



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8.00pm on Tuesday 11th April 2017

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Chairman (IH)
Matt Reid – Vice-Chairman (MR)
Jeremy Bell (JB)
Bob West (BW)
Fiona Paterson (FP)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Stephanie Van de Pette (SvP)
Nicky Smallbone (NS)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Fergus Lapage (FL)
Terry Jackson (TJ)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock (AB)

In Attendance:

Gill Bindoff, Peter Richardson – NP Forum

46/17 Apologies for absence
Rob Smith, Rachel Huckvale

47/17 Chairman's Remarks

IH said that it was very sad news about the fire at DG Homecare. A Councillor has asked a question as to whether the Parish Council could give any financial help to the owners and IH stated that Parish Councils are unable to give financial help to individuals or businesses. It was agreed that the Parish Council send a letter to Mr and Mrs Starling. IH stated that the lack of firemen in Watlington is a concern and WPC should try and promote this issue of local people joining the reserve firefighter team as it was a huge shame that the Watlington Fire Engine could not turn out due to lack of firefighters.

The Easter Egg Hunt last Saturday was a successful event and IH thanked RH and FP and their team for all the effort put into this event.

48/17 District Councillors Report - Anna Badcock

AB congratulated the NP Team on getting to this stage with the Watlington Neighbourhood Plan

Charity and Volunteer Awards – These will take place on the 9/5/2017.

New Relief Scheme for Smaller Businesses – AB reported that for 2017/2018 business rate relief will be given to businesses with a value of less than £100,000. The contact name at SODC is Vicky Johnson.

Grant Funding – SODC have provided more than £1M in grants to 16 Groups these include Age Concern, South and Vale Carers, Berinsfield.

Thame Leisure Centre – This will be getting an upgrade to make it have a much better user

experience. Henley will also be getting an upgrade.

Wallingford Splash Park at the Riverside – This will open on the 7th April and this is a fantastic facility.

Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation - AB said that she is heartened to see in this document that more houses have been allocated to Culham as it has very good road and rail infrastructure. Land has been put aside for roads for Chalgrove and this will impact on local parishes. Wat7 (Old MOD site) is included in the safeguarded land. AB said she would be interested in the Parishes comments. Councillors can also comment on this consultation as individuals. TJ asked if the land safeguarded for roads is dependent on the Chalgrove Development. AB said that they will not be built unless this happens. AB stated that Shirburn and Cuxham are particularly concerned regarding their roads and they have brought their comments to some meetings. Some kind of traffic management would have to be put in these areas. Cuxham have proposed a route by Easington via Clare. WPC should contact their neighbouring parishes to see if they can be supported in any way. It was noted that development for Watlington would need a new road but this would not be built until the Chalgrove development takes place. It was asked how many houses would need to be built for a new road to be made. It was thought in that 250 houses would be sufficient to require a start to be made to the road. The build rate for the Chalgrove site, if it goes ahead is about 250 per year until 2022. AB said that WPC should press for confirmation of the exact number of houses. IH said that there will be an Election in 2022 and there could then be new Local Plan policies.

AB stated that if the money for a road could be committed the road is more likely to be built and said we should challenge this in the WPC response. AB said she can always put pressure on to get answers on any questions raised. TW said that we must include this issue in our response as it is essential we keep the pressure up with the SODC and OCC Cabinet members. TJ stated that part of the argument for safeguarding the land for a road was also because of the AQMA issue. AB said that was correct but where was the money going to come from. OCC will need to come back on this issue as SODC writes the policies on air quality issues but OCC have to take action. OCC could be asked what money they are putting forward into this. AB said that she would presume it would be an amalgamation of money from a number of sources but at the moment all they are doing is safeguarding the land. AB said that if WPC are focussed on getting the road built when planning applications come in WPC must be mindful of this.

IH thanked AB for her intervention on the air quality issue and now has a response to his communication although not quite what he wanted.

DG Homecare Fire - AB reported that surveyors came out today to examine the building and they want to try and repair the main building. Scaffolding will be going up over the next few days. AB said the Fire Service was amazing. The initial thoughts about its cause is that it was an electrical issue.

49/17 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no Declaration of Interest notified.

50/17 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 14th March 2017 and 30th March 2017 to be signed as a correct record

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

51/17 Matters arising from the Minutes

B4009 (Minute 37/17 refers) – TJ said that she did not attend the March Full Council meeting but was concerned on reading the minutes that this had been asked of OCC, by a Councillor, without having been discussed first by the Council. TW said that he had sent this request as an individual and not as a Parish Councillor.

52/17 Recommendation from the Full Council Meeting held on 30th March 2017

To approve the Draft Neighbourhood Plan to be sent to SODC for the Pre Inspection Consultation

GB stated that all the documents were emailed to Councillors in advance of this meeting and said that she hoped everyone had been delivered the card giving the dates for the drop in sessions and the roadshows on this issue.

GB said that it is important that Council sign off the Environmental Report also tonight, which is basically a technical document. All the documents are draft at this stage and will remain so until the Examiner has looked at them. Neither documents are set in stone. GB stated that Councillors can also make their personal comments on the Consultation. There are three other draft documents: the Basic Conditions Statement, which is a statutory requirement and is a required governance document confirming that the plan is in compliance with national and local requirements; the Green Spaces Paper and the Map Supplement. These three documents are for information and these will need WPC approval to publish them. Councillors have also been sent the Questionnaire which will be put in the public arena next Tuesday.

The Consultation Draft Plan has been worked up with the NPSC and the questionnaire will be able to be filled in on-line or on the paper copy. All responses will be anonymous. In the main document is a time line which SODC have used in their Local Plan and states that the NP Referendum will take place in December 2017.

TW gave congratulation to GB and her team of skilled people for getting the work done that was needed to achieve this stage. TW said that the time line is very helpful. He said he is also glad for the statement that traffic issues cannot be allowed in the Plan. RB asked what sort of return is expected on the questionnaire. GB said she would be upset if it was less than 50%. The Housing Survey questionnaire got a 50% return rate. JB said that the one thing he found very helpful is the way that the WNP fits into the SODC Local Plan and it would be useful for our residents to know that it is in the system and decisions will be enshrined once it is agreed. TB said this message would be much better done verbally and GB said that a statement could be put on the display boards for the drop in sessions and roadshows.

RESOLVED: That Watlington Parish Council approve the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and the Environmental Report to be sent to SODC for the Pre Inspection Consultation, subject to final checking on comments already been sent, by Ian Hill.

It was also approved that the Basic Conditions Statement, the Green Spaces Paper and the Maps Supplement be published.

53/17 Public Questions

There were none notified.

54/17 County Councillors Report

SH had sent his apologies for this meeting and his Monthly Report for April 2017 had been emailed to Councillors

55/17 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 and the Chairman of Finance.

56/17 Committees:

A: FINANCE –21/3/2017 – Tony Williamson

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

Appointment of Member onto the Finance Committee

RESOLVED: That Fergus Lapage be appointed onto this committee.

Job Description for new Assistant Clerk – NS/KT had produced a draft which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

TB stated that when he was on this committee and this was discussed he thought that the Clerk was going to make a list of every single thing that she does. MR said that things have changed since Chris Wiltshire has informed us of her intention to retire. We now need to have an assistant Clerk that can take over when KT is not in the office. TW said that it is envisaged that the Assistant Clerk will take on specific duties eg Town Hall, 33 High Street etc. It was agreed that once someone has been appointed a review of duties can be carried out.

Resolved: that the Advert can be put out at the appropriate time.

B: PLANNING – 4/3/2017- Bob West

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

BW said that the meeting only had 2 applications to consider of which one was agreed and one had no strong views.

Appointment of Members onto the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That Fergus Lapage and Rob Smith be appointed onto this committee.

C: STRATEGY- There has been no meeting

Unitary Council

Vote: 8 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention

RESOLVED: That Watlington Parish Council do not support the Proposal for Better Oxfordshire.

Councillor details on lists and website

RESOLVED: That the information to be held on the website for Councillors should be the same as on the noticeboards, Name, Address and Telephone number.

Chilterns AONB – Beacons of the Past – asking for WPC support.

Vote: 11 in favour, 1 against

RESOLVED: That WPC allocate £150 to this very worthwhile project subject to WPC having an underspend of budget in 2016/2017.

Appointment of Members onto the Strategy Committee

RESOLVED: That Fergus Lapage and Rob Smith be appointed onto this committee.

D. OPERATIONS –22/3/2017 – Bob West

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

BW said that quotes will be coming shortly for installing the fencing around the children's play area in the paddock and hopefully this can be put in soon.

NS said that she has heard reports about kites swooping on children. TJ said that there is good advice in the Watlington Times and there will be monthly reports on this issue. The Operations Committee are finalising a leaflet which will hopefully be circulated to residents shortly. It was noted that this is a real issue in Watlington.

Appointment of Member onto the Operations Committee

RESOLVED: That Fergus Lapage be appointed onto this committee.

E. ALLOTMENTS – NS reported that the AGM will be held on Thursday 20th April at 7.30pm in the Community Office. There is a vacant plot.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – There has been no meeting.

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – 20/3/2017 – Jeremy Bell

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

57/17 Correspondence for Information - List Attached to Agenda

There was no correspondence discussed. Most letters are allocated to a specific committee for discussion.

58/17 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

Thames Valley Police – KT reported that Lee Kehoe our PCSO will be attending the next Strategy Committee meeting and she will invite all Councillors to this agenda item.

59/17 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

High Street Road Closure and Buses – IH reported that the Oxford Bus Stop will be at the Industrial

Estate roundabout, as this is the only place it can turn round, whilst the road closure is in place. FP said she was concerned that people have to walk quite a long way. IH said that there is nothing that can be done about this. Notices have been put up on stops informing bus users of this.

Bandstand at Paddock – MR asked if this issue has been considered. This has been looked at previously and it was agreed that this be looked at again by the Operations Committee.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.34PM