

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WATLINGTON  
PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE  
COMMUNITY OFFICE AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012**

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**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Ian Hill  
David Tindale  
Rhian Woods  
Robert Barber  
Ted Backhouse  
Barry Adby  
Tony Williamson  
Harvey Batten  
Roger Beattie  
Charles Rowton-Lee  
Tim Horton

Officer: Kristina Tynan

District Councillor: Anna Badcock

Press: Janine Rasiah

Members of the Public: 1

*The Meeting opened with Ian Hill presiding.*

62/12 Apologies for Absence.  
Nick Greaves, Di Tolan, Nick Hancock

63/12 Election of Chairman.  
Roger Beattie proposed Ian Hill and this was seconded by Rhian Woods. There were no other nominations.  
**Resolved:** That Ian Hill be unanimously elected as Chairman.

64/12 To receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office.  
Ian Hill signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

65/12 Election of Vice-Chairman.  
Barry Adby proposed David Tindale and this was seconded by Tim Horton. There were no other nominations.  
**Resolved:** That David Tindale be unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

66/12 Declarations of Interest

*Members are asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.*

Tim Horton declared a prejudicial interest under Committee Reports, if Watlington in Bloom and the Jubilee Committee were to be discussed. He is a member of WIB and Chairman of the Jubilee Committee. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for these items.

67/12 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

68/12 To appoint Statutory or Standing Committees:

The following committees were appointed:

It was noted that all meetings now take place in the evenings.

**Committee Membership as at 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

<u>Finance</u>	Canon Williamson, Mr Beattie, Mr Rowton-Lee, Ms Woods, Mr Hill, Mr Aaby, Mr Batten, Mr Horton
<u>Planning</u>	Mr Tindale, Mr Rowton-Lee, Ms Woods, Mr Greaves, Mrs Tolan, Mr Batten, Mr Barber, Mr Backhouse, Mr Aaby
<u>Strategy</u>	All Councillors are members of this committee.
<u>Operations</u>	Mr Aaby, Canon Williamson, Mr Backhouse, Mr Beattie, Mr Horton. Mr Barber
<u>Allotment Representative</u>	Mr Batten
<u>Pavilion and Sport Field</u>	<b>WPC:</b> Canon Williamson, Mr Aaby, Mr Backhouse, Mr Beattie <b>Sports Club:</b> Mr Lloyd, Mr Owen, Mr Allen, Mrs B Griffiths
<u>Affordable Housing</u>	Mr Tindale, Ms Woods, Canon Williamson, Mr Batten, Mr Backhouse, Mr Barber, Mrs Tolan, Mr Rowton- Lee
<u>Neighbourhood Plan</u>	Mr Hancock, Mr Rowton-Lee, Mr Batten, Ms Woods, Mr Barber, Mrs Tolan, Mr Greaves, Mr Horton, Canon Williamson, Mr Hill, Mr Tindale

69/12 Representatives to other Bodies:

"Poors Allotment" and The Watlington Public Charity Trustees **Mr Edis was elected to serve until May 2015.**

**Mr Barber to serve until May 2014.**

Watlington Education Foundation

It was noted that the Parish Council has to elect 1 member onto this Foundation. The County Councillor also has to appoint a member to serve . Tony Williamson stated that he hoped the new County Councillor will come onto this.

**Tony Williamson was elected to serve until 2015.**

70/12 Minutes of the Council Meeting held 10th April 2012 to be agreed and signed as a correct record

Triathlon (Minute 54/12 refers) It was noted that the owner did attend this meeting and it was agreed that the sentence 'the owner of the company did not attend this meeting' be deleted.

**Resolved:** That with the above deletion the minutes of this meeting be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

71/12 Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

72/12 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

Tony Williamson read out the Balance of Accounts and proposed that the List of Payments be settled.

**Resolved:** That the Balance of Accounts be approved and the List of Payments be settled and that these both be signed by the Chairman.

73/12 Committee Reports.

A **Finance** - 10/4/2012 – Tony Williamson

**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted.

B **Planning** – 1/4/2012 and 10/4/2012 – Rhian Woods

**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted.

**P11/E2252** Chiltern Farm Cottage, Land adjacent to Chiltern Farm, Hill Road At the meeting of 10/4/2012 the original objection was sustained. However following this meeting SODC gave the committee further information and the committee agreed to revised its decision to one of a No Objection following further information and clarification from the SODC Case Officer.

C **Strategy** – There has been no meeting.

D **Operations**- 20/4/2011- Barry Adby

**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted.

Barry Adby stated that all on-going issues are being dealt with.

**WIB Request for Planters at main entrance to the Car Park**

**Vote: 6 in favour, 3 abstentions.**

**Resolved:** That subject to appropriate plants, a watering regime in place and the health and safety aspects are adhered to, that Council allow them to do this.

Ted Backhouse stated that the WIB committee are also looking to put planters outside the side of the library which OCC have consented to. However he stated that this area is used by people to leave buggies, scooters etc and he is concerned that they will no longer be able to do this.

Tony Williamson said he was very pleased that OCC have re-painted the green lines which lead from the High Street to the Paddock.

**Hedge in Mansle Gardens** – Barry Adby reported that a 3m section of this hedge had fallen over and was obstructing the footway. Berinsfield Community Business tried to stake it but this was not possible. It was deemed a Health and Safety Issue and BCB was then instructed to remove this section of hedge. WIB will be sending a proposal for this area to the Operations Committee in due course. Robert Barber stated that it was not necessary for the roots to have been removed.

**Setts in Brookside** – David Tindale stated that he thought the damage to these had been done by lorries and not tree roots. Barry Adby said that the original damage may have been done by these but when OCC tried to replace they found that the tree roots were a problem and needed to be removed prior to the setts being reinstated.

E **Allotments**- AGM – 22/4/2011

Harvey Batten reported that there was a report given by him on behalf of George Bruce at the Annual Parish Meeting. The main issue is the acute water shortage and the Allotments Committee continue to improve hedging, fencing and the tracks.

F **Pavilion and Sports Field** – There has been no meeting

G **Affordable Housing** – 3/5/2012 and Confidential Minute 3/5/2012

**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted.

David Tindale stated that both the Housing Associations who presented talked about the financial constraints imposed on them by the Government which meant that they now had to charge higher rents. A 3 bedroomed house, on an open market rent will now cost in the region of £1000 a month rent. We did ask them if they thought that they would be able to fill the affordable housing units at this sort of rent. It was noted that if the Housing Associations do not charge this rent they will not get any Government Funding to build them. They now have to charge 80% of the open market value as a minimum. It was also noted that one of the Housing Associations had successfully lowered the rent levels for one of their developments.

It was noted that the Confidential Recommendation will be discussed at the end of the meeting.

H **Neighbourhood Plan-** 17/4/2012 – Ian Hill

Robert Barber stated that the minutes were the draft minutes and therefore not accurate and it was agreed that these minutes need to come back to the next Full Council meeting for approval. Robert Barber said it was critical that accurate minutes are taken.

Tony Williamson asked whether it would become a joint plan if other parishes were to be involved. Tim Horton stated that all parishes would be equal partners in all aspects.

Tim Horton said that the Neighbourhood Plan is a mammoth task and will have to develop a lot of relationships and has no budget at present. It will need to have some officer time and he hoped that some funding will be able to be found for a person to do some of the work. He also said that the District Council may want to be involved in an advisory role.

74/12 County Councillors Report.

There was no report given. It was noted that Caroline Newton has just started this position and we look forward to her coming to a meeting. The Clerk to send her the dates of Meetings.

75/12 District Councillors Report – Anna Badcock

**Boundary Commission Review** – The commission will make this decision. They are considering reducing Watlington from a 2 member ward (since 2003) to a 1 member ward.(as prior to 2003). SODC will be asked for their comments. Tony Williamson said that a lead is usually given by the Political Parties but the Commission will make the final decision.

**Deep Cleanse** – The clerk has asked to have a meeting with the SODC officer prior to the deep clean in Watlington.

**Broadband** – Anna Badcock reported that Caroline Newton is on board with this issue and they will both be going to speak to OCC regarding this issue as they are getting different answers on specific questions on speed rates. The broadband in Watlington was upgraded today which may help increase the speed rates. Broadband have a target of 99% of households to get 100mb a second but Watlington has only got a speed of 10mb a second.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – Anna Badcock offered the committee any help that she can give with this.

76/12. Town Hall Charity –To agree Members of the Charity Trustee Body for this year  
**Trustees for this year were agreed:** Canon Williamson, Mr Backhouse, Ms Woods, Mr Hill, Mr Aaby, Mr Horton, Mrs Tolan, Mr Batten, Mr Barber  
It was noted that some Councillors were not present at this meeting and it was agreed that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

77/12 Annual Parish Meeting 26<sup>h</sup> April 2012 – The draft minutes will be available at the next meeting. Ian Hill thanked all who took part in this meeting. It was agreed that the current format has been very successful but that the format now needs to change. It was proposed that there should be an internal consultation on this. It was noted that there were few people who attended who were not parish councillors or people speaking on behalf of their organisations. Ian Hill stated that OALC guidance says that refreshments should be given. Tony Williamson said that people will attend if there is a purpose but will not attend just to be talked at. However it was agreed that a good range of people from Watlington attended.

It was agreed that the Strategy Committee look at a change of format and location for the 2013 meeting in their September meeting.

Robert Barber thanked Kristina Tynan for all her work putting together the information for this meeting when she should not have been back at work.

78/12 Correspondence For Information –List attached.  
Correspondence will only be discussed if it is urgent and if it cannot be passed to the relevant committee to discuss.  
**Letter No 79 - Zurich – Insurance Renewal–** IH agreed to review this for the Finance Committee.

**Letter No 93 – OCC Temporary Traffic Order 24 June 2012–** Barry Aaby reported on this – There are 2 temporary traffic orders – One is for a 1 day Sunday Road Closure on Brook Street from Chestnut Place to Ingham Lane – Pyrton Lane will be one way (Northbound only) for the day and Spring Lane will become 2-way for the day.

The other order will be in place for 2 weeks from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June, works will take place at night and the works are from Ingham Lane to the Watlington 30mph on Howe Road. Barry Aaby is seeking more clarification on the diversions as he is concerned that the lorries working out of Lys Mill may not get under some of the trees on the Christmas Common road. Robert Barber said that works are usually carried out to one side of the road at the time so a total road closure should not be needed. We will seek clarification on these order and publicise the information and maps on our website. It was noted that OCC will put up signs warning of these works on the relevant roads.

79/12 Any Other Business  
**Car Parking –** It was noted that Anna Badcock has emailed the office regarding the difficulties of parking in the car park. The Operations Committee are looking into a car park order and are also monitoring the car park at various times of day/night to see how many spaces are available. They are also looking into a reconfiguration of the car park spaces which could increase the amount of spaces in this area. It was noted that we have a substantial amount of information on the car park issues in the office. The Operations Committee will be discussing this at their next meeting.

**Air Quality Survey 2011 –** Ian Hill thanked Janine Rasiah for pointing out that SODC had published the 2010 air quality monitoring data and for putting this information into the Henley Standard. It was noted that this information is not yet on the SODC website. The information shows a sharp increase in the levels, well above average. There is a control machine at St

Leonard's Church which shows 15micrograms per cubic metre compared with over 40 micrograms per cubic meter near the Town Hall. Barry Adby stated that lorries are now a lot cleaner than cars. David Tindale thanked Ian Hill and Rhian Woods for this information.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINSS THE MEETING WENT INTO CONFIDENTIAL  
SESSION at 9.40pm**

**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.

**TO DISCUSS THE CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATION FROM THE  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

It was agreed that the Confidential Recommendation can now be put on the public record and it was:

**Resolved:** That the proposed Affordable Housing development be progressed with Sovereign Housing Association.