



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office At 8.00pm on Tuesday 13th December 2016

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill –Chairman (IH)
Matt Reid – Vice-Chairman (MR)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Jeremy Bell (JB)
Nicky Smallbone (NS)
Stephanie Van Pette (SvP)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Bob West (BW)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Fiona Paterson (FP) – after the Co-option Agenda Item

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Press:

David White – Henley Standard

Members of the Public:

2

177/16 Apologies for absence
Tom Bindoff, Jon Lorimer.

178/16 Co-option onto Council – There were 2 applicants for this position but prior to the meeting Brian Steer informed Council that he no longer wished to stand
The following questions were asked to Fiona Paterson
1. What community issues are important to you?
2. What do you like and dislike about living in Watlington?
3. What experience and skills do you think you can bring to the Parish Councillor?

After Fiona Paterson had responded to these questions a vote was taken and it was:
Resolved Unanimously: That Fiona Paterson be co-opted onto Watlington Parish Council.
She signed the 'Acceptance of Office' Form and then joined the meeting.

179/16 Chairman's Remarks

IH stated that Robin Wilson had formally resigned from the Council (letter No 306). We will be looking to Co-opt another Councillor in February 2017.
An email from Stephen Harrod has been received which stated that due to his wife's illness he will not be attending evening meetings. It was agreed to send him a card with our best wishes.

180/16 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest notified.

181/16 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 8th November 2016 to be signed as a correct record

The following two amendments were agreed:
Minute 164/16, Page 54 and 55– to replace 'sights' with 'sites' and that MR not TW stated 'that Watlington Parish Council will be looking at next year's budget....'.

Resolved: That with the two amendments shown above, these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

182/16 Acceptance of the Outreach Minutes 7/11/2016

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted.

183/16 Matters arising from the Minutes

Minute 173/16 G: Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – SvP said that she has emailed Oxford Brookes and is awaiting a response from them.

Minute 176/16: Watlington Parish Council Strategic Plan – SvP had organised a meeting to discuss this. 6 Councillors attended this Workshop. IH said that it was a very effective meeting.

Minute 173/16 G: Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – TW said that TB had stated that Grenoble Road had a lot of problems etc and that there are plenty of things to oppose but that Oxford City Council would not be pursuing this if it was such a difficult technical site so they must think that these problems can be overcome.

184/16 Public Questions

The following public questions had been received from Tim Horton prior to the meeting:

1. In the light of resignation of Councillor Robin Wilson in a letter dated 4th December, would Council deplore at all times any language or behaviour expressed towards or between Parish Councillors that might be described as ‘haranguing’? *Council would of course deplore any behaviour that may be described as haranguing.*
2. Will the Council collectively express its deepest concern on learning of matters as expressed by Councillor Wilson and invite him to withdraw his resignation whilst, at the same time, instigate some inquiry into the further background of the Planning Committee meeting this month and later events? *Councillor Wilson has been contacted regarding his resignation and he has stated that he does not wish to withdraw his resignation.*
3. Will the Council make immediate reference of events on 4 December to the Monitoring Officer of the District Council so that she may report upon, and take appropriate action? *Mr Wilson has not named any person involved in this so this would not be possible.*
4. Will the Council recognise that its membership might benefit from sessions of training and awareness on good practice in relation to a) the practice of chairmanship b) the observance of ‘interest’ and, c) the role of officers (fulltime and others) regarding meetings and work between meetings? *The Clerk has sent an email to Tim Horton prior to the meeting which shows the training that Councillors have had.*

Ian Hill gave an initial response to these questions (shown above in italics) and it was then:

Resolved: That this be an agenda item for the Strategy Meeting in January 2017. A meeting may be arranged prior to this to go through the points. Mr Horton will then be sent a written response.

185/16 District Councillors Report

Anna Badcock had sent her apologies for this meeting.

186/16 County Councillors Report

Stephen Harrod had sent his apologies for this meeting. His latest monthly report has been sent to all Councillors. IH said that there was nothing in the report specifically as regards Watlington but topics included Unitary Local Government, How to keep warm well this winter, improving adoptions services.

TW said that there is enormous pressure on all services and that he has been horrified personally about inefficiencies that have affected his family dramatically.

187/16 Thames Valley Police Report – Report was attached to the Agenda.

The report was noted. The Clerk reported that PCSO Lewis Carpenter has now been moved and that we will have a new PCSO in place in the next few days.

188/16 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.

189/16 Committees:

A: FINANCE –29/11/2016 – Tony Williamson

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

TW said that the Committee had spent a lot of time going through the budget figures and considering the major issues we are facing because of cut backs in SODC and OCC. He asked if we should be taking up items such as Street Cleaning, Extra Grass Cutting, Children's Centre, Buses etc and these have been included in the first draft of the budget for the next financial year. He also said that with the way the NP is going and all the planning applications such as for Chalgrove that the Committee felt that we have got to be prepared to put in some money for professional advice on behalf of our community. It also seems likely that next year Parish Councils could be brought under the regime that we cannot increase the Precept by more than 2% without having a Referendum.

There is also a wider power 'General Power of Competence' which if we had we could do a lot more for our community than under our current regime. However certain credentials need to be had and the Committee are further investigating this. The Committee will next meet on the 4/1/2017 and will bring recommendations to Full Council on the 10/1/2017 unless Council have major issues in principle with the 10.8% increase in the Precept which is what would be needed to provide the extra money needed to be able to help with all the extra items. A show of hands was taken to see if this would be acceptable and this was 10 in favour and 1 abstention. It was noted that this 10.8% increase relates to our Band D residents paying an extra £1 per month for 10 months.

Review of Staffing Needs

Resolved: That budget provision be made for 2017/2018 for £5000 with the detail to be considered later and a report will be written on this.

Membership of the Finance Committee

Resolved: That Stephanie Van de Pette be appointed as a Member of this Committee.

B: PLANNING – 6/12/2016 – Jeremy Bell

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

JB reported that the Committee considered a Screening Opinion for the Land at Pyrton and sent the following statement: WPC considers that the application P16/S3794/SCR triggers the threshold for urban development projects in Schedule 2 Table 10(b)(iii) of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011, as amended, namely that "the overall area of the development exceeds 5 hectares" and that the development proposed is located adjacent to an environmentally sensitive area (as defined by Schedule 3 of the above named regulations), namely the Chilterns AONB.

JB said that they also looked at a Planning Protocol and a lot of progress was made on this. It will be discussed again at the next meeting.

1. Appointment of a new Member following the resignation of Robin Wilson – No Councillor put themselves forward to join the Planning Committee.

C: STRATEGY- There has been no meeting – Matt Reid

1. Communications Policy – Draft by SvP attached. The yellow highlighted parts need to be discussed.

The highlighted parts were discussed and SvP will incorporate the changes into the document. This will then be sent to next Strategy Committee meeting to approve.

2. Hurdlers Green - Deed of Easement over strip of land at Hurdler Green

Their solicitor has asked that Council agree to remove the covenant which prevents the use of the land transferred to them many years ago for any purpose other than as a garden.

This issue was discussed and it was noted that as they cannot park on the hardstanding it was mooted that we should remove this condition.

Resolved: That Council agree to remove this covenant.

3. Improving connections between Watlington and the Ridgeway National Trail – Asking for Council support in taking the proposal forward. All Councillors have been emailed this information.

Resolved: That Council agree this and that one or two people draft a response.

D. OPERATIONS – 16/11/2016 – Bob West

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

Fencing around Play Area in the Paddock – A site visit will be held to agree where the fencing should be located.

SSE - It was noted that they give out very good information with regards to power cuts etc.

It was noted that SvP has resigned from this Committee.

E. ALLOTMENTS – NS stated that it is the quiet season and that there are no issues to report.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 21/11/2016 – Ian Hill

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

IH reported that this was an uncontentious meeting and that there were no recommendations made.

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – 14/11/2016

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

JB stated that there was a meeting with HCA today but that he was unable to attend it. This is very important to our NP. IH attended this meeting which was from 10-3.30pm the main objective of this meeting was for other parishes that would be affected by the proposal if there was a new route around Watlington. Brightwell Baldwin, Shirburn and Cuxham would be very affected by this and they gave their views on it. The promoters of the proposed Housing Development at Chalgrove say that they have a solution for Cuxham which they will unveil on the 5/1/2017. The afternoon session was just for Watlington and Pyrton and to see if there was any agreement on what sort of alternate route around Watlington would be acceptable.

JB also said that there has been a lot of work done recently on the Site Selections for the Watlington NP.

1. Appointment of a new Member following the resignation of Robin Wilson

Resolved: That TW be appointed as the new NPSC member.

190/16 Discussion Items requested from Councillors

Tom Bindoff

Watlington Car Park

1. WPC should write to SODC to establish once and for all whether/if we transfer the ownership of the car park to an appropriate Charity Body, we can gain exemption of business rates and if so what conditions would apply.

2. In the anticipation of an agreement from SODC, Full Council should consider whether an existing Watlington charity would be suitable to use for the car park or whether a new one needs to be set up (possibly to hold all WPC property holdings not already included in a charity)

Chalgrove Solar Park

As you will know, Debbie Davies has drawn our attention to the purchase of the Chalgrove Solar Park by a major investment company. Therefore I think that Ian should update the Full Council, most of whose members were elected after the installation of the Solar park, to the background of the offer of compensation to Watlington to mitigate the effects of the disruption that is still unpaid. The Council should decide whether to pursue the claim for compensation with the new owners in the hope of getting an ex gratia payment.

Stephanie Van de Pette

Link with Icknield Community College School Council

Resolved: that all the items above be referred to the Strategy January meeting.

Terry Jackson

Watlington Hoard

This is an item that I think we should give consideration to in Full Council that will also need to go to Finance.

I think that as the Hoard was found in Watlington we should make a good contribution to ensure that it is displayed in Oxfordshire at the Ashmolean and that if we can offer a large enough sum we may be able to secure an advantage for the people of Watlington wishing to view the hoard. We may even be able to arrange for a talk and demo at the Town Hall, or something along these lines.

<http://www.ashmolean.org/support/give/>

Resolved: That TJ liaise with Tim Horton and give a request to the Finance Committee meeting on the 4/1/17 for discussion.

191/16 Correspondence for Information - **List Attached to Agenda**

Letter No 298 - OALC – NALC lobby for Parish Councillors to claim Dependants Carers Allowance – survey – **TW to draft a response on this which will be sent to all Councillors for their comments prior to being sent.**

Letter No 310 - Democratic Services SODC – Independent Review of Members Services – **It was agreed that individual Councillors to respond if they so wish.**

Letter No 318 - BT – copy of letter to SODC Planning Officer re 90 Day Consultation Period end date of 31st January 2017 – Payphone Kiosk Removal – **This will be discussed by the Strategy Committee meeting 24/1/2016.**

Letter No 320 - OALC – They would like our views on Public Service Ombudsman Bill. NALC support the extension of the Ombudsman to the Town and Parish Council Sector. – **Agreed that KT ask for an extension until after the Strategy Meeting on the 24/1/2016.**

192/16 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

Town Hall Charity Trustee Body

Resolved: That Tim Horton be co-opted onto the Town Hall Charity Trustee Body.

193/16 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.58PM