

# Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Present: Ian Hill – Chairman  
Angie Paterson – Vice-Chairman  
Tony Williamson  
Di Tolan  
Ted Backhouse  
Roger Beattie  
Rhian Woods,  
Nick Greaves

Officer: Kristina Tynan  
Press: Jennifer Maxfield – Henley Standard  
Members of the Public: 2

19/11 Apologies for absence  
David Tindale, Charles Rowton-Lee, Barry Adby, PC Ian Kent.

20/11 Chairman's Remarks  
There were none.

21/11 To receive Declarations of Interest  
There were no declarations of interest..

22/11 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and the Full Council Special Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to be signed as a correct record  
It was noted that Nick Greaves was present at the meeting of the 25/1/2011.  
**Resolved:** That the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting on the 11/1/2011 and the Full Council Special Meeting on 25/11/2011 be accepted as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

23/11 Matters arising from the Minutes  
There were none other than agenda items.

24/11 Public Questions  
**The Residents of Christmas Common asked Watlington Parish Council to support them in their efforts to reduce traffic speed through the village. – Howard Griffiths spoke on behalf of the residents on this issue** (Paper was attached to the Agenda)  
Ian Hill welcomed Howard Griffiths to the meeting.  
HG explained the background and said that after Speed Monitoring by OCC this road was identified as having a speeding problem serious enough to warrant action. It was noted that this road is a rat run to the M40 during rush hours and volume of traffic has increased over the years and speeds are also higher. There are now more children in the village who walk on the road to

get on school buses. On 22nd December 2010 a meeting took place between Peter Ronald (OCC), representatives of Christmas Common residents and WPC to establish what, in Peter Ronald's opinion, was possible and not possible, such as road humps, chicanes, platforms, signage, speed cameras, road markings, speed indicator devices, road verges and bollards. A number of options were ruled out for various reasons including cost, but a number were deemed possible and worthwhile.

On 8th January a large group of residents met to discuss the conclusions of the meeting and establish a way forward. There was a very high degree of agreement so the proposals that follow have strong local support. Peter Ronald had made it quite clear that the support of the Parish Council as elected representatives would be key to progress and that requests should be put forward by WPC. None of the measures proposed should have any budgetary implications for WPC. The measures the residents would like the Parish Council to request OCC and Thames Valley Police to do are:

1. **30mph roundels on a red strip on the road at the entrances to Christmas Common between the white gates.** *PR said he would be able to implement this if requested by WPC.*
2. **Replacement of the 30mph signs with more visible versions.** OCC to install integrated place name and 30mph signs as in the photo in the paper. If this is not possible at least more visible 30mph signs and all the signage consolidated in one place along with the white gates. *Peter Ronald said this could be possible if requested by WPC.*
3. **Speed enforcement by Thames Valley Police.** Following the survey results the road through Christmas Common is now officially recognised as having a speeding problem. This is an enforcement issue, which Thames Valley Police has an obligation to address and ask the Parish Council to request a mobile speed camera van be deployed as soon as possible. Christmas Common residents will assist the enforcement officers to resolve any issues, such as positioning of the camera van, if necessary. When mobile enforcement occurs, if this is advised in the public domain prior to taking place, this then will update all the sat-nav databases and will alert drivers using this that there is potentially a speed trap in Christmas Common. Mobile speed cameras necessitate signage to be in place.
4. **Speed Aware signage.** Request these temporary signs be installed. This can be a matter which the Community Police officers can implement.

HG stated that the local residents are well aware that these measures will not be the complete panacea for slowing the traffic down but hope they will make a significant difference and that WPC will give vigorous support to our efforts. He has said that they have now set up a Residents Association in Christmas Common.

Following discussion Council:

**Resolved:** That all the 5 issues above should be requested and that the Clerk write to OCC and Thames Valley Police regarding these.

Ian Hill thanked Howard Griffiths for coming and giving such a clear and good presentation to Council

25/11 District Councillors Report- Angie Paterson

**Budget** – The SODC budget has not yet been set as financial and procedural items are still under discussion.

**Localism Bill** – There will be a number of briefings on this at SODC. There will be one aimed for Parish Councils.

26/11 County Councillors Report  
No report had been received.

27/11 Thames Valley Police Report  
PC Ian Kent had submitted the following report as he was unable to attend this meeting.  
**Parking issues junction 6 M40** - Although the multi agency meeting, including hopefully the local MP was anticipated for the end of January it will not go ahead until the data has been gathered via the two surveys from the residents of Lewknor and the bus service users. The first survey of the residents is being driven by Lewknor PC . They wish to send notice of this in their Grape Vine publication prior to carrying out the survey itself, they agreed this at their last PC meeting on 10/01/11 and so results are awaited. The second survey to gather data on the views of bus users will be driven by the police due to the target hours

In addition to the above the NHT have liaised with Malcolm Bowler of OCC Highways ( 29/12/10 ) re improvement of road markings at Hill Road Lewknor junction B4009. These markings were therefore subject to a works order from Malcolm on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2010 with a time scale of 6 to 8 weeks due to road surface and weather.

**Rural crime / suspicious activity** - Watlington area has experienced recent reports of lead thefts for which enquiries are ongoing. Also reports of suspicious activity, namely vehicles driving onto isolated farms and properties asking for scrap metal / car batteries are increasing in the area but have been met with vigilance by householders who have reported sightings to the police which have been fed into the CountryWatch / Neighbourhood Watch / Dog Watch systems. This has led to vehicles and occupants being identified and police enquiries are ongoing to disrupt this criminal activity. Regular Community messages / appeals are ongoing.

**Armed Robbery Barclays Bank Watlington** -The following has appeared in the press recently which indicates progress on this investigation.

**Man charged over Watlington bank raid.**

A HENLEY man and woman have been charged after armed robberies in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Trevor Hayes, aged 45, of Leaver Road, is charged with robbing Barclays Bank in Watlington on January 6 and Checkendon Post Office on November 8 last year. He was held in custody to appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court tomorrow. Susan Langridge, 47, also of Leaver Road is charged with money laundering and will appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on February 10."

28/11 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments  
Tony Williamson read out the Balance of Accounts and proposed that the list of payment be settled. It was noted that the grants to CAB and the Youth Club are on the list as we have now received a copy of their accounts.  
**Resolved:** That the Balance of Accounts be agreed and signed by the Chairman and that the List of Payments be settled and the list be signed by the Chairman.

29/11 Committees:  
**A: FINANCE** – 20/1/2011 – Tony Williamson  
The minutes were given out and accepted at the Special Full Council meeting on the 25/1/2011

**B: PLANNING** – 4/1/2011- Rhian Woods

**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted by Council

**P11/E0006/RET Ploughmans, Howe Road** – Angie Paterson reported that as of today she has asked for this to go to SODC Planning Committee.

Rhian Woods stated that this is a retrospective application and the drive is in a different location and is made of different materials than agreed in a previous application(now lapsed). She stated that Robert Barber will be the WPC representative on this and will give our case for refusal at the SODC Meeting in March.

**WPC Planning Award 2011** – The Committee have a shortlist and site visits have taken place. There will be a confidential planning recommendation from the Planning Committee meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> March to the March Full Council meeting on a winner.

**New Access at Lys Mill** – Tony Williamson asked about this new access and whether it needed planning permission. Rhian Woods reported that as it is an agricultural holding it does not require planning permission.

**C: STRATEGY** – 25/1/2011- Ian Hill

**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted by Council

**Resolved:** That the attached Standing Order (dated February 2011) be agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

**Complaint Procedure and Disciplinary/Grievance Procedure** – The Chairman and the Clerk are working on these and both these procedure will be on the next Strategy Agenda and draft of both will be given out with the Strategy papers

**Watlington Distinctiveness/Website** – Tony Williamson reported that there had been a good meeting on this yesterday with Caroline Lye and Simon Jones (Business Association), Sarah Pullen, Kristina Tynan and himself, Tony Williamson gave out a paper on this at the meeting which is held on file.

That the present “Watlington.Gov.uk” and “Watlington.org” websites to be combined to form one, ‘Watlington.org’ website with a 4 -sectioned home page for one website as follows:

**Parish Council** to include all present information

**Events** – (now accessible on ‘Watlington.Gov.uk’) to include

1. Diary of weekly events with info about organisations
2. List of ‘one-off’ events in month
3. “What’s coming up” highlighting significant events in near future

**Directory** to include

4. Businesses
  - a. One-line free entry
  - b. Logo indicating members of WBA
  - c. Extra space/information for car park supporters
  - d. Adverts for businesses that pay
5. Organisations, Public Services and Emergency Numbers

**Tourist** to include. Up-dated, the tourist information now on “Watlington.org

**Resolved:** That we go ahead with this with the New Site to be launched at the end of March, with advance publicity in the March Watlington Times and the April/May Parish News, School newsletters etc and small posters in shops etc “We’re on the “Watlington.org” website. Information to be checked with organisations and businesses. The aim of this to see if it can be self-funding (yearly cost will be £305- less than previous years)

**D. OPERATIONS** – 19/1/2011 – Ted Backhouse  
**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted by Council

**Love Lane - Gritting**

**Resolved:** That we ask the County Council to add Love Lane to the gritting regime for next winter.

**Watlington in Bloom- Should we enter for 2011?**

Ian Hill reported that he had a long telephone conversation with Tim Horton who said that he felt this committee had been slowed down by having to go through Council on every issue. He suggested that this be an Independent Group – who would still need to come to Council for any work proposed on land belonging to WPC.

**Resolved:** That a meeting take place with Ian Hill and two other Councillors and the former Watlington in Bloom members to discuss the future of the Watlington in Bloom Committee and consider the possibility of alternative management arrangements that may be possible.

This issue to be brought back to the next Full Council Meeting in March

**Junction 6** – Tony Williamson reported that there is an immense amount of rubbish around this area.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk contact the Clerk of Lewknor regarding this.

**Pyrton Lane** – The Clerk has contacted OCC Land Registry regarding the issue and has sent a letter back to the resident.

**E. ALLOTMENTS** – There has been no meeting

**F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD** – 31/1/2011- Tony Williamson

**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted by Council

It was noted that the Sports Field rent is now £5,000 per annum. The Football Foundation had asked that a Business Plan be drawn up. A draft has been done by Ian Hill and will be considered by the Pavilion Committee.

Roger Beattie, Malcolm Hoskins have now resigned and Sandra Griffith will be resigning at the end of February.

**Resolved:** That the Chairman, Ian Hill sends letters of thanks to Roger Beattie, Malcolm Hoskins and Sandra Griffiths for all their work during their time on the Pavilion Committee.

**Trees at the edge of the Sports Field**

**Resolved:** That we ask our tree warden, Robert Barber to report on these.

**G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

The first meeting of this committee will be held on 21/2/2011

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That Robert Barber be co-opted onto this committee.

**This Recommendation was withdrawn.**

Angie Paterson asked if Co-option onto committees could be looked into at some point.

30/11 Correspondence for Information - **List was attached to Agenda**

**Letter 723 - LGP Solicitors** – We now own the field at Cuxham as at 1/2/2011. Nick Greaves to speak to our solicitor about a draft lease and heads of terms for the field.

31/11 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received  
No reports have been received.

32/11 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

*To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council*

**White Dotted Line at the Town Hall junction** (Strategy Minute Refers 97/10 23/11/2010) – OCC have put in this line to help with showing the priority of traffic. We have some positive and negative feedback on this.

**Forest Woodland** – Gill Bindoff has sent an email asking the parish council to make sure that it responds to the current government consultation on the future of forest/woodland belonging to the state and managed by the Forestry Commission. She is concerned about local areas at Cowleaze and Queen's Wood – **This was noted**

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.35PM**

