

MINUTES of an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of WINSLOW TOWN COUNCIL held on Monday 23rd. February 2015, at 7.15pm, in the St. Laurence Room, Market Square, Winslow.

	<p>Present: Cllrs. Barry (Chairman), Cawte, Chambers, Eatwell, Gibbs, Knight, Laws, Monger, Payne, van de Poll and Wiseman. Apologies: Cllrs. Castle. Accepted. Clerk: C Loch. Members of the Press and Public: Four members of the public were present.</p>
	<p>Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed: None Consideration of Applications for Dispensation – none</p>
15/09	<p>Minutes of Meeting 5th February: RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising be dealt with at the next full Council meeting on March 5th.</p>
15/10	<p>Members considered a report submitted by Cllr. Monger detailing the proposal to close the office and subsequent discussions and correspondence with relevant parties. Members then debated the matter and while some had reservations in that the office was opened for only a limited number of hours and modern technology had changed the way the police operate it was generally agreed that this very visible presence in the town had considerable worth and gave residents confidence. While TVP had indicated that manpower would now be reduced the fact that shifts would no longer start and end in Winslow itself would inevitably mean a reduction in presence. Winslow was a growing town and would soon have a railway station which further indicated the justification for keeping the local office and it seemed a draconian action to save a relatively small amount of money. Cllr. Barry also spoke on behalf of the Neighbourhood Action Group who were strongly opposed to the closure and very concerned on the effect it would have on crime prevention in the area.</p>
	<p><i>The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to speak.</i> Members of the public endorsed the remarks of Councillors opposing the closure. They felt that with a growing population any further reduction of such services would be a mistake and the loss of the personal contact and assistance that could be rendered through the local staff would be detrimental to the community. <i>The meeting reconvened</i></p>
	<p>It was noted that the landlord of the premises had been very supportive and while TVP had indicated that a substantial contribution to funding might mean that they would reconsider the decision, councillors agreed that the estimated total cost of approximately £13, 000 might well have to be covered. The first year could be done from reserves and after that it would have to be built into the precept. If the total cost had to be added to precept it mean an additional charge in the order of 65p per month for a Band D household. It was possible that neighbouring parishes who benefitted from the office might also contribute and they would be approached to see if any contribution could be made. Having considered all the issues it was RESOLVED that the police office was of considerable benefit to the town and surrounding parishes and that Cllrs. Barry and Monger be authorised to continue discussions with Thames Valley Police with a view to Winslow Town Council funding up to the full cost of rent rates and other running costs (excluding manpower) of the current Winslow Police Office.</p>
15/11	<p>Payments for signature: Members noted the payment listing totalling £20,985.13. RESOLVED to authorise the cheque payments to be signed by two councillors.</p>
	<p>Items For Information:</p>
	<p>Meeting Closed 7.46 pm. Date of next meeting 5th March 2015 Signed: (Chairman) at Meeting (date)</p>