



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council in the Community Office Held at 8pm on Tuesday 11th February 2014

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Chairman
David Tindale – Vice-Chairman
Tim Horton
Roddy Orr
Robin Wilson
Bob West
Barry Adby
Robert Barber
Nick Greaves
Tony Williamson

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillor:

Angie Paterson

Press:

Rebekah Sharrock

Members of the Public:

19

18/14 Apologies for absence
Neil Boddington, Rhian Woods.

19/14 Chairman's Remarks
Ian Hill welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that it is not often we have such a big crowd at our meetings. He then stated that the public are present for three main items; Howe Hill (CLP), Pavilion Committee Recommendations and the Dog Fouling issue. He asked Council if they were happy to take these issues out of sequence of the agenda and this was agreed.

IH then stated how Full Council meeting work in that anyone is welcome to attend as observers but that the public cannot interrupt a meeting. If this happens IH is able to request the offender to desist, if this is ignored he will ask for a resolution for the offender to leave the meeting as any interruption by a member of the public is technically a disturbance.

IH said that we have 1 public question notified in advance of the meeting and on the agenda and that person has given notice to address the meeting and will be asked to do so at the appropriate time.

20/14 To receive Declarations of Interest
There were no Declaration of Interest notified.

21/14 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 14th January 2014 to be signed as a correct record
IH reported that Anna Badcock had been in contact asking that the minutes on 2 issues be corrected and had given her version of what she had said. (Minute 07/14 refers).

Broadband – AB has asked that on the Broadband issue the minute should read ‘*AB reported that SODC have allocated £1 Million this year and hope to make another £1Million available next year to increase broadband coverage. SODC has asked OCC to indicate what extra coverage that £1m would buy for South Oxfordshire and SODC awaits to hear from OCC which areas that might be. Once this information is available, SODC will review whether this is money best spent on the OCC broadband project, or if other options to deliver better broadband speeds are best explored*’.

Not ‘*AB reported that SODC have allocated £2 Million this year and next year to increase broadband coverage. This will be added to the OCC pot to see how much more coverage this will give South Oxfordshire. They are still waiting for OCC’s response on this.*

Council agreed to this change to the minute.

Air Quality – AB has asked that the minute be changed to; *This issue is in AB’s brief as Cabinet Member for Health and Housing. The AQAP is still going through internal production and discussion. Money has been received by SODC from Defra to research whether a Low Emission Zone in a rural area is possible. Information about this is in the public domain. IH asked if there is a brief for this research and also when this research will be completed. AB confirmed that information on the Defra money and LEZ project is in the public domain and further or specific information can be sourced directly from the team. AB said the key thing is to get the AQAP right and it will be a district wide plan which needs the right research, the right ideas and other agencies will need to be consulted. OCC will be one of the agencies involved in delivering the actions included in the AQMA, alongside others*’

This was discussed and Council agreed that this minute should not be changed to the above wording.

Resolved: That these minutes, with the change to the Broadband minute as shown above, is a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

22/14 Matters arising from the Minutes

Street Cleansing (Minute 07/14 refers) – A communication has been sent to BIFFA and we are awaiting a response on this.

County Councillor (Minute 98/14 refers) – We note that Caroline Newman has resigned from this position and that there will be a by election on the 27th March. SODC are still considering where in Watlington to hold the election as the Church Hall can no longer be used.

23/14 Public Questions

The following question had been notified prior to the meeting by Peter Richardson (PR):

”In the light of the emerging Watlington Neighbourhood Plan, are the Watlington Parish Council committed to the concept of Community Led Planning and if so is there any need to re-examine the fine detail of the Core of Conduct and Freedom of Information sections of the WPC website?”

PR stated that he started campaigning for speed limits in the Howe Hill location in 2012 and a 40mph limit was implemented in November 2013 but without adequate signage which was against the advice of ORCC. PR said that he sent a questionnaire on the CLP to all residents in this locale and received an 88% response. The results of this survey were sent to WPC, SODC, OCC and neighbouring parishes and other bodies. He met with IH and RB and also had a separate meeting with RB and BW and discussed having a unified identity for Howe Hill. He said that the WPC had made a decision at the last Strategy meeting which was made without consultation with residents and not taken into consideration of the CLP.

IH stated that the CLP does not exist until it is published and when this has happened this would be the appropriate time to ask this. It is imperative that the WPC see a published CLP and not just results of a questionnaire. He stated that a CLP is a community documents not a Parish Council document. RB said that he supports the comments made above by IH. He also said that the Strategy Committee may wish to consult with the residents themselves. RB said that we have received 6

letters from the residents of Howe Hill and he stated that he does not think that they were given all the facts before they sent their letters and RB said that he had been repeatedly misrepresented and misquoted. RB said that PR had asked that he met with Mr Taylor and he replied that he would not as this would breach the code of conduct. RB said that in the letters he was quote as citing the 1910 map which was not the case he had a range of maps. RB stated that he thought the information given to the Committee was done in a neutral and fair manner and the information they were given included the information sent by PR.

IH stated that at present the NPCC are looking into having a separate website for the Neighbourhood Plan and all information deemed necessary will be put on here. At present there is one page on the Neighbourhood Plan on the Council website.

IH stated that regarding the public question there is a page on the Council website which refers to Freedom on Information and also one which refers to the Code of Conduct which was written by SODC and the Parish Council agreed to accept this as the Watlington Code of Conduct.

PR said that he felt that information he has provided to Councillors has been ignored and that you have to go 55% up Howe Hill before you see a sign. He asked if the CLP could be a secondary feature of the NP.

IH stated that he would be a bit disconcerted if there was a lot of CLP's were done at the same time as a Neighbourhood Plan.

At the end of this item it was agreed that a written letter will be sent to Mr Richardson

24/14 District Councillors Report – Angie Paterson

Planning Application Notices – AP stated that notices are still put up for key major application sites and also listed building applications. She said that the change to when notices are put up were made 3 years ago. RB explained that some neighbours in Christmas Common put in an application and none of the neighbours were consulted. When he spoke to the Planning Officer and found out that the map they were using to see who needed to be consulted was 50 years out of date which meant that boundaries and properties that currently exist are not shown in the AONB and Conservation area. After discussion on this issue it was:

Resolved: That Robert Barber send a letter on this to Angie Paterson and she will then investigate.

Budgets- AP said that the budget is going through Cabinet at the moment and the information is in the public domain. All SODC officers are moving back to Crowmarsh and the County Council is rationalising and will be taking space in the building in Abingdon which will make much more sense. There will still be outposts for the Vale residents. Improvements are also being made to the building at Crowmarsh to make it more environmentally friendly and to create a better working environment.

Community Governance Review – The main consultation has yet to start so there is plenty of time on this.

AP asked if there were any questions:

TH: Said that there has been a fairly encouraging statement on Affordable Housing which invites Housing Associations and Councils making tentative bids for the money available and he asked if SODC had a formulated view on this? AP stated that SODC have already invested some money in SOHA to bring more housing into the district and it may be something that SODC would look into.

AP reported that the new Home Bonus is not going to be top sliced as had been mooted in Central Government. It will now stay as originally intended.

Infrastructure Levy – AP said that she will update Council on this in the fullness of time.

25/14 County Councillors Report

There was no report.

26/14 Thames Valley Police Report

There was not report submitted. However it was noted that Thames Valley Police were today checking HGV's in the Town and also doing speed checks of vehicles. There will be a report on HGV's given to Council with comparative data in the near future.

27/14 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

Tim Horton read out the Balances of Accounts and proposed that the list of payments be settled. He noted that we have received the VAT from the previous year of £8240.07.

Resolved: That the Balance of Accounts be agreed and the list of payments be settled and signed by the Chairman.

28/14 Committees:

A: FINANCE - There has been no meeting.

B: PLANNING –4/2/2014 – Robert Barber

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

P14/S0017/HH Lavender Cottage, Greenfield – RB stated that the Committee had objected to this application on a number of grounds which included that the current proposal constitutes a major change in the character of building forms and materials in this part of the local AONB.

P14/S0056/HH 14 Watcombe Road, Watlington – RB mentioned that the committee objected to this but the only on the grounds of the loss of privacy to Number 12 Watcombe Road and suggestions were given on who this could be overcome.

P14/S0112/HH The Cottage, Greenfield –The committee also objected to this application as being is inappropriate in design and incongruous with the nature of the AONB and conflicts with the Chiltern Design Guide.

C: STRATEGY – 28/2/2014 – David Tindale

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Community Governance Review – DT stated that we submitted our comments on this to SODC and said that as reported earlier by Angie Paterson this is only the start of the process.

Identity/ Signage for Howe/Howe Hill –RB said that Council has received a number of letters on this issue from the local residents since the Strategy meeting. It was noted that a lot of historical data had been considered and also the comments from the Chiltern Conservation Board at the meeting. TW proposed that this is referred back to the Strategy Committee for further discussion. RO said that this is an important decision and many things such as putting extra signs on the roadways in the AONB needs much thought. He said that he thought the Chiltern Conservation Board put forward a sensible view. There are also different opinions on the 40mph in this area and how money is spent. OCC's comments will also need to be taken on board as well as comments from residents. It was said that if felt necessary a separate meeting with the residents could take place.

Resolved: That this issue is referred back to Strategy for further discussion and that the Recommendation below is withdrawn.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: WITHDRAWN

That Council agree that the area of Howe Hill be located at the Cookley Green (southern) end of the settlement and then at the northern end of the settlement before reaching Howe Wood when travelling north as shown in the map in the Operation Committee Minutes.

Risk Assessment review for 2013/2014

Resolved: That the attached Risk Assessment for 2013/2014 be agreed.

Standing Orders review for 2013/2014

Resolved: That the attached Standing Orders for 2013/2014 be agreed.

D. OPERATIONS – 15/1/2014 – Barry Adby

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Car Park Drains – BA reported that we awaiting a site visit and quote for works needed.

E. ALLOTMENTS –There has been no meeting

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 10/1/2014 – Tony Williamson

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

TW reported that two members of the PSFC have resigned. Mick Lloyd who has been with the committee since its inception and Bridget Griffiths who has been on the committee for one year.

Resolved: That the Chairman writes a formal letter of thanks to them both.

The PSFC Committee Structure

TW stated that we cannot run the Sports Field and Pavilion unless there is a good relationship between the participants working together. In the November 2013 meeting NB agreed to write a note about a constitutional change which was circulated in December 2013 and asked for views for the January meeting on 13/1/2014. No views were received at this meeting from the Football Club and with them having no representation on this committee, this item was therefore deferred to the meeting last night (10/2/2014) at Keith Woolfson and Janice Lorimer were in attendance to represent the Football Club, which was agreed at the AGM of the Sports Club, which was not attended by the Cricket Club, Darts or Aunt Sally. It was noted that at this meeting Matt Reid was appointed as Chairman until an EGM takes place in March.

The views of the Football and Cricket Club were received in writing before the meeting and a meeting then took place with TW, NB and BA to discuss all the views received prior to the meeting on the 10/2/2014.

It was noted that NB original paper made some mention of dissolving the Sports Club, which is not something that the Parish Council could do.

TW stated that it is fantastic to see such increased activity in both Football and Cricket and we need to work out a way forward to make sure that the WPC's responsibility of running both the Sports Field and the Pavilion is carried out properly.

IH stated that he had some reservations in a) below that 12 months seems excessive as the Business Plan has to be a driving factor and this needs to be with the Football Foundation in May which has been made clear to the Sports Club. IH said that we have to have a workable system in place between WPC, PSFC and the Sports Club which provides representation to manage this very valuable asset which takes up a significant part of the WPC's budget. He said we have been trying to get the Business Plan completed for 3 years now. This issue of time was discussed and it was thought the time frame should be until the July Full Council meeting.

It was noted that with the membership suggested below there would be 6 Sport Club members and 4 WPC members. It was stated that any recommendation from this committee would need to be ratified by Full Council so that this ratio should not be a problem.

TW stated that OALC advice on running this facility there could be a number of options: either we could lease the Pavilion and Sports Field to an organisation which would mean they would have full responsibility for everything; the Parish Council could take full responsibility for running it or that it is run by a Committee, as it is now, which was felt to be the best option at the time. TW said that we have just managed to do a 5 year realistic Development Plan as there has been a problem with getting meaningful information from the sections of the Sports Club in the past.

TH commented that there could be financial implications with regard to the Development Plan. It was noted that this plan is still in the infancy stages of looking at the whole process. When this plan is completed the Finance Committee will need to check the efficacy of it. TH said that the Sports Club and Pavilion are major assets of the WPC and there is a considerable demand on its money. It was noted that the Development Plan will need to go to the Finance Committee for discussion.

TW suggested that a meeting take place with WPC and the Sections at different meeting.

Resolved: That the meeting be adjourned for no more than 5 minutes to allow Paul Griffiths from the Football section to give his views on this issue.

The view which he expressed was that the Football Club are against the proposed Recommendation on Committee Structure.???? Leave in or not

There was further discussion on this issue and it was unanimously:

Resolved: That until the July Full Council meeting on 8/7/2014 during which the structure would be reviewed:

- a. PSFC membership would be 4 Parish Councillors, 2 representatives each from football and cricket and one representative each from the Darts and Aunt Sally Clubs. The Clerk would take minutes.
- b. Proposals for use and development on the recreation ground should be presented by either Club to the PSFC for discussion and ratification. Papers should be presented in advance to the committee. The Pavilion will operate in a similar way with responsibility for cleaning and maintenance the responsibility of the incumbent section. The section can either clean on a voluntary basis or use their own funds to have the pavilion cleaned professionally. It must be stressed that the main hall is hired out so must be kept in good order.

All-Weather Pitch – TW said that this arose out of the increased activity envisaged in the Development Plans and the possibility of achieving grants if there is agreement between organisations. It was noted that NB is a Director of a company that provides All Weather Pitches but he would only help with advice on this. TH stated that if this is to be investigated then it must be done through the Clerk.

Resolved: That the Strategy Committee have an agenda item at the next meeting, discussion of the possibility of establishing an all-weather pitch on the Recreation Ground, Sports Field, Icknield Community College or other suggested areas.

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – There has been no meeting.

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CORE COMMITTEE– 31/1/2014 – Ian Hill

IH reported that he is very pleased with the interest and co-operation that this committee has given. They are planning some public events for the end of March.

TW asked if Air Quality will be added onto the topic list. TH congratulated on being Chairman of this committee and said that he saw that IH had a lot of actions. He stated that there is £10,000 in the budget allocated to this and suggested they look into having an officer arrangement.

29/14 Committee Structure Review – current structure was attached to the agenda.

This was discussed and it was:

Resolved: That a small group of Councillors have a meeting which would include all Chairmen of Committees and interested Councillors to come up with a proposal for the March Full Council meeting.

30/14 Correspondence for Information - List Attached to Agenda

Correspondence will only be discussed if urgent and if it cannot be passed to the relevant committee to discuss.

Letter No 65 – Gordon Brittain re a Stoop and Scoop campaign in Watlington – BA said he has some concerns regarding this letter. **It was agreed that this be an agenda item for the Operations Committee next week.**

Letter Nos 30,37,38,50,53, 62 and 63 on the Hill Road Issue – It was agreed the Clerk send a replay to residents and that RB be involved in drafting this letter.

Letter No 34 – Harvey Batten resignation from the Council – **It was agreed that IH write a formal letter of thanks to him.**

31/14 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

WATNEXT report to Full Council – given to all Councillors in their packs and copy held in the office on file.

DT commended WATNEXT on a succinct and good report and the following points were noted:

It was noted that they are

1. Launching their website and are compiling a database for WATNEXT contacts.
2. They have received a letter from WPC in respect of the NPCC and are looking forward to supporting them in agreed subjects which include transport and air quality.
3. They are delighted that BA, TH and TW have engaged with them as individuals to present historical information and that RB has attended a meeting also as an individual.
4. WATNEXT continue to develop connections with other communities
5. They have taken part in a Radio Oxford Phone in on the subject of rat runs
6. They thanked TH for his help in securing key data.

Town Hall Charity Body – TH reported that Nick Greaves and Tony Williamson have become Trustees of the body.

Membership now is: TH, IH, RO, RW, RWn, TW and NG

32/14 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.06PM