

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 14th February 2012

Present

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Chairman
Tony Williamson
Ted Backhouse
Barry Adby
Nick Greaves
Nick Hancock
Roger Beattie
Robert Barber
Harvey Batten
Di Tolan

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Press:

Janine Rasiah

District Councillor:

Angie Paterson

Members of the Public:

3

17/12 Apologies for absence

David Tindale, Rhian Woods, Tim Horton, Charles Rowton-Lee,

18/12 Chairman's Remarks

There were none.

19/12 To receive Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations on interest from Councillors relating to items to be considered at the meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Councils Local Code of Conduct.

Skatepark Issue – Harvey Batten declared a personal interest in this item as his son is part of the team looking into a new skatepark. He signed the Declaration of Interest book.

St Leonard's Church Issue – Tony Williamson declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as his wife is disabled and advice on this has been sought by OALC which is held on file in the office.

20/12 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 10th January 2012 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.

21/12 Matters arising from the Minutes

Bench by War Memorial - (Minute 16/12 refers) - It was noted that these benches are not the same but hoping to have two the same in due course. The one that does not match will then be relocated.

22/12 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified

23/12 **St Leonard's Church** – asking for community support for an extension to the Church and Leader Funding – letters from Revd Evans and Canon and Barbara Williamson were attached to the agenda and are held on file. **Mike Gardner was present at the meeting to answer any questions Councillors have.**

Mike Gardner reported that there was a public meeting on this held on the 23/1/2012. This extension involves building an extension which will have a disabled toilet and a new kitchen. They wish to apply for grants through the Leader Fund. He stated that this project has a value to the whole of Watlington and it should be a real community effort. St Leonard's Church is the oldest building in Watlington and has a spin-off to the rest of the community. He stated that this issue needs to be detached from the Church Hall issue. The timetable for the Leader Fund grant would be very tight and works would need to be completed by 31/3/2013.

Robert Barber asked where the Church was in terms of a Planning Application. Mike Gardner stated that the Architect has approached the SODC Planning Officer regarding this and he has stated that he would not oppose an extension.

Mike Gardner said that the Church has access to the Maria Cook Trust which may held fund this project to up to £50,000.00. There would also need to be some fundraising and other sources would be approached. He also stated that if Leader Fund Grant was not forthcoming this project would not be possible.

The Clerk stated that she has been in touch with the Leader Fund who stated that at this time the Church can only express an interest in the Fund. A full application cannot be sent until they have Planning Permission for the scheme and therefore at this stage it does not need to have Community/Parish Council support.

Resolved: That in the light of the Clerk's statement it was agreed that we note this request at this stage.

Alan Keen, a member of the public had asked to speak on this issue prior to the meeting and he stated that he thought Tony Williamson had a prejudicial interest in this item being a member of the Ministerial Team and should not have taken part in this discussion.

St Leonard's Churchyard- Tony Williamson stated that a lot of work has been done to this area to make it accessible to all. However there are future issues about its maintenance and its value as a major community resource. He said that it would be helpful if the Operations Committee could discuss this and Mike Gardner will be sending a letter on this issue for this meeting.

24/12 **Skate Park**

There was a meeting with 3 Councillors and the 'Skatepark Regeneration' Team and they explained that they would like to look into regenerating this area and fundraising for this scheme. The area in which they would like to make improvements was marked out on a map. It was noted that a lot of money has been spent in the recreation area for younger children and also the adult gym equipment but the skate area is now looking a bit tired and worn. Ted Backhouse stated that he was very impressed with their enthusiasm and with doing things the right way. Roger Beattie stated that Martin Edis is now Chairman of the Youth Club and they have expressed an interest to provide some type of

building in the Recreation area for young people at some point. It was noted that the location of the septic tanks will need to be considered when plans are drawn up.

Resolved: That the area highlighted on the plan attached to the agenda be accepted as the area within which a design for the new skatepark would be located.

25/12 District Councillors Report – Angie Paterson

Grants – Both OCC and SODC have some grants that may be suitable for the Skatepark Project. AP also offered the group help if they needed it regarding this issue.

Triathlon 2012- Robert Barber asked if SODC had any comments on this. AP replied that it was not an issue that had come up at District Council. It was more an OCC highways issue. She had, however been asking parish councils in the Ward for their views to try to make sure that the voices of the parishes outside of Henley are heard as it was the rural villages that seem to have been most adversely affected.

Waste – There will be NO changes to the current waste collection regime.

Core Strategy – Angie Paterson reported that this is now in the formal 7 week period. People can write direct to the Inspector but not to SODC. SODC are looking to adopt this in May unless anything else occurs. AP will ask a Planning Officer to attend a meeting at an appropriate time to speak on this issue. It is a very important document and important to get it right.

Budget Setting – currently in the process of finalising the budget for the coming year to take to Council. As with all councils, SODC are waiting to see the changes to local government finance that will emerge from the Localism Act.

Planning enforcement – changes to the powers of enforcement are promised in the Act but how this will translate into practice is yet unclear. AP said it is something she is keeping a close eye on as it is important to residents.

Dial a Ride – The County Council have supported a dial a ride service for the County which will be trialled for one year.

Ian Hill thanked Angie Paterson for coming to the meeting.

26/12 County Councillors Report

County Council By-Election – This is likely to be held in April.

27/12 Thames Valley Police Report - the following report was sent to the meeting by Ian Kent:

Rural crime / suspicious activity - The car parks serving Watlington including those at the local beauty spots continue to attract criminal activity and are subject to regular Police patrols as they are currently part of tasking for Response and Neighbourhood teams . The Operation focuses on Theft from Motor Vehicles which includes valuables that are often left on view in parked cars.

Rural crime remains a concern both nationally and locally with a recent increase in reports of various thefts including farm machinery and dogs. Officers from the local NH team have focused on the rural area around Watlington and Chalgrove and are currently operating Operation Maginot and Muddy to assist in the prevention and detection of these crimes.

In addition to the above TVP conducted Operation Festive on 18th January 2012 which combined extensive dedicated police resources, drawn from the Neighbourhood teams across South Oxfordshire, The Vale of White Horse and into Berkshire. These teams worked from 2000 Hrs until 0500 Hrs together with Land owners and Game Keepers etc acting as local spotters to target rural crime offenders from Watlington area to Hungerford and Burghfield areas. It was assessed as a great success by the various Land owners involved and Local NH teams will strive to run similar operations in the near future.

HGV contravention of Weight limit- This issue is listed as a local Priority as it continues to be raised in various consultation meetings with the NH team. As a result local Operations have been conducted (most recently on 11th January 2012) with further operations planned to include enforcement of speeding / seatbelt and mobile phone use legislation. The local NH team continue to work closely with Trading Standards on this issue and fully support their initiative, Lorry Watch. With regard to the most recent ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) operation as noted above on 11th January 2012, the following results were noted. The operation ran from 0745 to 1315 Hrs and focused on identifying stolen vehicles, and motoring offences including no insurance, mobile phone use etc. Combined with officers conducting an HGV check on all such vehicles entering the weight limit just beyond the B4009 / Jct 6 M40 area. Over this period 6 HGV's were stopped actually entering the zone and all were found to be in compliance as they were able to prove legitimate business within the weight limit, for example by producing delivery documentation. It was noted however that a number of HGV's appeared to take time to assess their route just prior to entering the zone and choose an alternative away from the Hi Vis police operation.

Parking issues junction 6 M40 - Lewknor Parish Council have indicated they are willing to liaise with Watlington PC over the ongoing issue of long term parking for the Bus service in this area and Kristina has been advised of this by PC Kent. The Local NH team continue to liaise with LPC through their Parish meetings and will assist if required in any future joint partner / stake holder meeting over this issue. The Local NH Team are continuing to monitor and enforce where necessary over this issue.

The double yellow lines on Hill road Lewknor have been re painted by OCC Highways and are therefore being enforced through the Fixed Penalty Notice system by Police together with enforcement for any other offences identified for example obstruction of pavements / junctions in this area. As a further note the area of this junction with the B4009 now has bollards installed by OCC Highways in partnership with TVP to improve safety and access by promoting far less congestion immediately around this junction.

28/12. 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 Payments be settled.

Resolved: That the Balance of Accounts be approved and the List of Payments be settled and that these both be signed by the Chairman.

29/12 Committees:

A: FINANCE - 31/1/2012 – Ted Backhouse

Resolved: That these minutes are accepted by Council.

Grants that are kept in Earmarked Reserves

Resolved: That any grants the Council award, have to be spent within a two year period from the date of award. If they are not used the monies to be returned to the general fund.

Staff Appraisals - It was noted that that OALC recommend that anyone conducting appraisals should be given training. It was agreed that the Clerk and Harvey Batten put together a draft

procedure for the next Finance meeting in May. The Clerk to speak to OALC regarding the training aspect.

B: PLANNING – 7/2/2012 – Robert Barber

Resolved: That these minutes are accepted by Council.

Robert Barber reported that Peter Richardson – Marigold Cottage gave a presentation on this issue, which was noted by the Planning Committee. WPC had recommended refusal as did the SODC Officer.

Letter No 34 from Peter Richardson on the list of Correspondence for this meeting was noted by Full Council members.

P11/E2145 Land adjacent to 92 Hill Road, Watlington – The Committee recommended this application for refusal. The grounds for this are on the Planning Minutes.

C: STRATEGY – 24/2/2012- Ian Hill

Resolved: That these minutes are accepted by Council.

Committee Structure and Membership Review

Resolved: That the attached paper on changes to the Committee Structure be agreed. This structure to be put in place after the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Standing Orders Review for 2012

That the point b) below be moved from 24. Confidential Business to 23.Unauthorised Activities
b. Public statements or written comment that could be construed as representing the views of the council may not be made by a councillor without sanction of the Council, or of the Chairman or Vice Chairman if time is not available for Council approval . This constraint applies only to any matter or information of which they have been made aware solely as a result of their being a parish councillor. If approved, written communications may only be made through the Proper Officer

That the Title of Point 21 be changed to read ‘Canvassing Regarding Appointments and Tenders’ .
That on Point 2 k) the months and committees be removed and that the subjects to be annually reviewed remain.

That an explanation of the significance of the bold text be added to the Standing Orders.

Resolved: That with the above amendments the Attached Standing Orders be agreed for 2012/13 and signed by the Chairman.

D. OPERATIONS – 18/1/2012- Barry Adby

Resolved: That these minutes are accepted by Council.

Cleaner Watlington

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we have a positive campaign for the Sports Field and Recreation Area that dogs are only allowed on leads and that all dog mess is picked up.

Discussion took place on this recommendation and a number of points were raised about enforcement, more dog bins, that the land is in Pyrton Parish etc. It was therefore:

Resolved: That the Clerk further investigate the issue raised and that the Operations Committee further discuss this issue.

Hedge at Johnson’s Alley

Robert Barber stated that Nigel Adams has said this hedge is not suitable for laying. This issue will be further discussed at the next Operations meeting.

Portaloo in the Recreation Ground over the Easter Period

It was noted that this has been ordered and will be in place for this holiday.

E. ALLOTMENTS –There has been no meeting.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – There has been no meeting. The next meeting will take place this Thursday 16th February 2012.

Resolved: That Bridget Griffiths replaces Tony Yeulet as the 4th member of the Sports Club representation on the Pavilion Committee.

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – There has been no Meeting.

30/12 Correspondence for Information - **List Attached to Agenda**

Letter No 29- SODC -re Election Costs for Watlington will be £922.00 – This letter was noted.

31/12. Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

Jubilee Committee - There is a meeting scheduled for next week.

FOWL – There will be a meeting on 16/2/2012 with OCC and the issue of volunteer staffing will be discussed.

32/12 Sports Field Update — to be taken in Confidential Session

33/12 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

OALC Meeting on 21/2/2012 – Have invited 2 Parish Council representatives to attend.

33 High Street – We have written to OCC regarding this building and are awaiting their reply.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.42PM AND WENT INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION TO DISCUSS THE SPORTS FIELD ISSUE.

According to:

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.

