



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held in the Community Office At 8.00pm on Tuesday 10th November 2015

Present:

Councillors

Matt Reid – Vice-Chairman (MR)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Jo Read (JR)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Robin Wilson (RW)
Bob West (BW)
Jane Bryant (JBt)
Jeremy Bell (JB)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

County Councillor:

Steve Harrod

Press:

David White – Henley Standard

Members of the Public:

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172/15 Apologies for absence

Ian Hill, Jon Lorimer, Elizabeth Winton

173/15 Chairman's Remarks

MR said that as two committees did not meet last month this meeting should be relatively short.

174/15 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.

Agenda Item 6 – Terry Jackson declared a personal interest in this item as Peter Richardson is a friend. She said she would remain in the room but would not vote on this issue.

Agenda Item 6 – Tom Bindoff declared a personal interest in this item as Peter Richardson is a friend but will take part in the discussion and will vote.

175/15 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 13th October 2015 to be signed as a correct record
Minute 168/15 page 64 – two words to be changed to read 'Leaflet' and not 'Map'.

Resolved: That with the amendment shown above the minutes from the meetings above be agreed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman

178/15 Matters arising from the Minutes

County Councillors Report -Minute 163/15 refers – TW said that no mention is made of John Howell who said that the OCC cuts had nothing to do with the Government. There is different understanding of who is responsible for the cuts. TW said he has written to both the County Councillor and our MP asking them to sort things out as it is not good that elected officials are arguing about terminology eg Government saying that they are not making cuts but OCC are saying that they are.

Football Barriers and Dug Outs – Minute 168/15 refers– We are still waiting to hear from Beechwood

on this issue. It was also noted that the container needs shoring up.

Bar /SC Agreement – MR reported that there are no signed agreements for this as yet.

179/15 Public Questions

MR said that these two letters be taken under this agenda item.

Letters 308 and 320- P Richardson – Asking WPC to withdraw two comments made on planning objection for Marigold Cottage application.

Peter Richardson spoke on this issue and explained his reasons for wanting these two paragraphs removed.

Neil Boddington also spoke on this issue as a member of the 'Old' Planning Committee who put together the letter of objection on this application.

After much discussion a vote was taken on whether to remove the two paragraphs.

VOTE: 1 in favour, 8 against, 1 abstention. [TJ did not vote]

Resolved: That the original letter of objection is not changed.

180/15 District Councillors Report

AB had sent her apologies for this meeting.

SODC Town and Parish Forum - This was attended by MR and TB. MR said that there is a delicate balance on planning issues at the moment at SODC. MR reported that a lot of houses need to be built in this area and the longer the NP takes there is a likelihood that developers will just put in planning applications for sites and there will a lot less control on a local level. TB said that SODC are losing more appeals than previously. They had previously won 70% and the latest figure is 48%. SODC are concerned that they are losing control and are really pushing NP's as their salvation and they will be providing grants for NP's. There are also grants available for capital schemes. JR said she would be looking into this on behalf of the Youth Club.

Bin Collection – MR said that AB had reported that there was a problem with the bins being collected on the correct day of the week. If anyone has any information on bins not being collected etc please feedback any comments to AB. Biffa are under pressure and are working longer hours.

181/15 County Councillors Report – Stephen Harrod

All Councillors had been emailed SH's latest monthly newsletter.

Budget – The consultation on this is going ahead and there will be lots of public meetings held on this. The Consultation will run until the end of November.

Children's Centre – The consultation on this has begun. SH will be meeting with the Chalgrove and Watlington Children's Centre. Mark Gray is championing this being taken over by local groups. The consultation will finish in January 2016. RH said that the timings of meetings on this are terrible and does not allow for people with small children to attend them. The times should be better considered in the future so that certain groups of people are not excluded by this.

Oxfordshire Together – Discussions are being held with Parish Councils for them to take on some of the OCC duties with some seed funding and budget allocations would be made for this by OCC. It is easier for Parish Councils to raise funds as they have no cap on their precepts.

Better Broadband – this is on track.

Libraries - There is now free Wi-Fi in the libraries and the libraries are working well under the volunteer scheme that was introduced last year.

Subsidised Bus Services and Waste Centres– Cabinet is considering these issues at their meeting today. There was a significant public response to both these consultations.

TB asked SH a number of questions:

1. Why has a reference to the problems in Watlington caused by HGVs been deleted from the adopted Local Transport Plan. (LTP 4) when it was in the consultation document?

The consultation document included a specific reference to Watlington in the section on freight under the heading: 'Deter use of inappropriate minor roads through towns and villages'. The reference was linked to weight restriction areas and said '*Areas such as Watlington which do*

have them in force but where HGV traffic may be worsening problems of air quality, economic function and environmental amenity'.

- a). Why has this reference to the problems in Watlington been deleted?
- b). whose decision was it?
- c). What are the implications for Watlington?

SH said he will follow up this issue and report back to Council.

2. Why is it not possible for OCC Highways engineers to provide a ball park figure for the construction of a bypass/relief road for Watlington? This information is vital so that a rough calculation can be made about the number of new houses needed to pay for it through developer contributions. No- one is asking for OCC to commit to a firm estimate just a broad range of costs would be very helpful.

SH said that he was very disappointed that a response could not be given on this from OCC but will follow this up with the relevant Officers at OCC and try to get an answer.

BW said that Peter Cananvan at SODC said that the a bypass/relief road would be paid for by the houses being built and not through OCC. BW said that he would seek some more clarification on this.

TJ asked why SODC do the street refuse collection and OCC the recycling centres.

SH said that this is a long held tradition and very established that District Councils collect rubbish and OCC dispose of rubbish.

RB said that he and TB attended the OCC meeting for Parish Council and said that if OCC went to a Referendum to be able to raise the Council Tax by more than 2% this would cost about £800,000 or £600,000 if held with another election.

SH reported he has spoken with MP's about removing the cap on Local Authorities of only being able to increase tax by 2% which has been in place for the last 5 years. For larger increases to be allowed when necessary, there would have to be a change in legislation.

OCC are having a two pronged attack on this by trying to change the legislation and also to try and establish in advance if people would be happy to pay more council tax. If there was a Referendum there would have to be budget in place dependant on the outcome of the Referendum. However spending £6-800,000 on a Referendum if successful could generate £50M for OCC. OCC are also looking at what services they could charge for.

TW said that Age Concern had a special meeting about the grant that they receive from OCC to run the Day Centre of £16,000. The Trustees met and discussed the OCC Consultation paper and TW will draft a paper for Age Concern on this.

Drains – SH reported that after two years the drains have now been cleared at Shirburn.

SH said that he has monthly meetings with Keith Stenning to keep up to date with issues.

MR thanked SH for attending the meeting.

182/15 Thames Valley Police Report

There was no report received.

183/15 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

It was noted that WPC are now able to make payments by BACS as per procedure stated in our Financial Regulations 5.7

TW read out the Balance of Accounts and proposed that the list of payments be settled.

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

184/15 Committees:

A: FINANCE – There has been no meeting

B: PLANNING – The scheduled meeting for 3/11/2015 was cancelled due to no applications having been received.

JB asked if any Councillors would like to join the Planning Committee as the meeting in October had a very low attendance with 4 people present but with one having to leave the room for one application which was then only quorate with 3 members.

JBt said that she would join this committee.

C: STRATEGY- There has been no meeting
The Post Office will be discussed at the next meeting.

D. OPERATIONS – 21/10/2015 – Bob West
Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

Johnsons Alley Hedge – This has been cut down to 7ft. Two residents were upset over this and TB and BW did meet with them prior to it being cut. The office has received some very favourable reports on this hedge.

Traffic Survey at Christmas Common – This has been done by OCC. The date will be graphed up.

Tree Audit – Martin Gammie is doing this and the information should be available in January.

Painting of the Half Pipe – Volunteers are being looked for to paint this in spring 2016. JR said that she would help. TJ said that perhaps this is something that Neilsen's could do.

New Play Equipment in Paddock – RH is leading on this issue said that three companies have been out and she has one quote back. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

E. ALLOTMENTS –Jo Read

JR reported that the allotments are looking very nice. The three strikes and you are out policy seems to be working well. George Bruce is happy with everything at the moment.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 9/11/2015 – Any resolutions made will be sent to Councillors on the morning of the 10/11/2015.

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – 15/10/2015 – Jeremy Bell

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

JB reported that one action was to set up the NP Co-ordination Group which has now been done so the first step has been achieved. The Steering Group's role is to oversee the work on the NP and confirm that it is going in the right direction. The budget will need to be discussed and a bid put in to the Finance Committee by the end of November. It is hoped that the NP Final Draft should be completed by Easter 2017 with a Referendum later in that year.

The NP Forum has many people involved who have considerable experience.

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FORUM – 26/10/2015 – These minutes are only sent to the NP Steering Committee as the Forum as an independent group reporting to the Steering Committee. This is listed here for information purposes only.

185/15 **Correspondence for Information** - List Attached to Agenda

Correspondence will only be discussed if urgent and if it cannot be passed to the relevant committee to discuss.

Letter 308 and 320- P Richardson – re WPC withdrawal of comments made on planning application Marigold Cottage. *Information is attached to Councillors agenda.* To be discussed by Full Council. *PR has asked to speak on this to Council.* **Discussed Above.**

Letter 319 – Rev C Evans – re Planning Meeting – **A response has been sent to him.**

186/15 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

There had been no reports received.

187/15 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

MR said that it has now been six months since Councillors first convened as a Council. It has been an interesting time and he is happy with the way everyone is working together. The meeting of the Group who are going to meet to discuss Communications still needs to take place.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.44PM