



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COMMUNITY OFFICE AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 10th MAY 2016

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill (IH)
Matt Reid (MR)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Bob West (BW)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Jane Bryant (JBt)
Terry Jackson
Robin Wilson

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

County Councillor:

Stephen Harrod

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock

Press:

David White

Members of the Public:

1

The Meeting opened with Ian Hill presiding.

68/16 Apologies for Absence.
Jo Read, Jane Bryant

69/16 Election of Chairman.
Tony Williamson proposed Ian Hill and this was seconded by Matt Reid. There were no other nominations.
Resolved: That Ian Hill unanimously be elected as Chairman.

70/16 To receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office.
Ian Hill signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' form.

71/16 Election of Vice-Chairman.
Ian Hill proposed Matt Reid and Tom Bindoff seconded. There were no other nominations.
Resolved: That Matt Reid be unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

72/16 Co-option onto Council – 1 applicant, Nicky Smallbone
Nicky Smallbone answered some questions from Councillors before they voted on this.
Resolved: That Nicky Smallbone be co-opted onto Council. She signed the 'Declaration of Office' form and then joined the meeting.
It was agreed that NS buddy up with Bob West

73/16 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest notified.

74/16 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

75/16 To appoint Statutory or Standing Committees:

- A STRATEGY: Matt Reid, Ian Hill, Terry Jackson, Rachel Huckvale, Jo Read, Tom Bindoff , Roger Beattie, Tony Williamson
- B PLANNING: Jeremy Bell, Bob West, Tom Bindoff, Terry Jackson, Robin Wilson, Matt Read, Jo Read, Jon Lorimer.
- C FINANCE: Tony Williamson, Ian Hill, Matt Reid, Roger Beattie, Nicky Smallbone.
- D OPERATIONS: Bob West, Tom Bindoff, Ian Hill, Terry Jackson, Rachel Huckvale, Roger Beattie, Tony Williamson.
- E ALLOTMENTS: Jo Read is the representative
- F PAVILION AND SPORT FIELD: Ian Hill, Roger Beattie, Jon Lorimer, Nicky Smallbone.
- G NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP: Ian Hill, Tom Bindoff, Jeremy Bell, Terry Jackson, Matt Reid, Robin Wilson.

76/16 Representatives to other Bodies:

1. "Support Fund" and "The Watlington Public Charities" Trustees

Resolved: That Mrs Nicholson be appointed to serve until 2020.

Mr Barber will serve until May 2018.

2. Watlington Education Foundation

Tony Williamson was elected in 2015 to serve until 2018.

3. Friends of Watlington Library

Resolved: Rachel Huckvale be the current representative

4. Representative for Youth Club

Resolved: That Jo Read be current representative.

5. Charlotte Coxe Advisory Body – to appoint 2 representatives

Resolved: Ian Hill and Tony Williamson are the current representatives.

77/16 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th April 2016 to be agreed and signed as a correct Record

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

78/16 Matters Arising.

Parish Transport Representative Meeting 3rd May 2016 –IH to report on this meeting.

IH said that our local bus services to Thame, Wallingford and Reading are subsidised to some extent by Oxfordshire County Council (OCCL) but because of cuts in its budget OCC has decided to withdraw all subsidies from the 23rd of July. This means that the 124, 125 and M1 services will stop at that date. The T1 service will continue but Thames Travel have not yet provided any information.

There is however a possibility that a limited service could replace them. The Internal Transport Unit (ITU) is an OCC service that operates a fleet of minibuses for legally required uses such as getting children to special needs schools. These are used in the early morning and at mid-afternoon, but are otherwise idle for the rest of the day. Until the 23rd July these buses will continue to be used for services such as the M1 Reading and the 125 Wallingford buses. The County would like to find a use for these buses after July and one possibility is to provide a limited market day service for rural communities such as Watlington. The details

of this still have to be worked out, and nothing can be agreed until OCC confirm the subsidy changes on the 24th May. Other options could be for occasional use for organisations eg trips for Age Concern. WPC could provide a level of financial help through using S137. The costs per trip are relatively reasonable and OCC would be willing to accept volunteer drivers.

IH said that he will try to get together a group of potential users to discuss possible uses of these buses. It was thought that a Tuesday Thame service would be popular. TW is looking into Age Concern using the buses for occasional trips.

Resolved: That IH prepare a leaflet/questionnaire which can be given to bus users. IH, TW, TB and NS offered to help give them out at the bus stops when buses are due.

79/16 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

TW read out the Balance of Accounts and proposed that the list of payments be settled as per the prescribed process.

Resolved: That the Balances of Accounts and the list of payments be settled and that they be signed by the Chairman.

80/16 Committee Reports.

A **Finance** – There has been no meeting.

B **Planning** – 3/5/2016 - Bob West

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

BW said that only a very small number of members attended this meeting but all had done their homework and it was a very good meeting.

C **Strategy** – 4/5/2016 – Matt Reid

These minutes will be emailed out and will be accepted at the next FC meeting.

MR stated that a lot of time was spent discussing the Communications Policy.

D **Operations**- 20/4/2016 – Bob West

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

BW reported that a possible 20mph limit for Watlington was discussed. The Paddock new play equipment fundraising is going well thanks to Rachel Huckvale. We have now received the Tree Survey from Martin Gammie and will be discussing this at the next meeting.

BW and TB have put the slabs down by the ½ pipe which has made it safer.

As regards the Annual Parish Meeting all Committee Chairs need to organise their tables for this. Operations will have placards with issues on that residents can come and speak on.

E **Allotments**- AGM – 1/4/2016

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

G **Neighbourhood Plan- 25/4/2016 and 9/5/2016**– Jeremy Bell.

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

JB stated that there will be an article in the next WT. A lot has happened and the Forum have made significant progress. There will be Roadshows set up for June and there will be information on Sites and Traffic to look at. There is a group looking at Local Businesses and the Car Park Survey has been done. The Housing Survey shows that affordable, sustainable and low cost housing is wanted by younger and older people. All the surveys that have been done are feeding more information into the NP. There are around 50 people involved in the Forum and they are very conscientiously managed by Gill Bindoff. There is an accelerated timetable in place which has the Referendum taking place in March/April. RB said that young people have needs but no one has asked them what they want.

There will be a NP Presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting.

81/16 MOTION FROM TONY WILLIAMSON *“That immediately after this Parish Council Meeting the Watlington Parish Council invite Providence Land to meet Parish Council representatives and answer questions about **sites Wat 9, Wat 10 and Wat 12** to the West of Watlington on the ground that Providence Land put these into a plan they produced in April and there is an urgent need to ask them to explain. The owners and*

developers of other sites should be invited to a similar meeting, without waiting for the sites shortlist (due in April) to be prepared”.

Following the NP Steering Committee meeting last night, Tony Williamson has withdrawn this motion.

82/16 County Councillors Report – Stephen Harrod

SH stated that he had circulated his Annual Report.

Proposals for a Unitary Government - Today OCC issued press release which said in brief that Oxfordshire County Council has appointed Grant Thornton UK LLP to consider how local government could be reorganised to reduce costs and protect vital services. Their brief is to undertake an objective, evidence-led review of all options, including the status quo. Alternative options could include the creation of one or more new ‘unitary’ councils, which would be responsible for all local government services rather than the current split between the county and districts. The firm will look to identify the model for local government that provides the best services and value to council tax payers and business rate payers in Oxfordshire, and offers the savings needed to ensure long term viability. They will consider local government structures that would address the following points:

- **Service Delivery and Outcomes:** reforms should improve local service delivery and outcomes, particularly for the most vulnerable,
- **Cost Savings and Value For Money:** reforms should deliver significant cost savings and drive value for money and long-term financial sustainability,
- **Stronger Leadership:** reforms should provide stronger and more accountable strategic and local leadership,
- **Economic Growth and Infrastructure:** reforms should drive economic growth and meet the infrastructure challenge, and,
- **Local Engagement and Empowerment:** new structures should engage with communities and empower local areas

Town and Parish Councils will be consulted on this issue and OCC will arrange a meeting with Parish Council’s in June.

RH stated that two parallel consultations on unitary councils are being paid for by SODC and OCC which will be very costly but yet there is not money available for important things.

Air Quality – There has now been a firm response to the Air Quality Report on April 28th from the PA to the Director. Suggestions have come from Sue Scane regarding what could be done to improve Air Quality:

1. Changes to On Street Parking – but SH said he would think this would be very unpopular.
2. Enforcing the HGV’s limit – this would be very difficult to achieve.

TW asked if she will be doing an analysis on the flow of traffic. We know the number of vehicles has not increased in the last 10 years unlike everywhere else and we would like a model.

Resolved: The Clerk to send an email to SH requesting this.

JB stated that a diversion route which will be a crucial point will need technical help and a costing. He also said that OCC is trying to promote increase in development and this would increase traffic in 20 years’ time. This is one of our major questions in the NP scenario at the moment.

TB said that 2 of the suggestions would be funded by DEFRA and this OCC response has not given us any information that was not already available from SODC. OCC have to do an Action Plan on Air Quality under the Environment Act.

TJ said that the HGV limit could be reduced. MR asked if ages of the cars could be looked at and in future with newer cars there will be less emissions and could this be used as an extra parameter.

Possible 20mph Limit for Watlington – TB said that we have had a response from OCC and this will be discussed by the Operations Committee at their next meeting.

Blocked Drains in Watlington reported by the Clerk – SH said that Keith Stenning has instructed these to be looked at and they will then be unblocked.

Britwell Road Crossing – TB said that we were supposed to get a drawing on this proposal from OCC but we

still have not received anything. SH said he would follow this up.

33 High Street – TW said that he has contacted Greg Stacey but he has not yet received a reply and neither has SH. SH will chase this up.

Annual Parish Meeting 19th May – SH confirmed that he will be attending this meeting.

83/16 District Councillors Report – Anna Badcock

South Oxfordshire – Residents of South Oxfordshire enjoy the best quality of life of any rural area in Great Britain, according to the 2016 Halifax Rural Areas Quality of Life Survey.

Cabinet has also worked hard with the other Councils involved in the development of the Corporate Services Project, extending the way we have worked with the Vale of the White Horse previously to deliver even greater efficiencies without degrading the services we offer. SODC are also forming links with 3 other Councils, Hart District Council, Havant Borough Council and Mendip District Council for some joint services which will save £1M per year.

Recycling – For the second year SODC has been awarded top place in the Recycling League Table in the country. During the last year, the kerb-side collection of fabrics and small electrical items for recycling has been introduced.

Corporate Services – SODC is a very wealthy District Council with millions in the bank which help to support services and keep the rates low. They have loaned SOHA £50M to help build affordable homes.

Community Infrastructure Fund – The Watlington Club has been awarded a grant to refurbish the Club.

Community Safety Partnership (CSP) – Anthony Stansfield has been re-elected as Police Commissioner. The CSP looks after the PCSO's and monitors crime and safety figures in the District. A Hotel Watch scheme has been launched in South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse. The Hotel Watch scheme creates a link between the hotel industry, Thames Valley Police, and South and Vale District Council. The hoteliers that sign up to be members of the scheme will meet regularly to discuss issues, concerns and how to increase vigilance.

MASH - This stands for multi-agency safeguarding hub which seeks to enable the sharing of information so that risks to children can be identified at an early stage. It is a link between universal services such as schools and GPs and statutory services such as police and social care. AB and SH can also be contacted on any concerns.

CIL Money – SODC started collecting this money on 1st April 2016. 15% will be allocated to Towns and Parishes and if there is a NP the percentage increases to 25%.

Licensing - SODC are responsible for giving licenses to pubs and taxis etc and have just approved an application for electric taxis in Didcot.

Road Litter/Fly Tipping – SODC collect around 4 tonnes of litter from the roads a year. If an area has a bad litter problem tell the Clerk and she will pass onto the Waste Team. If an area is very bad then SODC can put cameras up.

Grants – Round Two was opened on the 2nd May and will run until the 2nd July. Round 3 will open in August and Round Four in October. Grants are for Community Infrastructure Projects.

Sporting Facilities in the District – Sport England have allocated money and there is a great Sport Team at SODC who are very keen to get as many people as possible active. They are especially looking at child obesity which in Oxfordshire is less than 10% for children starting school however this rises to 18-19% at the end of Primary School. The Team are also looking to do more at the Berinsfield Leisure Centre eg Swimming, BoxFit etc.

Garden Waste – On the week of 23-27th June residents can put out extra garden waste.

Food Establishment Scores – The District are getting the top food hygiene scores on the 'Scores on the Doors'

scheme.

Q and A

BW: What do we need to do if we see flytipping?

AB: It is always useful to take photos.

TJ: Can we suggest items for recycling?

AB: Yes.

TW: What are SODC's reasons for not doing the same Unitary Government survey as OCC.?

AB: SODC arranged theirs first. They did engage with OCC prior to commissioning but OCC wished to do their own one. **SH** said that the Councils could not agree on issues.

TB: WPC have had a meeting with Claire Spendley on Air Quality issues and asked that she speaks to the Consultants about what modelling was used. It was also asked if there was modelling done around the Town Hall and the bottle neck in this area. **AB** said that if WPC need to go higher up to get answers then send her an email. We have also not had a response back to our question if any further modelling will be done. We also asked if we could speak to the Consultants direct and the answer was that if we wished to do so we would have to pay. **AB** said to put everything into an email to her and she will try to get information.

TB: Anyone who uses the phrase 'enabling a Freight Freeway' does not know anything about Watlington.

AB: I do not think that the Consultants took all issues in Watlington into consideration. To reduce the extent of the 7.5 tonne weight limit would be a good thing and also to have some cameras installed so they can be more easily prosecuted by Trading Standards.

TW: Could SODC help fund cameras.

AB: This would be an OCC responsibility and therefore SODC would not be able to fund cameras.

IH: The freight map on the OCC website is incorrect and also SATNAV's do not show the weight limit.

AB said that she will attend the Annual Parish Meeting on the 19/5/2016.

84/16 Town Hall Charity –To agree Members of the Charity Trustee Body for this year 2016/2017

Resolved: That Tony Williamson, Bob West, Terry Jackson, Robin Wilson, Roger Beattie be appointed as members for this year.

85/16 Correspondence For Information –List attached.

Letter No 101- SOHA Housing re Parslow House Redevelopment – This was a courtesy letter sent to us prior to them putting in a planning application.

Letter No 116 – Need Not Greed Oxfordshire – This gives the reasons why Councils need to object to the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) if they value Oxfordshire's towns, villages and countryside. The SEP is trying to impose a plan to support 85,000 new jobs in a county which has virtually full employment and build 100,000 new houses. They state that this is too heavy a load for Oxfordshire and housing should be focused on meeting existing needs. There is also a danger that developers will build where it will be most damaging and there is threat to our green spaces.

This issue was discussed and it was stated that CPRE have come up with different numbers and they have also come up with the point that developers will go for the biggest sites which will not be the best for communities. The SEP does not say much about rural areas. It was thought that we should question the numbers used and that there should be a third party to look at the figures.

It was agreed that **TB** prepare a response to this issue and he asked any Councillors who had comments on this to send them to him so they can be included. The response will be circulated to all Councillors prior to it being sent.

OALC April Newsletter – This was emailed to all Councillors. **IH** said that there is an article on the sending of emails which all councillors should read and abide by. There are also details about courses they will be running if these are of any interest to Councillors.

Letter No 123 - SODC Town and Parish Forum – This will take place on the 12th July. Councillors to let the Clerk know if they would like to attend.

Letter No 124 – Rev C Evans on Church Hall Site application - **IH/KT** and **BW** will draft the response to this.

86/16 Reports for Other Organisations/Groups

33 High Street – TW reported that the Shadow Body has met once and they are chasing OCC to give them the proposed lease. The Shadow Body are also seeking quotes for the work needed to be done to this property up to a standard that it could be let. JB asked if an Asbestos Survey has been done by OCC. TW will contact the County Surveyor on this and JB said that WPC should not allow the transfer to be done until this issue has been attended to.

87/16 Any Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50PM