

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 12th April 2011

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Chairman
Tony Williamson
Rhian Woods
Ted Backhouse
Roger Beattie
Barry Adby
Charles Rowton-Lee
David Tindale

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillors:

Rodney Mann

Press:

Jennifer Maxfield – Henley Standard

Members of the Public:

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48/11 Apologies for absence

Angie Paterson, Di Tolan, Nick Greaves

49/11 Chairman's Remarks

Ian Hill said that this will be the last meeting before a new Council is elected on the 5th May and thanked all Councillors for their work during the last 4 years.

50/11 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.

There were none.

51/11 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 8th March 2011 to be signed as a correct record

Tony Williamson asked that the minute 35/11, Declarations of Interest, be changed to read 'Director of Watlington and District Age Concern and not 'member'. And that Minute 43/11, Watlington Distinctiveness/Website the vote to read 6 in favour, 4 against, not 6 in favour, 5 against.

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted, with the changes listed above as a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

52/11 Matters arising from the Minutes

Refuse Collection – Minute 39/11 refers – Tony Williamson asked if there is an update on the smaller vehicles for the Goggs. Rodney Mann will look into this issue.

Watlington Distinctiveness/Website – Minute 43/11 refers – Rhian Woods asked if the constraints the WBA have put on the advertising of only businesses that are members of the WBA to have a larger advert is legal. It was agreed that the Clerk check into whether these issues are legal.

53/11 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

54/11 District Councillors Report - Rodney Mann

Elections – These will be on the 5th May and because of this things are very quiet.

Core Strategy – SODC have submitted a 30,000 page report on this.

Polling Stations – These will be continued to be reviewed. The residents of Christmas Common have sent in comments about their concern at not having a polling station at Christmas Common for elections in May. SODC have registered their concern and answers will be given to them. Postal votes are widely available and more and more people are using this way to vote. Rodney Mann stated that there are 110 people in Christmas Common eligible to vote and usually only about 30 people turn up to vote at the station.

Planning Issues – Rodney Mann will follow up the application for Love Lane and Ploughman's which the Planning Committee have asked to go to SODC committee if the Officer Recommendation is to approve them. As regards Boundary Cottage the owner can legally erect a wall up to 1m in height.

WPC Annual Parish Meeting - Rodney Mann said that he will attend this meeting on Thursday and stated that he will not be standing for District Councillor at the election. He has been a Watlington District Councillor for 12 years. Council thanked him very much for all the hard work he has put in on Watlington's behalf and for attending our meetings on such a regular basis

55/11 County Councillors Report

There was no report. Roger Belson will be attending the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday.

56/11 Thames Valley Police Report

Ian Hill read out the following report which had been given to the meeting by PC Ian Kent as he was unable to attend.

Parking issues junction 6 M40 PC Jon Shaw is in the process of chasing Lewknor Parish Council re progress on their section of the survey of local views regarding issues around the bus stop. The proposed multi agency meeting is postponed until this data is available in order to allow an informed local view. As soon as we have progress then all local interested partners will be updated.

The proposed improvement to the road markings at Hill Road Lewknor junction B4009 are still awaited as OCC Highways are checking the works order as previously raised through Malcolm Bowler. PC Shaw is due to meet OCC Highways representative in the next few days to discuss these works.

Rural crime / suspicious activity - The car parks serving Watlington , especially those within the local beauty spot areas from Aston Rowant nature reserve to Cowleaze and Hill Road Watlington

have been subject to increased criminal activity in the shape of theft from motor vehicles over recent weeks. However there is a very active police operation ongoing in these beauty spot locations including those stretching further along the Ridgeway through to Wallingford and beyond which aims to disrupt this activity and catch the offenders. The various targeted operations are concentrating on these areas utilising numerous police resources including high visibility tasked patrols together with other less visible assets . These operations have identified a number of suspects and enquiries are ongoing to apprehend offenders and secure prosecutions.

Speeding issues locally - As reported recently speed enforcement previously carried out through the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership (particularly the mobile enforcement vans successfully bid for in Watlington / Britwell Salome over the last few years) came to an end on 31st March 2011 to be taken over by TVP. With this change I have submitted a bid through Alison Mitchell at TVP Roads Policing using the recent speed survey data commissioned by the WPC and passed to me by Kristina. I await the result of the bid and can confirm that I will also be placing bids for the previous site in Watlington on the B4009 and further out near Britwell Salome . I will pass updates when I have them.

As always if the PC has any local issues raised through their community contact / consultation which it wishes to raise with the NHT then please pass these onto myself or PCSO Diane Greenwood.

PCSO Diane Greenwood will be in attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting.

- 57/11 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments
Tony Williamson read out the Balances of Accounts and proposed that the List of Payments be settled. It was noted that we have received the first half of the precept.
Resolved: That the Balances of Account be agreed and signed by the Chairman and that the List of Payments be settled and signed by the Chairman

- 58/11 Committees:
A: FINANCE – Tony Williamson
There has been no meeting

B: PLANNING – 5/4/2011 – David Tindale
David Tindale reported that we have asked the following applications to be taken to Committee by our District Councillor, Rodney Mann.

P11/E0164 54 Love Lane, Watlington -Demolish existing house and garage and erect 4 2-bed cottages and one 3-bed house with 3-bay garage (As amended by plans received 7 March 2011)
OBJECTION – UNANIMOUS

P11/E0006/RET Ploughmans, Howe Hill, Watlington - Retrospective application for new access and drive to serve agricultural land and private dwelling, including the blocking up of the existing access with a 1.9 metre high closeboard fence and associated landscaping (As amended by photos and accompanying agent's e-mail dated 1 March 2011) - **OBJECTION – UNANIMOUS**

C: STRATEGY – 22/3/2011 – David Tindale
Shirburn Street and Other Traffic Issues

Resolved: That OCC be asked to implement as an Experimental Order the items below, for which comments sent by residents have been taken into account and that a letter be sent to residents most affected by this and that it be published on the website, Henley Standard and Watlington Times.

1. To remove all parking outside 20-26 Shirburn Street (opposite the Fox and Hounds)
2. To shorten the parking bay outside 46 Shirburn Street by one car parking space on the Shirburn side.(These measures will remove the chicane and mean that there is only 1 switch in the side of

the road used for parking)

3. Extend the double yellow lines down Love Lane by 15metres.

(David Tindale had marked up a plan which was available at the meeting).

To note that it was agreed that the plan be available at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 14/4/2011.

That the Clerk and Chairman draft a letter to the affected residents. Deadline for comments to be a week before a Strategy Committee meeting.

Review of Committee Structures

Resolved: That the Finance Committee should be allocated responsibility for Staff Management.

Speed Surveys in the Town – David Tindale thanked Ian Hill for analysing the raw data and putting the information into graphs. This is a key issue that he will talk about at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday. One main point being that the average speed in the Town was lower than 30mph and therefore this has removed any grounds for asking for a 20mph limit. It was noted that the Oxford Experiment changed the average speed from 22mph to 21mph. Speed in the Town is much more about the perception and we still have work to do on changing this perception.

Cuxham Road – This issue was brought up at our meeting with OCC Area Steward, Keith Stenning who will have a site visit and look into the possibility of having a mirror and signage here. We await his response.

Water on Cuxham Road – This is due to water getting into the BT cables and BT are investigating.

Community (CIC) Connection Bus – It was noted that this will continue for the present.

D. OPERATIONS – 22/3/2011- Barry Adby

There were no Recommendations to Council.

Salt Bin at top of Howe Hill – this is on hold until we hear from OCC regarding if they will still continue to fill the salt bins.

Trees in Sports Field – the Clerk to chase Robert Barber for this report.

Watlington in Bloom – they have asked to tidy up Mansle gardens and have been given permission for this.

E. ALLOTMENTS

Resolved: To raise all Allotment rents by 10% to cover increased water rates

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F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – Tony Williamson.

There has been no meeting

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING– A meeting has been held with Anna Kennedy from ORCC in attendance – Notes from this meeting are held on file and were sent by email to all Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING IN MAY: That the Parish Council set up an Affordable Housing Committee and that the new Council actively pursue this issue.

59/11 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.

Correspondence was noted.

60/11 Representation on other bodies

No reports had been received.

61/11 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

Changes to Bus Routes from June 4th – Ian Hill gave the following information on the changes and urged residents to write to us with any comments so we can lobby the County Council.

101 Oxford service

- This service will run between Oxford and Garsington with limited peak time service to Watlington.
- Services before 9 reduced from 3 down to 1
- No off peaks service to Watlington
- No service to Cowley Centre
- One morning service to Unipart, but no afternoon return service

102 Oxford service

- This service will be discontinued

106 Oxford service (New service for Watlington)

- Replaces the 101 off-peak service Monday to Saturday
- Replaces the early morning 101 service on weekdays (6:45 departure instead of 06:35)
- New route through Chalgrove, Stadhampton, Chiselhampton but then continues straight to the Kassam Stadium, Science Park, and into Oxford along Iffley Road
- Last return service leaves Oxford at 18:50
- No service to Garsington or Cowley Centre

121 Watlington to Princes Risborough (New service for Watlington)

- One lunchtime service to Princes Risborough Monday to Saturday
- No return service

124 Thame service

- Reduced to one service each way Monday to Saturday
- No service timing given
- Tuesday service will serve Lewknor village and South Weston, otherwise will use A40 via Lambert Arms

125 Wallingford service

- Reduced to one morning return trip Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays only
- Will be reviewed again next year

M1 Reading service

- Reduced to four days per week (Tuesday to Thursday and Saturday) and will not continue to Stokenchurch
- More direct route to Reading on weekdays with additional M2 service between Reading and Nettlebed serving villages off the main route

End of Term Dinner – It was thought this would be a nice thing to do if a date can be arranged.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.20PM