



Minutes of the meeting of Woodstock Town Council held in The Town Hall, Woodstock on Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7pm

Cllrs. Present: John Banbury (Mayor) Ann Grant (Deputy Mayor) Linda Addis, Julian Cooper, Elizabeth Martin, Matt Nethercott, Elizabeth Poskitt and James Spencer-Churchill

Chair of the Meeting: Cllr Banbury

Members of the Public 9

The Mayor informed the Council that the Clerk was not servicing the meeting as she was attending an important meeting at WODC regarding the Botley West Solar Farm **The council agreed the minutes of the meeting to be taken by Cllr Grant**

24/07/01 WTC	1 Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllr Helen Burr and Mathew Parkinson Oxfordshire County Cllr Graham and West Oxfordshire District Cllr Poskitt sent their apologies stating they would be a little late joining the meeting due to the Meeting at WODC regarding the Botley West Solar Farm Cllr Graham joined the meeting at 7.15pm Cllr Poskitt joined the meeting at 7.20pm
24/07/02 WTC	2. Declarations of Interests To receive any declarations of interest on the agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct Item 7 Planning Cllr Cooper as member of Uplands Committee WODC
24/07/03 WTC	3. Public Speaking and Question Time 3 members of the Public addressed the Council Speaker 1. Welcomed the new Council and wished them every success and hoped the council could find new ways to connect with the Woodstock residents to seek their opinion of local issues, such as the Botley West Solar Farm and the need for a new Drs Surgery with the positioning of this being the Police station site and not on the Banbury Road development site. Speaker 2 The Community Coordinator who had run the Community First Woodstock Development Project informed the Council the project had now ended and the full report would be ready to present to the Council in August Speaker 3 Complained that the Council had not used the audio and filming device at their last 3 meetings. It was explained that there had been a problem with actually getting it to work.
24/07/04 WTC	4. Mayor's Report The Mayors report is attached as Appendix 1
24/07/05 WTC	5. Minutes of Previous Meetings To consider for approval the Minutes of the Town Council for: - a) Meeting held on 28th May 2024 The minutes of Tuesday 28 th May were agreed as an accurate record with the following amendments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr present change Martin Nethercott to Matt Nethercott• Chair of the meeting from Cllr Manby-Brown to Cllr John Banbury• Item 14 change the word containing to continuing• Item 17 delete the words from Decision: stop Botley West Working Group b) Meeting held on 18th June 2024 The minutes of Tuesday 28 th May were agreed as an accurate record with the following amendments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr present: change Martin Nethercott to Matt Nethercott• Item 5 e) planning add the words: It was agreed that the Council had no objections to this application and change the word effecting to affecting• Item 6e 6th line add the letter t to the word no to read not• Item 7 Decision change the word sage to safe
24/07/06 WTC	6 County and District Councillor's Report To receive reports from OCC Cllr Graham and WODC Councillors Poskitt and Cooper There were no written reports from Cllr Graham or Cllrs Poskitt and Cooper

24/07/07 WTC	<p>7. Planning To consider the Councils response to the following applications: -</p> <p>a) Application: 24/01596/HHD 10 Hensington Close Demolition of existing garage, conservatory, and rear single-storey building. Erection of two-storey extension and single-storey rear extension. It was agreed that the Council had no objections to this Application</p> <p>b) Street Trading Consent for Alex Crepes on Woodstock Market Place – 1pm to 10.30pm 24th August and 25th August. It was agreed that the Council had no objections to this Application</p>
24/07/08 WTC	<p>8. Botley Solar Farm The Council agreed to move items 8-9 to the end of the Agenda as Cllr Poskitt had not arrived and she was seconding the motion.</p>
24/07/09 WTC	<p>9. Botley Solar Farm Targeted Consultation This item moved to end of Agenda</p>
24/07/10 WTC	<p>10. Upcoming Blenheim Events To discuss the traffic arrangements for the upcoming events and how to share details with residents. The Mayor asked OCC Councillor Graham if he could update the Council on the traffic situation for the European Political Community Summit taking place on the 18th July 2024. Cllr Graham Read from his telephone a message he had just received Planned road closures would be confirmed nearer the time. It was hoped to keep the disruption to a minimum. The day before and after the event preparations would be being put in place, such as gate, barriers to control traffic movement and these would be attended at all times by Police Officers. On the marked clearways vehicles will not be allowed to stop and there were to be other areas that would be marked no stopping. Delivery bays will be available clearly signed and marked out with traffic cones There will be a lot of Police present on foot and in vehicles. Some Bus Stops will be suspended but directions to the next available pick up would be given. There was at the moment any indication of which bus services will be available. Coming into Woodstock the get off point will be the stop near Long Close Wheelie Bin Collection will be as normal but residents are requested to bring them back in as soon as they are emptied. Any wheelie bin that is left on eth road side will be confiscated.</p> <p>The Mayor asked Cllr Graham to continue with his report Cllr Graham went on to say:-</p> <p>The yellow lines in Hensington Road will be completed by the end of July The new Nursery on Park View will be opening on 15th July 2024 Talks were still going on regarding a new library but it is hoped that it will be sited on the Hensington Road site. New Woodstock Doctors Surgery: - Talks have been going on regarding a new surgery for Woodstock and needs to be resolved I and other councillors here have been working on this and getting people around the table and have including Blenheim Estate, Doctors, WODC and OCC. We have done a visibility study on the Police station site but most of us came to the conclusion this site was not suitable. The ICP has made it difficult and as you may have seen in the Oxford Mail the Drs have sent a letter out prior to the election but the step up to the mark, with the ICB as this has been the stumbling block but now we have a new government. Now we have a new government maybe they will back up the s106 money. The ICB has been really disappointing and we Councillors are doing as much as we can as is Blenheim Estate so its back to the table to achieves a Medical Centre fit for purpose.</p>
24/07/11 WTC	<p>11. Consultation – A44 Manor Road proposed 30mph Speed Limit Extension To consider a response to the consultation to extend the existing 30mph speed limit on the A44 Manor Road at Woodstock, northwards from the junction with Hill Rise for a distance of approx. 230 metres in place of the existing 50mph speed limit. The proposal is being put forward as a result of the development of land for residential purposes adjacent to the A44 Manor Road at the northern end of Woodstock (Documents provided) The council had no objection to this proposal</p>

	<p>Amended motion to read</p> <p><i>Woodstock Town Council stands firm with their objections to the Botley West Solar Farm but raises the issue of Community benefit package currently proposed by the developers of the Solar Farm</i></p> <p><i>1. Advocate for a comprehensive review and enhancement of the community benefits package currently proposed by the developers of the solar farm.</i></p> <p><i>2. Send a formal communication to Rachel Wileman, the Director of Planning, Environment, and Climate Change, to express our collective view that the community benefit provisions must be significantly increased to ensure local residents see tangible and meaningful benefits from this development.</i></p> <p>Cllr Martin accepted the suggested amendment to the motion and the amended motion was taken to the vote Vote: For 9 Against 0 Abstained 0</p> <p>The vote was carried unanimously</p>
<p>24/07/09 WTC</p>	<p>9. Botley Solar Farm Targeted Consultation To consider the response to the recent Targeted Consultation</p> <p>The council agreed to defer this item until the ETC to be held on Wednesday 24th July 2024 and the response be delegated to the clerk due to experience and knowledge of this matter.</p> <p>Cllr Poskitt commented n the boundary moving closer to the top end of Samson’s Lane and Stratford Lane due to the Roman Villa site</p> <p>Cllr Banbury remarked on item 21 the removal of the hedge and trees on the A4095 and possibility of it imposing on the Cattery and it seemed to be to accommodate a works areas (HDD Compound)</p> <p>Cllr Poskitt suggest Cllr email their comments to the Clerk to be considered at the ETC This was agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Grant remarked it would have been helpful if all councillors had a copy of the documentation held by Cllr Banbury, Cooper and Poskitt and suggested the councillors that have not a copy be supplied with one before the ETC</p> <p>The Mayor circulated his personal view report and it was agreed this should be taken into consideration when making the response to the Botley Solar Farm Targeted Consultation</p>
<p>24/07/16</p>	<p>16. Close Meeting The meeting closed at 8.10pm</p>

Appendix 1

Report from the Mayor.

1st July 2024

I am sorry not to have been with you at the last Council meeting, due to long standing family arrangements. I know Councillor Grant will have handled the business in an experienced way, and am grateful to her for taking the meeting as my deputy.

Much work has been going on behind the scenes recently to improve the standard of the Council so that it can move forward from the situation it inherited in May.

Three tasks I identified to be done as soon as possible : the appointment of a full time Town Clerk; the revision, assessment, recording and finalising of the previous administration's accounts, and the identification and bringing forward in a financially acceptable way the underspending on work not done or completed by the past Council; and to bring our Council up to full strength by co-option of a twelfth Councillor. Our grateful thanks are due to Karen and Rachel for holding things together for so long without the proper support.

The first task was to interview and appoint a full time Town Clerk. This has been done, and we hope he will join us in August. With a full staff administration will be much improved.

Preparing the final accounts and bringing forward into this financial year all our current resources was completed at the last Council meeting. This will be backed up with the proposed financial regulations (based on the Financial Regulation recommendations published by the National Association Local Councils,) which report will be discussed in detail at the August meeting of the Council. This document was written to cover all sizes and shapes of Local Councils and we will adopt measures appropriate to the size and scale of our individual Council.

On the working groups, the new Opportunities group will, I hope, work up several schemes and plan to attract Section 106 monies as well as other outside sources. We know that this money is available, but only if we have workable, costed, schemes to offer. This is a priority as so many chances have slipped through the Council's hands in the past through being unprepared.

Later this month I am hoping to attract all who have a business in Woodstock, shops, offices and restaurants and hotels, to the Town Hall, to talk over all matters of concern and try to find ways the Council may help. I am considering an incentive for any new venture wishing to open in the Town.

On events, the Council will be more active. I hope the whole Council will be able to partake fully in the Remembrance Sunday parade on November 10th. The British Legion in Woodstock is, as elsewhere, unable to parade in numbers as before, but we all owe our freedom to those who fought in the two world wars, and we will never forget their bravery and sacrifice.

On Wednesday 12th December I will be holding a Mayor's Carol Service around the Town Hall Christmas tree, with Witney Town Band in attendance and a Carol Choir to lead the singing. and hopefully with seasonal refreshments. We will of course be supporting the Night of a Thousand Candles in late November as well.

I would like to have a tea party for volunteers and carers in February next year, to support all those who work in the care sector and appreciate the work they do, hopefully with Oxfordshire Age U.K (contact Troy Bryan 07827 23542)who have started initiatives around the Town, and will be available for assistance locally in many ways if contacted.

We are planning a Woodstock Open Garden event, probably at the end of May 2025, and a local sponsor has already been 'signed up'. I will hold an open meeting early in October for all who would like to take part or to help organize it.

I need support from all the Councillors and the leaders of the Town to make things happen. I look forward to a successful and forward-looking atmosphere in the Town. Those Councillors with a sense of humour will be welcome at the Town hall meeting on Saturday 20th July, at 4 pm – (which happens to coincide with the Mock Mayor celebrations)!

Unfortunately I cannot join your meeting today as I will be chairing my own Town Council Meeting. I have asked Councillor Cooper to present this report on my behalf.

This evening my Council will be debating a motion proposing the review of the enhancement of the community benefit with respect to the Botley West Solar Farm project.

I expect the contents of this motion will be passed by the Council .

I have considered the latest Information Change Note issued by the Botley West Solar Farm, dated June 2024. I make the following comments:

This consultation has not been widely publicized. It gives scant information, little explanation of the effect which will be apparent locally, and in a format difficult to follow or scale.

The detail is poorly described and in several cases the environmental effect is not considered. In general I find the lack of any detailed information on the proposed changes very worrying. There is no scale next to the plans drawn, no recognition of dwellings, other buildings or structures that might now be affected in any of the plans.

Item 18, locally to Woodstock on the Northern Site map, no mention is made of the effect on existing footpaths.

Item 21 on the Northern Site map, provision for the accommodation for the HDD compound, is effectively removing part of a significant hedge and felling of established tree belt in order to install a facility which is neither measured in area or scale. The verge beside the A4095 is narrow at this point. This calls for a wide entrance to be created, which will demand tree and hedge removal to gain access and egress for the large items of plant. At the southern end of this blue line is a residence and established family business which is not defined on the map and will be adversely affected by this change. The explanation states "unlikely to lead to significant adverse environmental effect". One must disagree with this statement.

As stated in the original consultation this is a reminder of the significant objections to the totality of the proposed scheme.

1) The scale of the Botley West scheme is very much based on return of investment to the major funders of the Scheme. It does nothing directly to help any of the neighbouring communities.

We may support smaller schemes which would directly give a source of power to local identified community or properties.

2) There is objection to the use of food-producing land being taken up with an industrial scheme, especially as 39% of that land is higher grade farming land. In future years we will be facing an even greater food poverty, since the increase of our population will require as much home-produced food as possible.

3) I object to the imposition of a solar panel scheme in an area which is, at a high latitude, not to benefit from sun during winter months, but work at higher production during summer with no way of storing the power produced. An average yearly return will be no more than 15% of the possible power yield.

4) I object to high protective screen fencing around each site which will:

a. prevent migration of animals and wild life permanently and destroy the natural life of the area.

b) deface the countryside by the appearance of actual structures as well as the covering of ground from the panels themselves.

John Banbury Mayor