

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 9th April 2013

Present:

Councillors:

Harvey Batten
Robert Barber
Tim Horton
Tony Williamson
Nick Greaves
Barry Adby
Ted Backhouse
Rhian Woods

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock

Press:

Janine Rasiah

Members of the Public:

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Due to the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman nominations were taken to elect a Councillor to chair this meeting. Ted Backhouse nominated Harvey Batten and this was seconded by Robert Barber and unanimously agreed.

46/13 Apologies for absence

Ian Hill, David Tindale, Nick Hancock, Charles Rowton-Lee

47/13 Chairman's Remarks

There were no remarks made.

48/13 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were none to declare.

49/13 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 12th March 2013 to be signed as a correct record

Triathlon (Minute 35/13 refers)- Robert Barber asked that the following sentence be deleted: "*RBr stated that he had not been given authorisation to speak for Council and therefore did not give an opinion to the meeting*". This was agreed.

Proposed new skatepark (Minute 42/13 refers) – That in the second paragraph to remove 'they'. This was agreed.

Resolved: That these minutes with the amendments above be agreed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

50/13 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no other matters arising other than agenda items.

51/13 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

52/13 District Councillors Report – Anna Badcock

Lys Mill – AB stated that she has seen the report from OCC Highways on this and was extremely disappointed how brief and lacking in professionalism it was. She has raised this with the Planning Officer and has asked him to question the methodology.

Flytipping – AB reported that this is a district wide problem and recycling bins have proved a magnet for flytipping in lots of areas. The SODC recycling bins will be removed on 1st May and Biffa will come to the site for 3 weeks following their removal.

Deep Cleanse – This will happen end of June/early July.

Holiday Programme for Young People – AB some of the activities have been very successful in previous holidays. There has been no activities in Watlington in recent years. There may be some change in the future with there being an emphasis on preventative health and exercise especially in rural areas.

Larger Villages Meeting at SODC – This will take place on 16/4/2013 and IH and NH will be our two representatives.

HB thanked Anna Badcock for attending the meeting.

53/13 County Councillors Report

Caroline Newton had sent her apologies as she is attending the Annual Parish Meeting at Nettlebed this evening. There was no report sent.

It was noted that the County Council Elections will take place on 1st May 2013 which will be for the new boundary changes. Watlington now includes Chalgrove.

54/13 Thames Valley Police Report

The following report had been received from PCSO Diane Greenwood.

Over the last month there have been a number of different incidents around Watlington

Road Accidents - 2 on Shirburn Street ,and 3 on Couching Street

Two drive way gates have been damaged as iframmed, one in Shirburn and one on Howe Road.

There have been a couple of thefts of heating oil in Pyrton

There was a broken down abandoned vehicle on Brook Street

A workshop on a local farm was broken into but nothing was stolen

There is a suspicious blue Mitsubishi shogun going around the farms it has been disturbed a few times trying to steal diesel, any sighting to be reported

Unfortunately our speed indicator device (SID) is in for repairs at the moment so I have no figures for speeders but when available I will be parking the Neighbourhood Van in prime locations.

TH stated that there seems to be a role for the local police in reporting particularly dangerous potholes to the County Council and assisting us in this way. It was agreed that the Clerk writes to the Police on this issue. BA stated that the County have done some repairs to the potholes on Love Lane but seem to have left some even though they were in close proximity to each other. They are

mostly doing A and B roads at present but we do not know when they will get to this area to fix ours. We need to keep our County Councillor involved in our issues.

TW stated that OCC have launched their fixmystreet, which encourages people to take a photo of potholes and to report them via this link on their website. RBr said that they say that potholes once reported this way should be fixed within 48 hours otherwise if damage is caused to a vehicle after this time frame OCC are liable for payment for the damage.

TH said that however where there are significant potholes this can lead to dangerous driving behaviour with people trying to avoid them, especially on narrow roads. RW stated that there is one particularly bad pothole in Cuxham which is through to the sub base.

After further discussion it was:

Resolved: That KT formally write to PC Ian Kent asking if the Police would report dangerous potholes to the County direct. Also to put the fixmystreet link onto our website and put notice of it in the Watlington Times.

55/13 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

Tim Horton read out the Balances of Accounts and proposed that the payments be settled. It was noted that the Operations Committee will be discussing the water bills, especially those for the public conveniences. RW stated that she will look into water saving devices and report these to the Operations Committee.

Resolved: That the Balance of Accounts be agreed and the list of payments be settled and signed by the Chairman.

54/13 Committees:

A: FINANCE - Tim Horton

There has been no meeting and therefore nothing to report.

B: PLANNING – 27/3/2013 – Rhian Woods

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

P13/S0561.FUL Buildings 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Lys Mill, Watlington.

Change of use of Buildings 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 & 7 to rationalise the existing mix of industrial and storage.

RW reported that there were 17 members of the public present for this application. The committee were unanimous in their refusal. There was a long list of points put down showing why the committee were against this application. There are 30 letter of objection to date on the SODC website. This application will be going to the SODC Planning Committee in May. This application has been called in to committee by both our District Councillors.

TH stated that there should be an objective measured survey of the amount of lorries using this site per week as in their Design and Access Statement the numbers they cite are just assertions and do not match with local information. It was noted that the Planning Case Officer will be asking the applicant to provide a transport survey.

RBr congratulated the Chair of Planning he said ran the meeting very well. RW apologised for not formally adjourning the meeting when the public and the applicant were asked to speak. It was noted that this site is an important employment site and has many benefits to the community.

Planning Award

Resolved: That as there are no contenders for the award this year we do not give out a Planning Award in 2013.

C: STRATEGY – 26/3/2013 – Harvey Batten

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Youth Club – letter will be sent shortly

Storage Facility in the Town – Further to the responses received from organisations this will not be taken any further unless a need is shown by the community.

Co-option onto Council

After discussion the following procedure was agreed:

1. All applicants to submit an A4 sheet giving information about themselves, their interests and what they feel they could bring to the Parish Council. This information to be received one week before the relevant meeting.
2. That at the relevant meeting each candidate is given 2 minutes to speak and the WPC given 5 minutes to ask questions.

106 Bus Service to Oxford – TH reported that he understands that it is the intention of Thames Travel to replace this service with new T1 and T3 services. The T1 service will effectively be the route of the old 101 service which will include Chalgrove, Garsington and the Cowley Centre. The T3 service will run between Oxford centre and the Kassam Stadium. However this change will happen with no consultation with any Parish Councils. IH and TH have asked several questions to Thames Travel and are awaiting answers from them. The new service may not satisfy all regular users. David Turner will be establishing a meeting with parishes on this. The 101 service was not previously operating on a commercial basis but now will be.

W1 Watlington to Lewknor Bus Service – TH reported that this shuttle service is going to be lost as the County Council will no longer provide any subsidy for it. There is some funding in the OCC Community Transport pot for transport. TH and IH have had discussions with Danny Douglas (GoRide) about funding a new service which may be able to obtain some funding from the OCC pot. Discussion have considered a route which includes Chalgrove, Benson, Watlington and Lewknor and letters have been sent to parishes.

Resolved: Council regrets the decision of OCC not to extend support for the W1 service. However Council welcomes proposals to sustain community transport with Goride through a bid for resources from OCC's Community Transport budget and shall support research (as necessary working in conjunction with other parishes) to refine a bid or bids as soon as is practical. The Council's bus representatives shall report to the Strategy Committee on this work.'

D. OPERATIONS – 20/3/2013 – Barry Adby

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Drains in Car Park – BA reported that this is a serious issue and the committee are trying all approaches to see how they can be sorted out. When it was transferred to the WPC we did not get any plans of where the drains go and people are reluctant to do anything without this information. We will need to seek advice on these drains. It was noted that there are no plans for the lighting either.

BT Phone and Broadband – There has been a meeting with British Telecom on this.

Community Office Boiler – This has now been fixed by our plumber and he says it should last for between 2-4 years when we will need to consider a new one.

E. ALLOTMENTS – There has been no meeting. Their AGM is scheduled for the 3rd May

which will take place in the Community Office at 7pm.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD –18/3/2013

Cricket Nets – letter from Owen Lewis was attached to the agenda

TW said that it will be important to have the correct legal wording for the guarantee.

Resolved:

1. To agree the creation of the net area by the construction of a permanent solid base, made of hardcore and concrete with strips of astro-turf on top. It is noted that Planning Permission is not required.
2. To agree a guarantee to Beechwood Estates to return the area back to the original condition in circumstances such as reaching the end of the normal term of the lease arrangement. The Sports Club will give WPC a written guarantee to return this area to the original condition in the same circumstances as above. It was agreed that NG and KT will send a letter to Beechwood Estates in the first instance.

It was noted that if there is cost for any legal works that this will be covered by the Sports Club. It was noted that there is a PEG meeting scheduled for tomorrow night.

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – There has been no meeting.

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP – There has been no meeting.

55/13 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 No 92 – PCC re Churchyard – TH and KT will look into this and reply to them.

Letter No 93 – Mr R Butler – KT will respond to this.

56/13 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

There were no reports received.

57/13 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.39PM