

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

Present:

Councillors:

Angie Paterson
Ian Hill
Ted Backhouse
Roger Beattie
Rhian Woods
Charles Rowton-Lee
Tony Williamson
David Shannon

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillors:

Rodney Mann/Angie Paterson

County Councillors:

Roger Belson

Members of the Public: 5

108/09 Apologies for absence

Nick Greaves, David Tindale, Di Tolan, Keith Lane

109/09 Chairman's remarks

Angie Paterson said that it was nice to see everyone after the summer break.

Forward Plan – this has been updated and was tabled.

Air Quality – Angie Paterson had spoken to the officer regarding coming to a meeting with us in October or November. However due to the OCC Local Transport Plan it has been necessary to bring this issue forward by SODC and therefore this meeting cannot be scheduled at present. However this meeting will be rescheduled shortly. DEFRA guidelines on this issue were given a number of months ago.

110/09 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.

Community Interest Company- David Shannon declared a prejudicial interest in this item as he is a Director of this company and signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and took no part in any discussion.

111/09 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 14th July 2009 to be signed as a correct record

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

112/09 Matters arising from the Minutes

Dog Fouling on Sports Field (Minute 104/09 F refers) The Clerk reported that as this land is owned by Beechwood Estates it would need their permission to have a by-law on this. Also this land is in Pyrton Parish. Our PCSO Diane Greenwood would not be able to patrol this area as it is private land. This information to be given to the Pavilion and Sports Field Committee.

113/09 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

114/09 Long Term Sickness of Councillors

If a councillor fails to attend any meeting of the authority for six consecutive months he/she becomes disqualified unless he/she seeks an extension of time from Council prior to the expiry of the six months. As councillors will be aware Mr Keith Lane and Mrs Di Tolan have been ill and need time to recover.

Council is requested to approve the non-attendance of Mr Keith Lane and Mrs Di Tolan from any meetings of Watlington Parish Council for a period exceeding six months.

Resolved: To approve the non-attendance of Mr Keith Lane and Mrs Di Tolan at meetings for a period of up to twelve months

The Clerk to write to both Councillors letting them know this resolution.

115/09 OCC – Speed Limits Review of ‘A’ and ‘B’ Road in Oxfordshire

(to be discussed at FC due to time limits of OCC) The 2 areas in Watlington affected are the :

1. B480 at Pishill – Proposed removal of 30mph speed limit. Revise to national speed limit.

2. B480 Stadhampton to Watlington – Proposed 50mph speed limits and existing 30pm limits to remain

Correspondence from local residents has been received. *Paper was attached to Agenda*

1. B480 at Pishill

There was much discussion on this and it was:

Resolved: That Watlington Parish Council objects to this proposal in the

strongest terms and asks that it be removed from any further consideration. A letter to be sent to the County Council with the points below:

1. The proposal would increase the danger to local residents, walkers, horse riders and cyclists, and would seem to go against advice from the Department of Transport.

2. We have received significant correspondence from concerned local parishioners and we note this section of road has houses immediately adjacent to the carriageway, some of whose front doors open out directly onto the carriageway; is crossed by footpaths and bridleways including the Chiltern Way designed to encourage greater use of the countryside; has shown a decrease in serious accidents since the introduction of the 30mph speed limit a number of years ago.

3. This proposal would appear to be at odds with guidance from the Department of Transport which states:

'Higher speed limits [in this case 60mph] should be restricted to 'upper tier' or high quality strategic single carriageway roads where there are few bends, junctions or accesses'.

4. It is Council's opinion that the B480 through Pishill does not meet these criteria. In the section in question, there are bends and accesses to agricultural and residential properties, and school children are required to wait for buses on the side of the road.

5. The Speed Assessment Framework for determining the appropriate speed for rural roads requires that detailed mean speed and accident assessments are made. There had been a fatality prior to the introduction of this limit so it appears that since the limit was introduced the number of accidents has decreased.

6. Speed Planning restrictions do not allow for multiple changes in speed limit within such a short stretch of road therefore the correct approach would appear to be to default to the lower and not the higher speed.

7. This proposal appears to go against local wishes, informed common sense, improved countryside amenity and central government guidance.

2. B480 Stadhampton and Watlington

Resolved: That Watlington Parish Council supports this proposal.

Roger Belson stated that there will be a Transport Meeting to discuss this on 25th October and asked if the Council could send a representative to this meeting. Roger Belson was asked to let Council know when the paper for this meeting is available to see if it would be necessary for us to send a representative.

116/09 District Councillors Report- Rodney Mann/Angie Paterson

Planning Issues- Work is being done on the Local Development Framework of the Local Plan. Angie Paterson and Rodney Mann are progressing this. There is about another 5-6 months work to be done on it. Rodney Mann stated that this is a critical document and there will be more consultations on it to come.

Waste Recycling – Recycling is up from 43% to 71% which is probably the highest figure in the country. People are asking for more or bigger green bins and extra green bins will be available soon. Smaller black bins will not be an option.

Rhian Woods asked if it would not be possible to purchase the clear bags for extra recycling as this would be very useful. Rodney Mann will look into this.

Grants – The budget is being worked on and it may be that there is less money available for grants. A lot of people will be disappointed as there is more application for grants than there is money available.

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) – They are in the process of reviewing all CAB's at the moment. The outreach service in Watlington is working very well.

Costs – The District Council continue to work on reducing costs and the arrangement to share services with the Vale of White Horse is working very well. Costs of this are lower than anticipated so therefore savings are marginally higher than anticipated.

117/09 County Councillors Report – Roger Belson

Local Transport Plan- This is being produced at the moment. Only 2 cabinet members have seen it at present and RB has not yet received an update. Watlington Bypass was in the long-term plan but has now been changed to the middle term (2016).

Angie Paterson stated that the Air Quality issue has been brought forward because of this Local Transport Plan. The air quality issue in Watlington is that of Couching Street.

Roger Belson was asked to get details so that we do not miss anything critical because of the tight deadlines in place and so if needed we could schedule into a Strategy Meeting.

Details of the Local Transport Plan are on the Oxfordshire County Council website.

Windmill Piece- Roger Belson has passed the petition onto Peter Ronald at OCC. He is awaiting a formal response from him which he will then pass onto us. It was noted that the traffic calming measures that are in place do work and have been held as an example to Nettlebed. It was asked if the County Council could do some checks in this area on current speeds. Charles Rowton-Lee stated the speed is noticeably greater on Cuxham Road now than on the Britwell Road.

Oakley Wood – A number of people take trailers to Oakley Wood. If anyone gets challenged that they are commercial vehicles there is a form that can be filled which states that they are not commercial. Information is available on the County Council Website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Library – Tony Williamson said that he met with the Site Manager this afternoon. In relation to the Age Concern roof this has been found to have asbestos in it. They will need to put cover over the whole roof which will be an extra cost. This issue has been with the County Council for some time but they have not made a decision as yet. The scaffolding has to be designed with the County Council. Contractors found instability in the walls of the library itself which is still being analysed.

Rhian Woods stated that when opening up older building there are very often unexpected things found.

118/09 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

Resolved: That the Balances of Accounts and List of Payments for August and September 2009 be signed by the Chairman and that the list of payments be settled.

119/09 Committees:

A: **FINANCE** - There has been no meeting.

B: PLANNING – 4/8/2009 and 1/9/2009 – David Tindale

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Angie Paterson reported that Planning in on her portfolio at District Council. She said regarding enforcement issues that Enforcement Department acknowledge receipt within 3 days, visit the site within 5 days and progress the issue within 5 weeks. She stated that she thinks that SODC need to get tougher on enforcement issues. Regarding Oaktree Farm this issue could take up to a year to sort out because of the complexities in place. Angie Paterson reported that on the SODC website there is a list of all enforcement issues. Sue Spencer the Head of the Enforcement Department is happy to attend a meeting with the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the Council send a letter to Enforcement at SODC with the following points.

- 1) WPC is concerned about an apparent lack of progress on many enforcement cases we have raised.
- 2) WPC requests that all referrals are acknowledged and that we are kept informed of progress.
- 3) WPC urges SODC to act firmly and decisively where serious planning breaches have taken place.

C: STRATEGY – 21/7/2009- Ian Hill

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Market Town Issue – There will be a meeting with representative of the Business Association and Suzanne Malcolm the Economic Development Officer at SODC on the 21/9/09.

CIC Report – This has been asked for purely for information. The CIC is registered at Companies House.

ORCC Housing Needs Survey – This issue will be discussed at the Strategy Committee Meeting next week.

D. OPERATIONS – 22/7/09- Roger Beattie

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Recreation Ground - Long term car parking

Resolved: That we have initial discussions with the Community Bus to see if the recreation ground car park could be another bus stop on the route.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment

It was agreed that this equipment would complete the existing new equipment and the trim trail. The estimated cost of this is in the region on £8-10,000.

Resolved: That we start fundraising for this project and applying for grants

Britain in Bloom – Advisory Committee

Resolved: That we set up an advisory group for this project with the following purpose.

Britain in Bloom Advisory Group

Remit

The purpose of the Advisory Group will be to recommend ways to make lasting improvements to the town through horticultural good practice, environmental friendliness, community involvement and sustainability so that Watlington is in a position to enter the Britain in Bloom Competition in 2010.

Scope

The Advisory Group will exist for the duration of the task which will be no later than August 2010.

The Committee will liaise with the appropriate committees of the Parish Council as necessary and report to Full Council.

Membership

The Advisory Group will include Members of the Parish Council and members of the public as deemed appropriate to ensure full involvement of interested parties.

Exact numbers of membership will be left to the discretion of the group. The group is to decide its own frequency of meetings as necessary to complete the task.

Members of the Group should declare their personal interest in the project to ensure complete openness of information.

Powers

The Advisory Group is not a decision making Group and will be required to

make recommendations to the Parish Council. The Parish Council reserves the right to seek further information as it deems necessary.
The Advisory Group may make use of the Parish Office facilities.
The Advisory Group will need to seek approval from the Parish Council for any expenditure.

E. ALLOTMENTS

At present there are 5 on the waiting list for an allotment. Chickens are only allowed on plots that would be unsuitable for growing plants, vegetables etc.

F. PAVILION

120/09 Correspondence – List was attached to Agenda.

Correspondence has been passed to relevant committees to deal with.

121/09 Representation on other bodies – If any reports have been received

Display of possible new seating for St Leonard's Church – Tony Williamson

From Tuesday 15th September to Thursday 24th September two possible alternatives will be on display in St Leonard's – oak benches or steel framed chairs. On **Thursday 24th September** there will be a **public presentation** at 7.30pm by two suppliers – "Luke Hughes" and "Howe". Comment sheets will be available throughout the display period so that everyone can express their views. St Leonard's Parochial Church Council (PCC) is considering new moveable, stackable seating so that our great old church can be used and enjoyed by many more people.

Youth Club – Roger Beattie

Watlington youth Club is now part the new youth working group The Three Villages group (Watlington ,Chalgrove and Chinnor).

Thames Valley Police – PC Ian Kent

Our most recent operation was on 08/07/08 over a two hour period (around 5 pm) in which no HGV's were sighted and therefore stopped, but several car motorists were given fixed penalty tickets for speeding and mobile phone offences on the Shirburn road B4009 into Watlington.

122/09 Sports Field Rent – This item to be taken in Confidential Session.

123/09 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council

New Play Equipment in Recreation Ground – Roger Beattie stated that the new play area is a terrific success and the National Play Day held on 5th August was a great success.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25 and went into confidential session to discuss the Sports Field Rent

According to:

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: THAT under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items of business of the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 7,8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

