

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 13th December 2011

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Chairman
David Tindale – Vice-Chairman
Rhian Woods
Barry Adby
Nick Hancock
Ted Backhouse
Tim Horton
Tony Williamson
Harvey Batten
Robert Barber
Nick Greaves
Roger Beattie

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillor:

Angie Paterson

Members of the Public:

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158/11 Apologies for absence
Charles Rowton-Lee, Di Tolan

159/11 Chairman's Remarks
Ian Hill thanked Philip Pinney and FOWL for all the work they have done on library issues. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to him.

160/11 To receive Declarations of Interest
Youth Club Grant – Roger Beattie declared an interest in this item.

161/11 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 8th November 2011 to be signed as a correct record
Resolved: That these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

162/11 Matters arising from the Minutes

Triathlon – Minute 153/11 refers – The Operations Committee are dealing with this issue. There is a meeting set up for February with OCC and the Organisers. Barry Adby will attend this.

163/11 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

164/11 District Councillors Report – Angie Paterson

Core Strategy – This has been delayed again as the Inspector has put forward a draft recommendation for a different strategic site in Wallingford. A Sustainability Appraisal will have to be carried out. However SODC are now hoping to adopt this in March/April 2012 now. Tim Horton asked in relation to Watlington if there are parameters of the number of houses that Watlington needs to look at, by which Authority are the figures being brought forward and will there be a promise of further sustainability studies as for Wallingford?

Angie Paterson said that the Core Strategy stands as it is apart from the Wallingford site. The number of houses for the larger villages is 1154 which if averaged would be about 150 for each larger village. Specific numbers for any larger village have not been determined. The sites put forward from the Site Allocation plan will not necessarily be agreed. These are sites which landowners and developers have put forward and they will have to be appraised against Planning Criteria. There is nothing stopping people putting in an application. At the moment SODC are still using the Local Plan (which runs out next year) and the Core Strategy has been brought in to take over this. If a planning application came in today it would be taken into consideration using the current Local Plan and with a view to the Core Strategy.

On questions about Neighbourhood plans Angie confirmed that if a Neighbourhood Plan is developed a Referendum of the Community will need to be held.

Angie Paterson asked if Council would like her to bring one of the Planning Policy Officers along to a meeting to discuss any issues that Councillors have. It was agreed that Angie Paterson arrange this for an appropriate time.

Polling Station at Christmas Common – The decision on this will be taken by SODC on the 15/12/2011. Angie Paterson has lobbied that this polling station is kept.

Ian Hill thanked Angie Paterson for coming to the meeting.

165/11 County Councillors Report

There was no report received.

166/11 Thames Valley Police Report

There was no report received.

167/11 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.

Resolved: That the Balance of Accounts be accepted and the List of Payments be

settled and that these be signed by the Chairman.

168/11 Committees:

A: FINANCE –29/11/2011- Tony Williamson

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Budget 2012/2013 and Precept

Tony Williamson reported that the Committee had a very good and interesting discussion with Youth Club representatives. A discussion also took place on the Chiltern Conservation Board who has applied to us for some funding as the Government, SODC and OCC have ceased to fund them. The budget and precept was looked at with regard to the advice from the Strategy Committee of putting 3% on the non-staff element of the budget. It was noted that this year we can set our own precept but from next year we will be bound to do the same as the District and County Council.

Roger Beattie asked about the Town Hall accounts and it was noted that accounts are available at each Town Hall meeting and they are put into the Annual Report as the Town Hall Trustee body is not allowed to report on a regular basis to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Town Hall accounts be looked at by the Finance Committee when they consider the budget for the following year. The budget request should be submitted in the form of a formal letter from the Town Hall Trustee body.

The Youth Club figure has been put in the budget as £3,000 this is a provisional figure and it has not yet been agreed that this amount be the sum given. The Youth Club are working on their projected figures and looking at grants that they could apply for. They are also looking into fundraising opportunities.

Tony Williamson was thanked for all his work on the budget.

Resolved:

- 1) The Parish part of the D Band rate has been increased by 1% to £71.92.
- 2) The total precept for the Parish has increased by 1.9% to £86,105 as a result of both this increase in the rate and an increased tax base (the measure of number and value of properties in the Parish).
- 3) This precept allows a 3% increase in the budget for non-staff related expenditure with no increase in staff costs.

Tim Horton asked that a note be put into the Council Tax leaflet stating what and why we have put up the Precept. It was agreed that a note also be put in the Watlington Times.

Review of Financial Regulations 2011

Resolved: That the attached Financial Regulations for 2011/2012 be approved by Council.

B: PLANNING – 6/12/2011 – Rhian Woods

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

All applications were approved apart from one which the Committee objected to – Barn Cottage, Howe Road.

The Committee are still awaiting information on some enforcement issues.

C: STRATEGY – 22/11/2011 – David Tindale
Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Dog Issue – There was a very useful presentation from Jacky Nabb (Chalgrove) and Operations Committee have been asked to take this issue on.

Co-op Financial Agreement regarding the Car Park – The three year agreement was agreed and has been sent to the Co-op for signing.

Go Ride – It was agreed to allocate £653 to them for a 16 month period. This will go over 2 years and can be seen in the budget figures.

Junction 6 Parking Issues – It is hoped to set up a meeting with Lewknor Parish Council to discuss this.

Speed Issues on Howe Road – A letter has been sent to OCC along with the residents petition asking OCC to investigate this issue.

Bandstand in the Paddock – The Watlington Concert Band will be asked to attend a meeting with us to discuss this.

D. OPERATIONS – 16/11/2011 – Barry Adby
Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Public Conveniences

Resolved: That we spend up to £6,000 out of the Public Conveniences Reserves which will include the necessary work to the roof, 3 new toilet pans, 2 pods for the Men's toilet (Possibly one adult, one child) and other items as above depending on cost.

Triathlon – Meeting has been arranged for February with organisers and OCC.

Trees in the Town planted by WPC – Tim Horton and Barry Adby to put together a list and that we ask our Tree Wardens to comment if any works are needed to be done.

Mansle Gardens – Height of Hedge – This to be looked at and the Operations Committee to discuss if this hedge needs to be lowered. If required, this should be done early in the year before the birds start nesting.

Watlington signs to be put on gates at entrances to town – It has been indicated by OCC in the past that this be done to reduce the amount of posts that signs are on. The Clerk to write to OCC formally regarding us doing this.

Gate on Britwell Road – It was agreed that the Clerk write to Mike Young thanking him for repairing this gate.

E. ALLOTMENTS – There has been no meeting.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 17/11/2011- Tony Williamson

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Tony Williamson said that this was a good meeting and he reported on the Football Development Plan which includes sensible ways of using the facility.

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – 8/12/2011 – David Tindale

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

David Tindale reported that this was a good meeting which covered a lot of ground. It was agreed that the Confidential note be discussed later in Confidential Session.

169/11 Correspondence for Information - **List was attached to the Agenda**

Letter No 1037- SODC requesting our views on which services the Council should prioritise - The Clerk to request some extra time for this.

Letter No 1039– Lewis Batten regarding rejuvenation of Skate Park- It was agreed that the Clerk write back to them letting them know that they have the backing of the Parish Council to go ahead and come up with a specification for this work. It was noted that the project will have to come back to Council when the scheme has been designed and costed.

170/11 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

The following report had been received by Philip Pinney- Chairman of the Friends of Watlington Library.

‘I spent yesterday in County Hall trying to persuade OCC to find a fairer and more equitable solution for Oxfordshire's rural libraries. Alongside leaders of Councils, Friends' Groups and other bodies from across the County, we presented our cases to the Scrutiny Committee (0900-1205) and then Cabinet (1300-1545). Although they had received almost 5000 responses to their consultation and then heard the cases put forward by almost all elements of rural Oxfordshire, I am afraid their proposed decision contained in the 342 page report put to the Committees was carried by Scrutiny and then approved by Cabinet.

For the record, a copy of my speaking notes are on file in the Parish Office. After my 5 minutes to scrutiny and 3 minutes to Cabinet, I was delighted to hear Watlington's case being mentioned many times in the deliberations by the members of each Committee - but that alone did not save the day, so I must apologise for not being able to win the battle.

As you probably heard from the media last night, sadly the OCC decision means that at some time over the next 3 years, Watlington Library will have to change to staffing levels that are 50% paid and 50% volunteer. The OCC Library Service will approach us, probably in the New Year, to begin discussions about how Watlington might want to make this change. Clearly this will be a matter for Watlington Parish Council, FOWL and our wonderful and loyal Library staff to debate. Indeed, we may also need to bring others into the discussion from the many surrounding parishes that use Watlington as their "hub".

Over the next few days and weeks, we must plan our strategy for the future. In the meantime, I feel sure that I am speaking for all the Friends when I say that we must

keep a vibrant and thriving Library in Watlington for decades to come - in 2012 we must decide how.'

171/11 Sports Field – Paper from Nick Greaves – To be taken in Confidential Session at the end of the Meeting

172/11 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair
To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council

Town and Council Forum – Ian Hill and Nick Hancock attended this meeting at SODC. Nick Hancock has prepared a note on the main issue of Neighbourhood Plans,

which is a key part of the Localism Bill. This issue will be an agenda item for the January Strategy meeting.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT
10.00PM AND WENT INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE
OF The Sports Field and the Affordable Housing Recommendation from the Meeting
held on 8/12/2012**

Confidential Items

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: THAT under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items of business of the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 7,8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

