

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 02 FEBRUARY 2010
IN THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Cllr P Jay (Town Mayor)	Cllr T Gardiner (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr C Carritt	Cllr J Cooper
Cllr Mrs V Edwards	Cllr A Glee
Cllr Mrs A Grant	Cllr Mrs E Jay
Cllr G Myatt	Cllr Mrs E Stokes
Cllr P Redpath	Cllr Mrs T Redpath
Cllr Mrs P Richardson	Cllr I Thomas
Cllr B Yoxall	Cllr E Poskitt

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the public.

WTC/267/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs V Edwards and Cllr Mrs J Dunsmore.

WTC/268/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Cooper declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item No. 8: Youth Club as he is the Chairman.
Cllrs E Poskitt and J Cooper declared Personal Interests in Agenda Item No. 11 (i): Fair Trade Group.

WTC/269/09 MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

(b) Woodstock@900 Committee.

The minutes of the meeting of the Woodstock@900 Committee held on 12 January 2010 were received and considered. Cllr C Carritt reported that the WTC web pages will soon include a diary of Woodstock events, and will contain links to the web pages of various organisations listed.

WTC/270/09 TIME MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF WTC PROCEDURES

This report by Cllr I Thomas was postponed until the 9th February meeting as further relevant information should be available by then.

WTC/271/09 OLD WOODSTOCK TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

The Mayor presented a report on his talks aimed at reducing tensions between WTC and the Old Woodstock Town Football Club. His report of 3rd January recorded encouraging progress on most issues. The Club's proposal to hold a festival football match at Whitsun as part of the Woodstock@900 celebrations had been especially well received by the Woodstock@900 committee and was expected to be a highlight of the celebrations. The opportunity, long sought, for council representatives to peruse the club's lease on the recreation ground had been achieved that day and was fully covered in his report of 2nd February. The way was now open for the remaining issue, parking at the New Road entrance to the recreation ground, to be resolved on the basis set out in his report of 2nd February, if this report was well received. The Mayor proposed that this report be noted and approved and Cllr T Gardiner seconded this motion.

RESOLVED (11 votes for, 1 against, 2 abstentions)

That the report by the Mayor dated 2nd February 2010 be noted and approved.

WTC/272/09 RE-ORDERING OF THE AGENDA

The Mayor asked that the Council agree to move Agenda Items 5, 6 & 7 back as the Agenda contained other items that might be of interest to the member of the public in attendance.

RESOLVED

That Agenda Items 5 (Exclusion of the Public and Press), 6 (The Park Street Roof) & 7 (Rectory Lane Garage) be moved back and taken after Agenda Item No. 14 Property Matters.

WTC/273/09 YOUTH CLUB

Cllr J Cooper declared a personal interest as Chairman to the Youth Club. The Mayor reported that the Youth Club has appointed a working group to meet with the WTC and they will be meeting on 1st March to discuss whether the two organisations can work together on a possible redevelopment of the Community Centre and the Youth Club to the benefit of both organisations and the community generally.

WTC/274/09 ADVERSE WEATHER

(i) Report from Cllr C Carritt.

A report on the snow and ice over Christmas 2009 produced by Cllr C Carritt was considered. It was suggested that two grit bins might be installed in the Market Square but it was noted that although the County Council would have a duty to fill these they would have no duty to spread the grit. A recent report from County Councillor Keith Mitchell was mentioned. Cllr A Glees proposed the following motion that was seconded by Cllr C Carritt:

WTC, whilst acknowledging the efforts of individual OCC staff to do their best in extremely difficult circumstances, regrets the tone of the report by Cllr Keith Mitchell OBE (Leader's Cabinet Report on Cold Snap) and is disappointed to find in it no reflection either of the distress that was caused to so many people in Oxfordshire in the days after 4th January 2010, nor any concrete proposals for how the emergency government machinery of OCC might address a similar emergency in the future.

WTC would like precise information relating to the estimated cost of the emergency, both in terms of lost working hours and of admissions to Accident and Emergency departments in Oxfordshire hospitals and cancelled hospital appointments. It would also like precise information about the stocks of salt held by OCC in 2009-10 in relation to previous years, the number of gritters and snow ploughs in service, and an assurance that "group-thinking" stemming from the belief that global warming would mean an end to cold winters was not in play.

In particular, whilst WTC accepts that this emergency had national, regional as well as local dimensions to it, our special concern has to do with the failure to deal properly with acute local problems in Woodstock, either by direct intervention or by assisting self-help measures (e.g. through the provision to neighbourhoods of salt in bags).

Cllr J Cooper proposed that this motion be amended and extended to ask WODC to respond to observations that they appeared to make only a limited contribution towards addressing the problems caused by snow and ice. WTC would like to know how they had utilised the staff unable to make refuse collections during this period. This amendment was accepted.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk will write to both OCC and WODC asking them to respond to the points in the motion above.

(ii) Letter from a Mrs S Yoxall

Cllr B Yoxall declared a personal interest in this item and asked that Mrs Yoxall's thanks for the expressions of concern and enquiries about her health be noted by WTC. He then left the room whilst her submission was received and considered. In her letter Mrs Yoxall explained that she had sustained a serious injury after slipping on black ice in the Market Square during the recent adverse weather, expressed her anger at the failure of OCC to grit the town centre roads and asked that WTC take this matter up very strongly with the County Council. The Mayor reported that he had already conveyed his personal support for Mrs Yoxall's grievances to Cllr I Hudspeth at OCC. Cllr A Glee proposed that Mrs Yoxall be advised that WTC considered her letter with sympathy, collectively supported her concerns and had resolved to write to OCC and WODC to begin the process of investigation/clarification. This proposal was seconded by the Mayor.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk respond to Mrs Yoxall to convey WTC's sympathy and general support and that OCC and WODC be contacted to begin the process of investigation/clarification.

WTC/275/09 MEMORIAL BENCH

The Council received and considered a request from a resident to place an additional memorial bench outside the church on the main street. A policy note regarding the placement of memorial seats, approved by the Council 9th September 2008, had been circulated to all Cllrs before the meeting.

During discussions Cllrs were reminded that WTC had decided that no additional benches were to be installed in this particular location and that a similar application by another local family had already been refused. It was emphasised however that WTC was grateful for the kind offer and would like to explore with the family whether a memorial bench could be installed in an alternative location where it would also benefit Woodstock residents. Cllr Mrs Richardson proposed that the WTC should advise the family that it is unable to accept the offer of an additional bench outside the church but that WTC would gratefully accept a bench in an alternative location. Cllr C Carritt seconded this proposal.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk will write to the family to advise them that WTC is unable to accept an additional memorial bench in this particular location and to inquire whether the family would consider erecting a memorial bench in an alternative location proposed by WTC (the Clerk having checked that the proposed locations are feasible beforehand).

WTC/276/09 USE OF THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR

(i) Woodstock Fair Trade

Cllrs E Poskitt and J Cooper declared personal interests as they are involved with this group. WTC received and considered a request from the Woodstock Fair Trade group to use the Mayor's Parlour on the morning of Saturday 6th March between 9am and noon to promote and sell Fair Trade products. Cllrs were reminded that the Town Council has an established policy of aspiring to 'Fair Trade Status' and that this group directed any profits to charitable causes. The Mayor proposed that, with council notice, the use of the Mayor's parlour on 6th March be approved. This motion was seconded by Cllr C Carritt.

RESOLVED (10 votes for, 4 against)

That WTC agree for the Woodstock Fair Trade group to use the Mayor's Parlour to promote and sell Fair Trade products on the morning of 6th March 2010 free of charge.

(ii) Art in Woodstock

WTC received and considered a request from Art in Woodstock to use the Mayor's Parlour from Saturday 23rd October to Sunday 31st October for an exhibition of children's work. Cllrs were reminded that a similar exhibition had been successfully staged in the Marlborough School's Exhibition Centre which is purpose built for this type of event. The Council supported the work of Art in Woodstock but

many Cllrs were concerned about the security aspects of agreeing to such event in the Mayor's Parlour. It considered that there were other potentially more suitable venues in Woodstock that might be utilised such as the Museum, the Church or the Methodist Hall. Cllr P Redpath proposed, seconded by Cllr A Glees, that the application to use the Mayor's Parlour be rejected but that during the exhibition WTC allow Art in Woodstock to use the Town Hall foyer to display a few pieces selected by Cllrs Mrs E Jay and A Glees and to install a directional sign that would guide visitors towards other exhibition areas.

RESOLVED (1 vote against)

That the Clerk inform Art in Woodstock that although their application to use the Mayor's Parlour had been refused WTC would be happy for a few select pieces to be displayed in the Foyer for the duration of the exhibition.

WTC/277/09 TOWN COUNCIL SPRING NEWSLETTER

Cllr B Yoxall reminded the council that the Town Council's Spring Newsletter was due to be produced. He asked Cllrs to send any contributions to him by 12th February 2010.

WTC 278/09 CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that on 9th February he will be making proposals about the Annual Town Meeting that will take place on 16th March 2010. He suggested that this occasion be used to mark Mrs Read's retirement and that a contribution from the Mayor's Fund be used to pay for some refreshments.

WTC/279/09 PROPERTY MATTERS

The Clerk updated the Council about progress on various WTC property matters.

WTC/280/09 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cllr A Gardiner proposed that in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. This proposal was seconded by Cllr J Cooper.

RESOLVED

That the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting.

WTC/281/09 THE PARK STREET ROOF

The Clerk reported that the application for a Public Works Board Loan had been submitted through the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils. The Council now awaits the decision of the PWLB.

WTC/282/09 THE RECTORY LANE GARAGE

Some recent correspondence was considered along with a recommendation by the Property Working Group's sub-group. After discussion Cllr P Redpath proposed that the Clerk ask the Councils solicitors a further question for clarification. This proposal was seconded by Cllr A Glees.

RESOLVED (1 vote against)

That the Clerk asks the Councils solicitor for clarification on a particular matter

WTC/283/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: 10/0054/P/LB

Insertion of replacement front windows.
13 Market Street
Woodstock

RESOLVED

That no objection be made to this planning application.

The meeting rose at 10pm.

Signed Date