motion agreed at Item 7 Bus Shelters it was suggested that Annual Town Meeting of the Council be divide into 2 meetings

Motion to be Considered

WTC agrees to the May meeting being held in 2 sessions

Meeting 1 Tuesday 9th May 2023 for the statutory requirement of the Council

Meeting 2 Tuesday 23rd May 2023 to complete council business to date.

8.30 Cllr Bleakley returned to the room.

Cllr Parkinson seconded the motion

The motion was put to the vote

For 9 Against 0 Abstaining 0

Decision

It was **Agreed** to hold the May meeting over 2 sessions.

WTC 38/04/23

Meeting Schedule

To consider and approve the proposed meeting schedule for 2023/24 (copy circulated)

Cllr Grant proposed

- That due to no August meeting that the July meeting should be moved forward to 18th July and the September meeting moved forward to the 5th of September.
- Due to Bank Holidays that the January meeting is moved to the 16th January and that the April meeting is moved to the 16th April.

It was also suggested that due to the elections on the 2nd May 2024 the May meeting should be on 21st May 2024

The meeting schedule including the proposed dates above was put to a vote.

For 9 **Decision**

Against 0

Abstaining 0

It was **Agreed** to approve the meeting schedule for 2023/24 as detailed in the table below

Date	Meeting Type and Location	Start Time
Tuesday 9 th May 2023	Town Council Annual Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 23 rd May 2023	Town Council Monthly Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 13 th June 2023	Town Council Monthly Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 18 th July 2023	Town Council Monthly Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 5 th September 2023	Town Council Monthly Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 10 th October 2023	Town Council Monthly Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 14 th November 2023	Town Council Monthly Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 28 th November 2023	Town Council Budget Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	Town Council Monthly Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Saturday 9 th or 16 th December 2023	Mayors Carols To be confirmed by the Mayor	TBA
Tuesday 16 th January 2023	Town Council Monthly Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 13 th February 2023	Town Council Monthly Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 12 th March 2023	Town Council Monthly Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 26 th March 2023	Annual Town Meeting Community Centre	7.30pm
Tuesday 16th April 2023	Town Council Monthly Meeting – Town Hall	7pm
Tuesday 21st May 2023	Annual Town Council Meeting – Town Hall	7pm

WTC 39/04/23

Recording of Meetings

To consider the following motion from Cllr Manby-Brown Seconded by Cllr Manson

Motion to be Considered

That the Council agrees that whoever is taking Minutes uses the existing Digital Voice Recorder to record the meeting. Additionally, that the Council asks Cllrs Manby-Brown and Manson to research a more formal sound and perhaps vision system to bring back to Council for discussion.

After a brief discussion Cllr Grant asked for a re-wording for the motion and it was also suggested to split the motion it to 2 parts a and b.

It was agreed that wording of the motion be change and the motion to be put to the vote would be as follows: -

- a.) The Council agrees the use of the recently purchased digital recorder to be used to record all Town Council Meetings
- b.) Additionally, that the Council authorises Cllrs Manby-Brown and Manson to research a more formal sound and perhaps vision system to bring back to Council for discussion.

The first part of the motion (a) was put to the vote.

For 9 Against 0 Abstaining 0

Decision

It was **Agreed** that the Council would use the recently purchased digital recorder to be used to record all Town Council Meetings

The second part of the motion (b) was put to the vote.

For 9 Against 0 Abstaining 0

Decision

It was **Agreed** that the Council would authorises Cllrs Manby-Brown and Manson to research a more formal sound and perhaps vision system to bring back to Council for discussion.

WTC 40/04/23

Code of Conduct - Requested by Cllr Poskitt

To consider the adoption of WODC suggested Code of Conduct (copy circulated)

Cllr Poskitt explained the WODC had provided the Code of Conduct last year and over 6 months have past and the Council can now reconsider adopting the WODC Code of Conduct.

Cllr Grant raised concerns about the wording within the policy as the wording is not applicable to a Town Council as it refers to having to refer to WODC Monitoring Officer and the wording of the Nolan principles have been completely changed.

Due IT issue the Councillors only had one clear day to review the policy and Councillors requested more time to understand the policy and to raise any further questions/concerns.

It was agreed to defer the item until the May meeting.

Item Deferred

WTC 41/04/23

Attendance at Confidential Session - Requested by Cllr Parnes

Position and clarifications on exclusion of Council Members from confidential session

Cllr Parnes explained about the contradictory information that has be received in the past about attendance at confidential sessions.

The Clerk advised that she had looked for additional information and also at what the policy was at principal councils in Oxfordshire and also further afield and that none of those Councils exclude members from confidential session as observers.

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Poskitt and was put to the vote.

Non-Committee members would be permitted to remain during confidential session of all committee meetings.

For 7 Against 0 Abstaining 2

Decision

It was **Agreed** that the Non-Committee members would be permitted to remain during confidential session of all committee meetings.

Action: The Clerk and Standing Orders Group is to provide the wording for inclusion in the Standing Orders.

WTC 42/04/23.

Issuing Arising from Employment Tribunal - Requested by Cllr Parnes (paper circulated)

To clarify and consider matters arising from Council's conduct in the legal proceedings, and from Judge's remarks.

	Prior to the discussion on the item it was suggested that the Council go into confidential session but there was no seconder.	
	Cllr Manby-Brown spoke and prior to reading from his prepared note he expressed disappointment that Cllr Parnes had tabled this item and concerns. Cllr Manby-Brown confirmed that he was only involved as technical support for the Council witnesses.	
	Cllr Parnes spoke about the tribunal decision and the observations that the Judge had made and Cllr Parnes said that lessons could be learnt from this complaint and things could have been done better.	
	A question was raised about how Cllr Lamb had been selected to represent the Council.	
	Cllr Lamb stated that the witness decision was taken by the Council's solicitor and Locum Clerk at the time and it was agreed she should represent the Council.	
	Cllr Grant question if she had heard Cllr Lamb correctly in that the Locum Clerk and Solicitor had given Cllr Lamb permission to speak on behalf of the Council	
	Cllr Lamb confirmed that was how she was chosen.	
	Cllr Grant said that it should not have happened this way and that everyone should have been interviewed.	
	Cllr Poskitt said that issue had now been dealt with and that it will not be discussed at future meetings	
WTC 43/04/23	Exclusion of Press and Public	
	To resolve the exclusion of press and public in accordance with the Press and Public (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as the matter to be discussed is deemed as contractual privilege.	
	This item was not required	
WTC 44/04/23	To confirm the next meeting of Woodstock Town Council	
	Date and time of next meeting is 7pm on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at Woodstock Town Hall	
	The date and time of next meeting was confirmed as 7pm on Tuesday 9 th May 2023 at Woodstock Town Hall	
WTC	Close Meeting	
45/04/23	The meeting closed at 9.10pm	