

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 15th September 2009

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Chairman
David Tindale – Vice-Chairman
Angie Paterson
Ted Backhouse
Roger Beattie
Rhian Woods

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

1. Apologies for absence

Nick Greaves, David Shannon, Charles Rowton-Lee, Tony Williamson

2. Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 21st July 2009 received by Council 8/9/09 to be signed as a correct record.

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

3. Declaration of Interests

Rainbow Nursery Grant Application – Ted Backhouse declared a prejudicial interest in this application as he is an ex-trustee of the Nursery and also a personal friend of the applicant. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

Rainbow Nursery Grant Application – David Tindale declared a prejudicial interest in this application as they are clients of his. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

4. Matters Arising

CIC Bus – Ian Hill has spoken to David Shannon (Director). The CIC has issued their first annual return and they are in the process of preparing their second return. This may be a critical time as there is no certainty that there will be further OCC funding.

Resolved: to defer this item until the reports are received.

5. Short Discussion Items

Salting/Gritting of Pavements- Paper on this attached to the Agenda.

There was some discussion on this and it was thought that we need further information on this subject.

Resolved: That we obtain information from SODC and OALC

Watlington Play Policy

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we adopt the Watlington Play Policy which is attached to these minutes.

Housing Needs Survey – Amended questionnaire from ORCC – for any further Comments prior to printing (was attached to Agenda)

It was agreed that that the title should change so it is above the Affordable Housing and not on the letter which comment David Tindale will pass onto ORCC.

OCC – Countryside Service Annual Report 2009 – Questionnaire to be filled in.

Resolved: to write to them saying we appreciate the effort that has gone into this report but that we are not sure what it could help Watlington Parish Council with. The Clerk to fill in the Questionnaire.

6. Main Topics for Discussion

Grants – Budget Figure £1075.00 - to be agreed how to be allocated.(All Applications were attached to the Agenda)

Applications were received from:Rainbow Corner; University of the 3rd Age; Watlington Pre-School

All applications were carefully looked at and discussed.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

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.

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

2. Annual Precept Review – Discussion on strategy for setting precept in future years. Should we continue with using August RPI (published September) or use annual average? Comparative table attached. (AP)

There was much discussion on this time and it was noted that we were criticised at the Annual Parish Meeting for increasing the precept by 4.3%.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That for this year we use the August RPI to set the precept but as from the year 2010/2011 that we use a rolling 12 months RPI which would eliminate any blips in the figure.

Nb: That if we used an average for the whole year it would probably be a higher figure than

using the August RPI and that this is the justification for not changing the procedure until the next financial year.

7. Items for Future Meetings

Reference to the Forward Plan (latest update given out at FC September Meeting). It was noted that we have today received the Consultation on Traffic Orders and that we will need to discuss at the next Full Council meeting due to the deadline for comments. David Tindale was asked if he could prepare a paper on this. It was noted that this is another stage in the process. There are no new proposals to what we have already commented upon. Residents need to send their comments in direct to the County Council.

8. Correspondence

1. Copy letter from Roger Belson to Note – re Traffic Calming at Christmas Common – **Roger Belson is investigating this.**

Resolved: That we ask for some speed monitoring to take place in this area.

2. OCC – Countryside Questionnaire- **Discussed above.**

3. DEFRA – Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water Resources Plan – **Noted.**

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

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Watlington Play Policy

The term 'play spaces' applies to the Recreation Ground Play Area and the Paddock Play Area..

1. Watlington Parish Council adopts this policy and asks its members to support the principles outlined below.

2 Watlington Parish Council recognises the importance and **value of play** in the development of children and young people and for the benefit of society as a whole. Play is essential for physical, emotional and spiritual growth and for intellectual, educational and social development.

3 Watlington Parish Council believes that all children and young people want and need opportunities to play. Play provision should be welcoming and **accessible** to every child, irrespective of gender, economic or social circumstances, ethnic or cultural background or origin, or individual abilities. Although play areas should be accessible to all, this does not mean that all children need to be able to do everything within a play space.

4 Watlington Parish Council recognises that the best play provision is designed to offer all children and young people access to a wide range of experience in settings, which support acceptable levels of risk. This means that children should not be exposed to unacceptable risk of death or permanently disabling injury. Other kinds of risk may be acceptable if the social benefit is evident. We acknowledge the need to allow **challenge and risk** in play settings and we will always assess risk in conjunction with the possible benefit of any provision.

5 Watlington Parish Council wants people of all ages to be able to share play spaces where possible. This may not always be appropriate but, subject to local discretion and conditions, there should be no presumption against children, young people and adults of **all ages** having access to quality play opportunities.

6 Watlington Parish Council wishes to create beautiful spaces that inspire, engage, challenge and are well cared for. We will seek to commission experienced play designers in the process of developing or upgrading play spaces. We will ensure that an appropriate budget is allocated to the design and build of external space when creating or redeveloping a play area.

7 Watlington Parish council will **engage** local children, young people, parents, carers and residents in the development of play spaces and will put their views at the heart of any developments.

8 Watlington Parish Council wants children and young people to be able to organise their own play but we recognise the importance of supervision and support and will encourage the development of an adequately resourced areas with support from the OPFA .

Watlington Parish Council – September 2009

**Signed:
Parish Clerk**

Date; 9th September 2009

Declarations of Interest

(i) any Member arriving after the start of the meeting is asked to declare personal interests as necessary as soon as practicable after their arrival even if the item in question has been considered.

(ii) with the exception of the circumstances listed in paragraph 9(2) of the Local Code of Conduct for Members, a Member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial if it is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest. In such circumstances, the Member must withdraw from the meeting room, and should inform the Chairman accordingly it is not practical to offer detailed advice during the meeting on whether or not a personal interest should be declared, or whether a personal interest should also be regarded as prejudicial.

Distribution: All Councillors