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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 8PM  
IN THE COMMUNITY OFFICE

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1. Apologies for Absence  
Roger Beattie, Ian Hill Robert Barber, David Shannon
  
2. Minutes of the Meetings held on 1/9/09 were accepted by Council on 8/9/09  
**Resolved:** That these minutes are a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.
  
3. Declarations of Interest  
**P09/E0854 6 Beech Close, Watlington** – Ted Backhouse declared a prejudicial interest in this item as he is a personal friend of the applicant. He signed the ‘Declaration of Interest’ book and did not vote on this application.  
**P09/E0854 6 Beech Close, Watlington** – Rhian Woods declared a prejudicial interest in this item as she drew up the plans for the applicant. She signed the ‘Declaration of Interest’ book and did not vote on this application.
  
4. Matters Arising  
There were no matters arising other than agenda items.
  
5. To consider the following applications:-  
P09/E0785 Chequers PH, Love Lane, Watlington  
Rear extension to conservatory, internal reorganisation to provide disabled w.c.  
**NO OBJECTION UNANIMOUS**

P09/E0907 Webbs Yard, Cuxham Road, Watlington  
Replacement of permanent mobile home with bungalow.

**OBJECTION – UNANIMOUS**

**Contravenes policies H6 and H16 and other policies relating to new residential developments outside the village envelope in open countryside.**

**Resolved:** That we ask our District Councillors to take to Committee if the officer recommendation is to approve this application.

P09/E0910 18 Beech Close, Watlington

Demolish existing conservatory & construct single storey pitch roof extension.

**NO OBJECTION – UNANIMOUS**

P09/E0883 Acorn Cottage, 49 High Street, Watlington

Single storey side extension.

**NO OBJECTION - UNANIMOUS**

P09/E0895 The End House, 64 Shirburn Street, Watlington

Demolition of existing single storey extension and replacement with two storey extension.

**NO OBJECTION - UNANIMOUS**

P09/E0896/LB The End House 64 Shirburn Street, Watlington

Demolition of existing single storey extension and replacement with two storey extension.

**NO OBJECTION - UNANIMOUS**

P09/E0857 The End House, 64 Shirburn Street, Watlington

Demolition of shed/store and erection of new shed/garden room.

**NO OBJECTION - UNANIMOUS**

P09/E0854 6 Beech Close, Watlington

New single storey bay window to front of house

**NO OBJECTION - UNANIMOUS**

P09/E0961 10 Beech Close, Watlington

Two storey rear extension.

**NO OBJECTION - UNANIMOUS**

6. To consider the following amendments:-

P09/E0879 – Highwood House, Christmas Common

Demolition of existing house and erection of replacement house (resubmission of P09/E0503)

**Vote: 1 in favour, 4 against**

**OBJECTION**

**The cumulative effect of a series of minor amendments make the building unacceptably dominant in comparison to the approved scheme within the AONB.**

7. Enforcement Cases

David Tindale and the Clerk put together a list of enforcement issues we had raised with SODC and asked for an update on the following.

**Responses from SODC were:**

**Hunters Moon** - This is a current investigation. We have been in correspondence with the

owners and have given them until today to come back to us with details of their tenancy agreements etc. We are heading towards formal enforcement action on this but we always need to be careful when our action would lead to a person or persons being made homeless. The Human Rights Act has to be considered. We anticipate that they will submit a planning application for the retention of the original dwelling before we can take any formal action,

**18 Cuxham Road-** Could not find a record of you having asked us to investigate this one and we have no current investigation.

**Resolved:** That we resend the form.

**Oak Tree Farm, Christmas Common** - Rob Cramp (the case officer) sent you an email on 13 August 2009 advising that we had served enforcement notices in respect of the mobile home and the second building on the site. These come into effect on 28 September 2009, unless an appeal is lodged. The date by which the notices have to be complied with is 28 March 2010. We have also instructed our Legal Service to issue a notice in respect of the hardstanding and drive that has been constructed. SODC have sent 6 notices on this site to appeal.

**Polytunnel on land south of North End Road, Christmas Common.-** Regarding the polytunnel the Inspector upheld the council's enforcement notice and the polytunnel needs to be removed within 3 months of the date of his decision (by 27 November 2009).

**Little Acres, Cuxham** - Unfortunately the case officer for this one is on maternity leave and has not been replaced. Your email has served as a reminder that we need to progress this. An application had been expected but has not been submitted.

**8 Prospect Close** – This was investigated and it was concluded that it was not expedient for the council to pursue enforcement action. The file shows that we wrote to you on 27 July 2009 explaining the reasons for this. However, the matter was dealt with by an officer from outside the Planning Enforcement Team and I am wondering whether it actually got sent. I have therefore attached a copy of the letter and the report written by the case officer.

### **SODC Enforcement Procedure**

The new SODC procedure came into effect at the beginning of this year and is still being refined. The aim is to deal with minor breaches of planning control quickly and to concentrate most effort on the more serious cases, such as Oak Tree Farm. SODC are also aiming to address an issue that they have identified in respect of keeping interested parties advised of progress. In summary:

Requests to investigate are acknowledged within 3 working days

Sites are visited within 5 working days (urgent cases will be visited within 24 hours - works in progress, listed buildings, Tree Order trees and highway safety issues for example)

Within 15 working days - carry out an initial investigation.

If there is no breach, or they consider the matter not expedient to pursue, the file is closed and advise all interested parties.

On cases that require further investigation the case officer then has 12 weeks from the date the file was opened to recommend the course of action they believe the council should take. When we have decided on the course of action, interested parties should be advised.

After this we review cases monthly. However, there is not yet in place a system for automatically advising interested parties and it is left to the discretion of the case officer. When an enforcement notice is issued interested parties are advised.

Sue Spencer- Head of Enforcement SODC has offered to attend one of our meeting  
**Resolved:** that we invite Sue Spencer to one of our meetings in the near future

8. Planning Award – Initial Discussion

David Tindale asked members to start thinking of applications that should be shortlisted. This to be an agenda item for the December meeting.

9. Decisions

<u>Application</u>	<u>SODC Decision</u>	<u>Watlington PC Recommendation</u>
P09/E0658 6 Love Lane	Planning permission granted	<i>No objection</i>
P09/E0695 33 and 33a Brook Street	Planning permission granted	<i>No objection</i>

All decisions were noted.

10. Correspondence

1. SODC Alleged Breach: Hunters Moon, Christmas Common.
2. Copy of letter from Judith Crockett to SODC re Webbs Yard application.
3. Copy of letter from Judith Crockett to SODC re Lambing Shed at Christmas Common.
4. The Planning Inspectorate re Land South of Northend Road, Christmas Common
5. SODC – Land at 16 Britwell Road- Parking area of 16 Britwell Road was lawful.

All correspondence was noted.

11. Any Other Business

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.40PM**