



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8.00pm on Tuesday 10th February 2015

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Chairman
Tim Horton
Nick Greaves
Tony Williamson
Robert Barber
Elizabeth Winton
Keith Lovelace
Robin Wilson

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

County Councillor:

Stephen Harrod

Members of the Public:

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17/15 Apologies for absence

David Tindale, Nick Hancock, Rhian Woods, Neil Boddington, Bob West, Roddy Orr.

18/15 Chairman's Remarks

There were no Chairman's remarks.

19/15 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no 'Declarations of Interest' notified.

20/15 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 13th January 2015 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.

21/15 Matters arising from the Minutes

Weight Restriction (Minute 12/15 refers) – TW said that OCC is only making a small reduction in the resources of the Trading Standards Department. However there is only a staff of 1.5 for dealing with weight restrictions for the whole County. There was a reduction about a year ago in their budget, from £60,000 to £25,000 and we are just looking at a continuation of this. IH said we have had a response to the points we raised in our response to the Consultation on this on a point by point basis which was a pleasant surprise.

101 Bus Service (Minute 13/15 refers) – It was agreed that this be discussed under the Strategy Committee agenda item.

Cuxham Field – RB stated that NG, KT and himself had visited the site with the current tenant. He said that there were a couple of minor concerns which NG is looking into. One concern is that a new fence has been put up which is not on the boundary line. This issue will be on the next Strategy Committee agenda and NG/RB will write a note prior to this meeting.

22/15 Public Questions

Public Question from Peter Richardson

'Are the Parish Council able to quantify, in terms of action in Finance, their stated support of the implementation of fibre broadband throughout the Parish in the areas not covered under the current roll-out programme? Are Councillors aware of the website www.connect8.org ?'

The latest update from Connect8 was circulated to Councillors.

Peter Richardson said that Connect8 was now at a stage to put forward some solutions and asked what level of support Council could give. IH stated that the Parish Council will need to know exactly what is needed and said that the Finance Committee has not met to see if there is any money that could be made available and to look into sources of possible funding from other sources. The Parish Council will look into this issue. IH also said that the Council's resolved minute (9/12/2014) on this issue states, '*The Parish Council would support and consider financial support of a fibre optic project in the outlying areas of Watlington*'.

Watlington should have fibre broadband installed in March 2015 and hopefully cabinet 2 will then be done. Until we know what is planned it is impossible to gauge the amount which would be needed. This is why at the FC December 2014 meeting no amount could be put forward as the total cost is an unknown at this time.

PR said that Swyncombe is very involved in looking at this issue of broadband and this is why he thought he would raise the issue at this meeting.

TH stated that this issue remains an item for the Strategy Committee and would be up to this committee to take a strategic view. The Finance Committee would look at sources of funding, something that they are good at doing. TH suggested that perhaps some aspect of the Lottery may be possible for funding and the Finance Committee would do an exploration of sources of possible funding as well as looking at the Parish Council's own finances.

PR said that of the 300 questionnaires given out in the local rural area there have been 200 responses to date and interestingly of this 200, 60% of respondents work from home.

RB said that once fibre optic is in Watlington the situation will change and that it is fantastic news that at the moment BDUK is under budget.

RB first flagged up the issue of possible financial funding from Watlington Parish Council for this issue when committees were looking at the budget for 2015/2016 but due to no financial figures being available the Council were unable to put any figure into the budget.

PR stated that he wanted to make sure that Full Council is aware of this campaign.

23/15 District Councillors Report

There was no District Councillors report.

24/15 County Councillors Report – Stephen Harrod

SH stated that OCC are heavily into budget mode at the moment and are looking into possible cuts and depending on who wins the General Election there may have to be even more cuts.

The Area Steward Fund will be no longer so SH will have no money to spend on local projects in the next financial year. SH said that Keith Stenning has proposed having a meeting with the Chairmen of local Parish Councils to talk about what can be expected, achieved and what projects he would support.

This meeting will probably be arranged for April and will be held in Watlington. There would be a place for one representative per Parish Council.

Ecotec Cabling Works – IH stated that these works are more or less on time looking at their original timetable. They have nearly reached Springfield Close and should get there this week. Spring Lane should open next week. There is a big hole which was made by a digger going through a pipe and as this pipe runs along the line that they are putting in their duct they may need to use a boring tool, like they have had to do in Cuxham and they should sort out this problem. This would be done when they have finished the works in Cuxham. SH said that the works in Cuxham are going well and that there had been no horizontal drilling in Watlington as there would have been too many problems with electricity cables and drains.

IH said that there is a lot of damage where their machines have been, Spring Lane is very bad as the road tar level was very low and there was just clay below. Where the digger has lifted the surface the underlayer is exposed. IH said that he sent an email today to Ian Southam (OCC) stating that pavements in Spring Lane have suffered the same fate as the ones in Brook Street with large chunks of pavement missing. That Pyrton Lane is now 2ft wider and all the street name signs in this location have disappeared, all to do with the diverted traffic.

RB said that he is concerned about the pavement on Cuxham Road by the stream and IH said he will speak to the Contractor about this.

SH stated that whatever damage the Contractor has made they should repair it and he said that he will follow this up with OCC as the Contractor needs to accept consequential damage and he will look into this.

RB said that Watlington Hill has suffered also and the verges are in a terrible condition. The top road at Christmas Common has also been hammered by the extra traffic and the verges have now disappeared.

TH stated that IH has shouldered a lot of the work brought by these works and dealing with the public and Contractor on a day to day basis. He said that there has been discussion about putting together a consolidated list of all the problems caused by these works. It was noted that it would be very useful to have a comprehensive list of all the damage caused. Concern was expressed about the scar from Spring Lane to Cuxham Road not holding up very well and already showing signs of wear.

SH said that once OCC has received the comprehensive list from WPC he will ask Keith Stenning to organise a survey to be done. It was noted that Pyrton and other Parishes have been affected.

RWn said that the stream has been polluted a few times and thinks that the Contractor has broken some pipes. IH said he has spoken to someone about this and the trout, which are now back in the stream should not be affected. However this issue will also be added to the WPC list.

TH stated that regarding the meeting to be arranged by Keith Stenning he thinks that this size of Council misses out when only one representative from the Council is invited and asked that the number of representatives be increased. SH said that KS would be happy to make 2-3 appearance a year to attend Parish meetings.

Charlotte Cox Trust – SH was informed that WPC are looking to have a meeting with Peter Clark.

Resignation of OCC Chairman- It was agreed that Council will send a letter of appreciation to her.

County Councillor Fund – TH thanked SH for the £500 that he has authorised towards the noticeboards at the Recreation Ground.

LTP4 – IH said that this was very disappointing as it is all about Oxford and the Science Corridor. The North-West and South-East do not exist in this document. SH said that he keeps raising this issue and we are not the only ones who are not happy with this. TH said that he was unhappy with the 2 page response from SODC which ignores the rural parts of the County.

Resolved: That WPC put in a strong response to this stage of the LTP4 consultation which ends in April 2015.

SH said he would support the Parish Council in this. He also suggested that we raise our concerns with John Howell via Angie Paterson as he is a very strong supporter for rural areas.

IH said that there was a broadcast on Radio Oxford by John Howell which ran for about 40-60 minutes and was predominantly focused on Watlington and its problems.

25/15 Thames Valley Police Report

No report had been received. However it was noted that 2 official written warnings have been given to 2 residents who have allowed their dogs to foul in public areas.

26/15 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 stated that the 2 payments to SOHA were annual payments, one for the kitchen repayment and one for the service charge on the room. The annual Grants to CAB and Youth Club were also on the list. Also on the list is an invoice for works on two trees.

Resolved: That the Balances of Accounts and the list of payments be settled and that they be signed by the Chairman

TH stated that bookings for the West Room are down on last year as some organisations stopped their clubs and said that we need to see if this room could be let out more.

27/15 To agree the Financial Regulations 2014/2015 – attached to the agenda

Resolved: That these be discussed and agreed at the March Full Council meeting.

28/15 To agree Standing Orders 2014/2015 – attached to the agenda.

Resolved: That these be discussed and agreed at the March Full Council meeting.

It was agreed that the both the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders be reviewed by the Policy and Procedure Action Board prior to the next Full Council meeting with IH. A meeting to be arranged for TW, NG, RWn and IH. TW will organise this.

The issue of Co-opted members voting and some other issues need to be looked into as they are not quite clear on the new OALC Standing Orders.

29/15 Committees:

A: FINANCE - There has been no meeting.

B: PLANNING –3/2/2015 – Robert Barber

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

The Old Church, Christmas Common – The Committee objected to this application and a lengthy and detailed response has been sent to SODC.

Clearance of AONB Woodland on Howe Hill- Notification has been sent to the Enforcement Officer who has indicated that any application on this land would be refused.

C: STRATEGY – 27/1/2015- David Tindale

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council subject to agreed changes, mostly 35 High Street references which should refer to 33 High Street.

NG challenged the accuracy of his comments and it was agreed that this be discussed at the next Strategy Meeting.

Ecotec Roadwork Issues – **Resolved:** That the Confidential Note from 27/1/2015 be accepted

Charlotte Cox Charity- . To note that we are awaiting a date from Peter Clark (OCC) for a meeting.

Watlington Footpath 4 – We have not had a response yet from Richard Drew following the meeting held with him. The Clerk will contact him.

Youth Club – TH stated there has been some discussion on this issue and said he would appreciate EW as well as himself and IH being involved.

Buses – T1 and 101 GoRide services – TH stated that the Clerk will need to give formal notice to GoRide with precise detail. The Email from David Turner (*No 47 on the Correspondence List*). If the proposition to continue with the bus on Saturdays and Sundays is agreed the total subsidy needed would be £3728.00 for the 5 parishes involved. The proportion of the total cost to Watlington Parish Council would be £1197.81 (based on 31.3% of population of the five parishes). 20% of the current users of these services are Watlington residents. It was noted that GoRide have not considered adding a Friday night service but the 5 Parish Group have indicated an interest in this.

Resolved: That Watlington Parish Council take £1197.81 from Reserves and this amount would be paid as a monthly payment in twelve equal installments which will start in April 2015.

IH has written an article on this for the Watlington Times and he commended TH on all the work he has done on this issue and said that it is an achievement to get 5 parishes to agree to give money to a bus service which is well used.

Hill Road Car Park – IH said that he has done a survey in the car park on the 23 two Hour spaces, 9 of which were occupied from 9am -4pm. It was noted that one car has not moved for 3 weeks. Notices were put on these 9 cars and advice will be sought on how we best deal with this issue. The Operations Committee are looking into having them marked with a different colour and it was thought until this is done we cannot really fine anyone.

D. OPERATIONS – 21/1/2015 – Robert Barber

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Watcombe Road (entrance to Hill Road) – RB stated that the works that the Co-op have agreed where going to start this Thursday but they have been asked to postpone them until the Ecotec works have been completed. TH and RB are having a meeting with Bryan Cranston (Co-op) tomorrow at 1pm to discuss this issue.

Hill Road Car Park Drains – TH said that in November 2013 WPC commissioned a study of the drainage in this location by OPC. This was a good technical study on the gullies and a very good report. There are only 3 gullies which work well and there are problems with the other gullies. TH said that as the Co-op are doing works to Watcombe Road it seems a good idea to combine these works with some works to the gullies. As the meeting is tomorrow with the Co-op, he asked for some leeway to allow some discussion on this longstanding problem. The Car Park to date has £3258 in its General Earmarked Fund and £10,778 in its Sinking Fund which will have an addition £1500 in it by the end of March 2015. There is also £1000 in the Car Park Utilities Fund which is a legacy from the lighting project and which is no longer needed. TH said that this in a one-off opportunity to co-ordinate works as when the new tarmac is put down in Watcombe Road we would not want to dig it up at a later stage to attend to the gully problems. It was noted that a discussion will need to take place on deliveries to the Co-op when this work is taking place. After discussion it was:

Resolved: That TH and RB continue discussions with the Co-op and their Contractor to see if both works to Watcombe Road and the Gullies can be achieved. To use 11(i) of our Financial Regulation if the cost for the gully work is over £3,000 which will be advised by the Clerk or for her to call an urgent meeting of the Finance Committee is she deems necessary.

Drop crossing on Britwell Road – TW stated that this has not yet been done by OCC, as promised.

E. ALLOTMENTS – 15/1/2015 – Tim Horton

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Allotment Contracts – The Tenancy Agreement for Allotments will be revised for April 2015,

Allotment Rents – These will now be collected the Clerk and George Bruce will provide her with a list of the allotment holders and the individual rents due.

Management Committee – It was agreed that a small committee of allotment holders will keep an eye on day to day management issues and report back to the Parish Council as necessary.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 19/1/2015 – Tony Williamson

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Cleaning – The Cleaners who were going to undertake the cleaning of the Pavilion are no longer able to do so. The Clerk is looking into other options.

Painting inside the Pavilion – The sports sections are arranging for this to be done as they held a fundraiser to raise money to do this.

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING - There has been no meeting.

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CORE COMMITTEE– 14/1/2015

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Questionnaire – It was noted that there have been some concerns about this questionnaire as to see the coloured maps resident have to either look at the document on the website or use one of the locations where there are hard copies. It was noted that the cost of printing coloured questionnaire for every household in the parish was prohibitive. All land has been included even if the owner has indicated that it will not be developed. The only way that everyone can give their views is to address all the options.

I. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP – There has been no meeting.

30/15 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.

There was no correspondence that needed discussion.

31/15 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

Town Hall Trust Body – TH said that the Trust Body has given approval for a Friday market in the Undercroft of the Town Hall after holding an urgent meeting to discuss this. An interim set of rules has been drawn up and a cost for three months was agreed which will then be reviewed. This week they have 5 stalls in the market. Each stall has to be approved by the Trust Body in the three month period.

32/15 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 9.59PM AND THEN WENT INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION TO DISCUSS THE ECOTEC WORKS IN WATLINGTON

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.

33/15 **ECOTEC WORKS – PUBLIC MINUTE**

Resolved: That a group be set up to address all issues relating to the Ecotec Works in Watlington and to meet before the next Strategy Committee meeting on 24/3/2015.

END