

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 13th October 2009

Present:	Angie Paterson - Chairman Ian Hill – Vice-Chairman Tony Williamson Charles Rowton-Lee Ted Backhouse David Shannon Roger Beattie Nick Greaves David Tindale Rhian Woods
Officer:	Kristina Tynan
Members of the Public:	4 (including 3 applicants for co-option)
Press:	Jennifer Maxfield – Henley Standard
In Attendance:	Andrew Markham (9pm) Headteacher – Watlington Primary School

124/09 Apologies for absence

There were none.

125/09 Chairman's remarks

Angie Paterson asked for approval to discuss Britain in Bloom within the Committee Reports agenda item. It was agreed that this will be taken as item 12G on the Agenda.

Resolved: That we add Britain in Bloom onto Committee Reports for future Agendas.

She welcomed Jennifer Maxfield to the meeting who is the new Henley Standard reporter and who has taken over from Dan Hearn.

Angie Paterson noted that we have Traffic Orders on the Agenda which normally would be discussed by the Strategy Committee but due to OCC deadlines needs to be discussed at the meeting tonight.

126/09 Co-option onto Watlington Parish Council – 2 Vacancies to be filled

We have received 3 applications which were attached to Councillors Agendas. The procedure to be used is following advice from OALC regarding the best procedure for 3 applicants for 2 vacancies which was circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting.

Each vacancy will be dealt with separately.

Vacancy One

For vacancy one we have three applicants. Each Councillor has one vote.

The vote will be by show of hands. The person elected must get a majority of votes. Whoever receives the most votes will be co-opted. If all candidates get the same number of votes the Chairman has the casting vote.

Vacancy Two

We will then take the second vacancy for which there will be two applicants, depending on who has been voted to fill the first vacancy. The vote will be by show of hands. The person elected must get a majority of votes. Whoever receives the most votes will be co-opted. If all candidates get the same number of votes the Chairman has the casting vote

Declaration of Interest – Nick Greaves declared a prejudicial interest in this item as the wife of Barry Adby works part time for him. He signed the ‘Declaration of Interest’ book and left the room for this item.

Vacancy One – applicants will be taken in alphabetical order
The Chairman asked for a show of hands for Barry Adby – this was unanimous.
Resolved: That Barry Adby be co-opted onto the Parish Council

Vacancy Two

The Chairman asked for a show of hands for Neil Boddington – 6 votes. She then asked for a show of hands for Tim Horton – 3 votes.

Resolved: That Neil Boddington be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Barry Adby and Neil Boddington signed the ‘Acceptance of Office’ forms and then joined the meeting.

The Chairman asked them to think what committees they would like to be on and asked them if possible to let us know by the end of this meeting.

127/09 To receive Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations on interest from Councillors relating to items to be considered at the meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Councils Local Code of Conduct.

Co-option onto Council -Declaration of Interest -See item above.

Rainbow Nursery Grant (Strategy Committee) – David Tindale declared a prejudicial interest in this item as they are clients of his. He signed the ‘Declaration of Interest’ book and left the room for this item.

Rainbow Nursery Grant (Strategy Committee) – Ted Backhouse declared a prejudicial interest in this item as he is an ex-trustee of the nursery and a

personal friend of the Manager. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

Rainbow Nursery Grant (Strategy Committee) – David Shannon declared a prejudicial interest in this item as his children attend the nursery. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

128/09 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 8th September 2009 to be signed as a correct record

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

129/09 Matters arising from the Minutes

Enforcement Issues (Minute 119/09 refers). Further to a comprehensive reply from Sue Spencer, the Chairman and Clerk took the decision not to send a letter on this issue. It was noted that Sue Spencer will be attending the Meeting of the Planning Committee on December 1st to discuss enforcement issues in Watlington. If any Councillors have any questions please let the Clerk have these in advance of the meeting.

Air Quality Report – Angie Paterson to give the Clerk the latest report from SODC on this issue to hold on file in the office.

Dog Fouling – Sports Field Area – Tony Williamson to follow up this issue.

Library – Tony Williamson reported that because of the encapsulated asbestos found in the roof the roof will be done section by section. It was noted that the scaffolding lights need to be checked to see if they are sensor operated or not working.

130/09 Public Questions

There were no public questions

131/09 Consultation on Traffic Orders for Watlington – Paper was attached to Agenda
David Tindale reported that he has had a detailed look at OCC's proposals for amended waiting restrictions in Watlington. It was noted that OCC's schedule also covers existing restrictions which are being re-validated without change. David Tindale stated that Malcolm Bowler, Traffic Engineer OCC has been exceptionally helpful and co-operative regarding this issue.

The following items were discussed:

1) **Limited waiting in bays at top of High Street to be Monday - Saturday**

09.00 - 17.00, not Monday - Friday;

It was noted that the Traders are in favour of this. No objections to this have been received to date.

Resolved: That we agreed Monday-Friday 0900 -1700 and ask for Saturday to be 9.00-1pm

2) Extension of double yellow lines down Love Lane

It was noted that there has been 2 objections to this from residents.

Resolved: That we wish the yellow lines to remain as they are – that we do not agree with the proposed changes.

3) New double yellow lines from the south-eastern boundary of 35 Brook Street south-east to the junction with Watcombe Road.

Resolved: That we agree to this proposal

4) No provision for one allowed space in the new 'No Waiting' area outside Cross Antiques (as Malcolm Bowler feels there is insufficient room)

Resolved: That OCC should amend double yellow lines opposite Chapel Street junction to start from the eastern edge of Cross Antiques (39 High Street) to allow 1 parking space outside no. 37 High Street.

5) New double yellow lines around the Cuxham Road/Pyrtton Lane junction

Resolved: That we agree to this proposal

6) Junction Couching Street /Brook Street – Proposal to extend by 1-1/2 car lengths.

Resolved: That we ask that the status quo remains.

Resolved: That we send the above comments back to the County Council.

It was noted that that there are no fewer parking spaces overall on the whole scheme.

Angie Paterson asked that thanks be given to David Tindale and Ian Hill for their detailed work over the last few years on traffic issues.

132/09 District Councillors Report – Angie Paterson

Oxford Times Article - David Tindale had asked Rodney Mann about the article in the Oxford Time (10/09/2009) stating that Capita on behalf of SODC had overpaid benefits to the tune of £1.5M and that there was little prospect of recovering most of this money. He asked how this had happened and who ends up paying for it.

Angie Paterson read out Rodney Mann's response to this question:

1. We take very seriously all outstanding monies.
2. The amount outstanding £1.4M related to a period of over 14 years.
3. Overpayments in the main relate to when the circumstances of the individual

have changed and either they have taken time to tell us or have not told us at all. Some overpayments are the result of errors but this is a very small proportion, 4. Arrangements are in place to recover some £600K by deductions from on-going payments.

5. Some cases we may have to take to court, but any attachment to earnings are often small and take years to get back.

6. Not included in these figures is a Government Subsidy of 40% which they pay to us recognising the problems in this area and the fact that many of these people are living in very difficult circumstances.

7. So if you take 60% of £1.4M equals £840K which we have to collect after subsidy and then deduct £600K where we already have arrangements, the amount we have to get on top of is £240K. This should be set against Housing Benefits paid out of about £25M. Still no excuse really, we have to get better and we should do so and do not accept that the current position is in any way satisfactory.

Finance – SODC are looking into making savings of £1M on top of the £1/2M already saved in joint functions. A lot of work is going on to see where money can be cut without cutting services.

Enforcement Officer - Any councillor can attend the Planning Meeting on 1st December to hear and ask questions of Sue Spencer. If anyone has specific questions please let us have them in advance.

133/09 County Councillors Report

There was no report.

It was noted that we will give Roger Belson our comment on the Traffic Order Consultation. David Tindale reported that if OCC Committee do not reach a decision by February it may not happen in this financial year. However as the Watlington bit is part of a bigger scheme it is unlikely that it will not be done.

134/09 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

Tony Williamson read out the Balances of Accounts and asked Councillors to note that £26,357.00 has been moved to the Town Hall Charity Body Account. He then proposed that the list of payments be settled. It was noted that there was an error in the list of payments.

Resolved: That the Chairman sign the Balance of the Accounts and the Accounts of Payment be paid. The Chairman to sign the re-issued list of Payment of Accounts at the next meeting.

135/09 Committees:

A: **FINANCE** - 22/9/09 – Tony Williamson

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Watlington Speaks

Resolved: That the Parish Council award 10% (£50) so that Watlington Speaks can apply to ORCC for a £500 grant

Financial Regulations Review

Resolved: That the attached Financial Regulations for 2009/2010 be accepted and signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer.

Committee Membership

Resolved: That Ted Backhouse become a member of this committee.

Staff Salary Increases

The Clerks Salary is now £20,442 for 30 hours a week out of 37 (81.08%) She is on point 30 which increases to £25,472. Her % of that brings her salary to £20,652. This is an increase of £204, which is 1%.

Resolved: That we increase the Clerks Salary by 1% from 1/4/2009

Resolved: That we increase all other staff rates by 1% from 1/4/2009

B: PLANNING – 6/8/09 – David Tindale

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

It was noted that the committee objected to:

P09/E0907 Webbs Yard, Cuxham Road as they felt it contravened policies H6 and H16 and other policies relating to new residential developments outside the village envelope in open countryside.

P09/E0879 Highwood House, Christmas Common as it was felt that the cumulative effect of a series of minor amendments makes the building unacceptably dominant in comparison to the approved scheme within the AONB.

Enforcement Issues

David Tindale reported that further to our resolution to send a letter to Enforcement we have now had a detailed response from SODC on various outstanding enforcement issues. Sue Spencer will also be attending the Planning Committee meeting on the 1/12/2009. In view of these two things:

Resolved: That we do not send a letter to Enforcement at SODC.

David Tindale asked that if any Councillors have any questions they would like to put to Sue Spencer at the meeting that they send them to the Clerk so that they can be given to Sue Spencer prior to the meeting.

C: STRATEGY – 15/9/09

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Watlington Play Policy

Resolved: That we adopt the Watlington Play Policy

Grants

It was noted that CAB, Youth Committee and the Environment Group are now budgeted items and not grant funded which has led to a lower grant figure being available to be allocated.

Resolved:

Watlington Pre-School -That we do not award a grant as we have given them substantial grants in the previous 2 years.

University of the 3rd Age- That we do not award a grant for the capital equipment they wish to acquire. It was noted that the Community Office offers a photocopying and laminating service which they could make use of . They could also have discussions about renting a screen and projector from the office. It was thought that perhaps they should consider increasing their subscription fee which at the moment is £15pa if they wish to acquire capital goods for their organisation.

Rainbow Nursery – That we award a grant of £243.17 for the purchase of the fridge and the microwave.

Fitness Equipment Project

Resolved: That we allocate £831.83 (the remainder of the budget amount) toward the Fitness Equipment Project.

Annual Precept Review

The Chairman of Strategy proposed two amendments to the recommendation as submitted in the agenda. The first is that the month to be used was mistakenly given as August and should have been October. The second was that the alternative of using either the October 2009 RPI or the average over the year to October be used, depending on which was the lower. These amendments to be incorporated into the recommendation that was submitted for consideration.

Resolved: That for this year we use either the October 2009 RPI or the rolling RPI for the 12 months till October 2009 to set the precept for 2010/2011, depending on which gives the lower increase in precept. From the year 2011/2012 we will use the rolling 12 months RPI for the twelve months to October of the preceding year.

Nb: That if we used an average for the whole year it would probably be a higher figure than using the October and that this is the justification for not changing the procedure until the next financial year.

D. OPERATIONS – 23/9/09

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Public Conveniences – Lighting

Quotes have been received from Milners and NC Allen.

Resolved: That once the quotes have been checked that the Clerk and Chairman order the sensors to be fitted.

Grass Cutting – The tender document is being worked on at the moment and

will be sent out when completed.

Pavilion Landscaping on Recreation Ground site – It was agreed that we look into what the conditions are regarding the planning permission as one bed is thought would be better put to grass.

E. ALLOTMENTS

There will be an allotment seminar put on by OALC next spring.

F. PAVILION- 23/9/09

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Nothing further to report.

G. BRITAIN IN BLOOM – 08/10/09

Resolved: That Ian Hill and Roger Beattie be the Parish Council representatives.

Ian Hill reported that there is a lot of interest and enthusiasm for this.

Paddock Planting

Tony Williamson said he welcomed the idea but that the Paddock original plan needs to be looked at before further planting in the paddock is agreed.

Resolved: That the recommendations for the paddock should come to the Operations Committee.

Tony Williamson asked that in future their minutes could list which committee members were present at the meetings.

It was noted that some committee members cleared the coppice on Cuxham Road and grateful thanks were given. Thanks were also given to the Committee for all their work to date.

Mansle Gardens – any plans for this area to be discussed by the Twinning Committee and the Operations Committee.

Cuxham Field – They have listed an idea for an orchard in this area. It was noted that this field is very overgrown at present.

Resolved: That this be discussed at a future Strategy Committee meeting.

Request for some funding from the Parish Council (Minute 2)

Resolved: That we allocate £150 toward this scheme (Money donated by Bentley Productions)

136/09 **Andrew Markham – Headteacher – Watlington Primary School**

Angie Paterson welcomed Andrew Markham to the meeting. Andrew Markham stated that he has taken over in September from Angela Briggs and

has moved from Ewelme Primary School. He spoke about the Extended Services and is the Line Manager to Helen Rints of the Children's Centre (Early Years). He is also the Chairman of the Partnership of Schools and aligns targets for all 7 schools in the partnership. He stated that the National Curriculum will be changing over the next few years. Andrew Markham said that they have information from various surveys that have recently be carried out and said that some information could be shared with Council which may be useful. Some information is confidential which obviously could not be passed on. He would like the school to be a place which can be shared with the community. University of the Third Age have been in discussions with the school about using their computers. It is good if resources can be shared with the wider community. He said that he would like to attend more Council meetings to keep us informed of what is happening with the partnership of schools.

Angie Paterson thanked him for coming to the meeting and said that is good to be able to put a face to the name.

137/09 Correspondence for Information – List was attached to Agenda

Correspondence will only be discussed if urgent and if it cannot be passed to the relevant committee to discuss.

Letter 290 – Guides request for time capsule in the Paddock

Resolved: That we allow them to do this (Scouts have already installed one) and that Operations Committee deal with the logistics.

138/09 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

There were no reports received.

139/09 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council

Committee Membership

Resolved: That Neil Boddington becomes a member of the Planning and Operations Committee.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50PM

