

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 28th September 2010

Present:

Councillors

David Tindale – Chairman

Ian Hill – Vice-Chairman

Ted Backhouse

Neil Boddington

Tony Williamson

Nick Greaves

Barry Adby

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

In Attendance:

Mark Heelis – Environment Agency

71/10 Apologies for absence

Angie Paterson, Rhian Woods, Roger Beattie, David Shannon, Charles Rowton-Lee.

72/10 Chairmans Remarks

There were none.

73/10 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 27th July 2010 received by Council 14/9/2010 to be signed as a correct record.

Resolved: That these minutes are a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

74/10 Declaration of Interests

Grant Allocation – David Tindale declared a prejudicial interest in the Watlington Concert Band application as 2 of the members are clients of his. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' and left the room for this application.

75/10 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

76/10 **Presentation: Mark Heelis – Flood Risk Management Department - Environment Agency**

Watlington has been identified as having a number of properties at risk from flooding, however there appears to be no history of flood events. Discussion how flood risk is perceived in the town, and to discuss any relevant issues/concerns.

Map of the Watlington with the Flood outline. This map shows a number of properties at risk from flooding in the town from a 1 in 100 year flood event, or to put it another way, a 1% chance of happening each year.(This was attached to the Agenda)

David Tindale welcome Mark Heelis to the meeting. MH gave a presentation to the Committee and then a discussion took place.

Background information

- Watlington lies at the upper limits of the Chalgrove Brook.
- The Environment Agency take a Risk Based Approach to prioritising assessments of flood risk based on properties at risk.
- An Initial Assessment of the flood risk in Watlington has been scheduled for 2010/11. This will assess the current flood risk in the town, and whether there are any viable solutions to reducing the risk. As a result of the assessment stage the Initial Assessment will recommend future work if necessary.
- The National Flood Assessment recorded 15 houses were at significant risk and 245 at lower risk of flooding in Flood Zone 3 (1:100 years; 1%)
- The Environment Agency flood map is generated by existing coarse modelling information. There is currently no detailed modelling in Watlington and the nearest model is in Chalgrove approx 8Km down stream.

Key issues raised by the Strategy Committee:

1. Insurance implications from the existing flood map.
2. Vegetation and blockages in the watercourse.
3. General feedback that flooding is not a major concern in the town.
4. There is no historical evidence of rivers or streams flooding the town in living memory, even during the extreme rainfall of July 2007.

Other Points to Note:

1. Complex arrangement of springs and groundwater that feed the local watercourses.
2. The Willow Pond and Horse Pond are sources of some of the rivers in the town. Others are spring fed. There is no surface stream from the Chiltern Hills into town.
3. Levels in the rivers are at their highest in the spring, they drop off over the summer and are replenished over the winter.
4. Surface water flooding is a concern in the town. This is due to the steep nature of the topography, and is also a result of the urban environment, and limited capacity of drains.
5. 3 Flood Risk Assessments undertaken recently in Watlington.

Initial Conclusions

It appears that there are inconsistencies in the model information and this is generating higher numbers of properties at risk than there actually are.

Mark Heelis initial conclusions are to recommend Watlington is put on the schedule of work to improve the modelling information in the town to revise the Flood Map.

Resolved: That a letter be written which will include anecdotal evidence etc when a response from Mark Heelis has been received.

Dave Tindale thanked Mark Heelis for attending the meeting. MH stated that if Councillors

have any further questions to get in contact with him.

77/10 Short Discussion Items

Signs for Paddock/Library

Discussion to see if we should purchase signs and related cost.-see attached quotation. OCC have also put in a request to us to put up signs pointing to the Library on the Town Hall post and/or other location/s for us to advise.

Resolved: That we put this item forward to the budget meeting and consider them 'en bloc' to see if we could afford to put these signs up.

Request for Zebra Crossing on Cuxham Road – email from M Evans was attached to Agenda.

This issue has been raised previously with OCC and they turned it down as not being viable in this location. However it was further discussed and it was thought it would be more practical to get residents to cut back their hedges to improve visibility in this area.

Resolved: That a letter be sent back to say that it is not a practical solution in this area and explaining the reasons. **DT/KT**

Discussion regarding 40mph instead of 30mph limit beyond the last houses on Shirburn St.

This was discussed and vote was taken on whether this would be worth pursuing or not practicable.

Vote taken on keeping the Status Quo: 6 in favour, 1 against

Resolved: That we keep the speed limits as they exist and we do not explore this issue any further.

Watlington Speaks – IH – paper was attached to agenda

Specific issues were discussed and the following was resolved:

Environmental Group – IH to look further into this issue

Co-op – Bin in lobby – KT to send a letter to the Co-op re this.

Welcome Pack – This issue to be looked into further

Dog Fouling Issues – Operations Committee to look into these.

Resolved: That all the other issues be looked into by the Chairman and Clerk

Watlington in Bloom - IH

Terry Jackson will be attending the award and result ceremony on the 30/9/2010. We look forward to seeing the results for Watlington.

Wycombe District Council – Wycombe Community Stadium and Sports Project – Issues and Options consultation – Public Consultation 17/9/2010-29/10/2010- yellow paper was attached to agenda.

Resolved: That we note this information only.

78/10 Main Topics for Discussion

Five Year Review of Current Arrangements with Sports Club – Purple papers were attached to agenda.

The papers were discussed. A few points were noted:

1. Regarding the Bar Accounts – we have been assured that we will be sent a copy of these.

2. Lettings – There are quite a few vacancies – Suggestions needed as to how we can fill these.

3. Cleaning of Pavilion – This is a question of how this could be financed.

4. Committee Membership-

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That a change is made to the membership of the Sports Field and Pavilion Committee Membership that gives the Parish Council majority membership.

5. Football Provision – Discussion is taking place shortly with the Chalgrove Cavaliers.

6. Complaints Procedure – to be revised.

Resolved: That we note all points made above. Council looks forward to seeing the bar accounts and a fuller report on the Sports Club financial situation. We hope that any changes made will be viewed in a positive light by the Sports Club.

That this issue be an Agenda item for the October Strategy Committee meeting to take this issue forward. Councillors to send any comments, ideas etc on this issue to the Clerk.

Grant Allocation – We have received 4 grant applications: Girl Guiding, Watlington Pre-School, Air Ambulance and Watlington Concert Band.- Applications were attached to the agenda.

It was noted that all these applications gave copy of their recent accounts.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the following grants be allocated.

Girl Guiding	£400
Air Ambulance	£250
Watlington Pre-School	£200
Watlington Concert Band	£700
Total Allocation:	£1550.00
Total Amount in Budget:	£1745.00
Remaining Amount in Budget:	£195

Individual Budgeted Grant Items

Resolved: That we ask to see the accounts of CAB, Watlington Environment Group and the Youth Club prior to releasing their grants.

Annual Precept Review

Tony Williamson reported that this issue had been discussed by the Finance Committee and it is envisaged that there will be no increase in the precept for the next Financial Year. This means that money will be very tight and we will need to be very careful with our spending. The Operations Committee have been asked to go very carefully through the budgeted figures when they are available to see if there could be any areas in which we could make some savings.

ORCC – Area Review of Subsidised Bus Services: Wheatley, Thame and Watlington Area 2010 - Re Local Transport Needs Survey – see attached paper (Blue)

Resolved: To contact the individual bus users who have offered in the past to give us comments on the bus services they use. Also to put a piece in the next Watlington Times giving a deadline for comments to be returned to us. **IH/KT**

Cuxham Field

South Oxfordshire District Council have agreed to amend the restriction in the proposed transfer of the above property so as to say that the Parish Council will be able to grant a grazing or other agricultural licence for a period of not more than five years so long as such Licence does not give rise to a letting under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 or other subsequent amending legislation.

Resolved: That we agree to sign this amended transfer.

Thanks were given to Nick Greaves for all his work on this.

79/10 Correspondence – All Correspondence is attached to the Agenda

1. **OCC – Oxfordshire Travel Advice and Information Line OxTAIL-** asking for small community to be part of the Good Neighbour scheme network - **Noted**
2. **OALC** – Note and copy of letter sent to the Local Government Finance Directorate re Proposed Council Tax Increase Referendums – **Noted.**
3. **No Need for Nuclear – House of Commons Early Day Motion 557-** asking us to join their campaign- letter attached – Full information in Strategy next meeting file.- **Noted.**
4. **ACRE – The Economic Impact of Community Buildings in Rural Communities – Noted.**

80/10 Items for Future Meetings

Refer to Forward Plan

Items for October to be added:

Insurance Review

Watlington Distinctiveness – Ian Hill

Bandstand Proposal – if information received

NERC Act – Presentation by the Environment Group – For a Future Meeting.

Cuxham Field

Sports Club Review

Complaints Procedure

Watlington Speaks

81/10 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

Overhanging hedges on residents properties

Resolved: That letters be sent to residents if their hedges are overhanging. Councillors to inform the office if they are aware of a particular problem. **KT**

Bus Stop outside Library – The Clerk to contact OCC regarding moving this bus stop back here from it's temporary location.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.00PM