

# Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council in the Community Office Held at 8pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Ian Hill - Chairman  
David Tindale – Vice-Chairman  
Di Tolan  
Ted Backhouse  
Barry Adby  
Robert Barber  
Nick Hancock  
Tony Williamson  
Roger Beattie  
Charles Rowton-Lee  
Rhian Woods  
Tim Horton  
Harvey Batten

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan

**District Councillor:**

Anna Badcock

**Press:**

Janine Rasiah– Henley Standard

**Members of the Public:**

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01/12 Apologies for absence  
Nick Greaves

02/12 Chairman's Remarks  
Ian Hill said that we were all saddened by the news of the death of Roger Belson and Councillors had a one minute silence in remembrance of him.

He also congratulated Doreen Hobbs for receiving a very well deserved MBE for her services to the local community.

03/12 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.*  
There were no declarations of interest.

04/12 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 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.

05/12 Matters arising from the Minutes  
**SODC Planning Officer to attend a Meeting** – Angie Paterson will be organising this for an appropriate time later in the year.

06/12 Public Questions  
There were no public questions notified.

07/12 District Councillors Report – Anna Badcock  
Anna Badcock reported that it has been very quiet due to the Christmas/New Year break, however there were a few things to report:  
**Christmas Common Polling Station** – SODC have agreed that this remains the polling station for Watlington No2, Pyrton No2 and Shirburn No2.

**Budget** – This was discussed at the recent Scrutiny Committee meeting and the SODC finances are looking good with a very healthy surplus in their Accounts. She advised Councillors to look at the Scrutiny Report on the Finances which is available on their website. However they predict that this surplus could be wiped out if there are significant cuts over a number of years.

Tim Horton asked if the Icelandic money had been recovered. AB stated that over 80% has been recovered and the hope is that the remainder will also be received. The Community Fund has a cut in their funding.

**Diamond Jubilee** – AB reported that Lewknor Parish Council is looking into having a beacon for this event.

**Broadband** – AB reported that she attended a BT presentation on this issue. The Government has given grants to poor rural areas. Cornwall and Cumbria received about £17M+ and Oxfordshire received about £3M. A business need has to be determined any information on this should be given to AB. AB will contact the Watlington Business Association regarding this issue. Some money has been spent on some very local schemes eg Chipping Norton has had some funding.

Tim Horton stated that it could be that BT will ‘steal’ all the leads or local schemes will take their own route systems. Could go in two different ways. AB said that the first thing to do is to collect information. Any information to be sent to AB via her gmail address.

**London Marathon** – AB reported that she will be running this on behalf of the ‘Cystic Fibrosis Trust’ as there are some local children with this condition.

**OPFA** – AB said that she is the SODC Playing Field representative on this Association.

Ian Hill thanked Anna Badcock for attending the meeting.

08/12 County Councillors Report

There was no report.

09/12 Thames Valley Police Report

PC Kent had sent his apologies and asked that if any Councillors have any questions to give them to him via the Clerk and that he would respond to them.

10/12 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.

Thanks were given to the Clerk and her team for such a successful Christmas Reception.

11/12 Committees:

**A: FINANCE** - There has been no meeting.

**B: PLANNING** – 3/1/2012 – Rhian Woods

There were a lot of planning applications to consider at this meeting including that of P11/E2062 Marigold Cottage, Howe Hill. This should have been a retrospective application although it was not designated as one. This application was refused unanimously on a number of grounds.

**Resolved:** That we ask for our District Councillors to take this to committee if the Officer Recommendation is to approve it.

Rhian Woods said that if it did go to committee she would not be available to represent the WPC view, and that another member of the Planning Committee would need to do this.

**C: STRATEGY** – There has been no meeting.

**D. OPERATIONS** – There has been no meeting .

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

**F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD** – There has been no meeting .

**G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING** – There has been no meeting.

12/12 SODC Budget Consultation – Paper will be circulated on this.

Tim Horton explained his draft paper. It was agreed that the main points to put across are:

We believe that the budget should be determined so that moves towards the following working principles could underline future operations.

**A. Greater attention to issues of sustainability and climate change**

**including:** 1. Work to prevent long periods of vacancy to shops and homes should be undertaken.

2. Often legal ‘requirements’ (such as management plans in SSSIs) and requirements for enforcement under planning are ignored or downgraded.

3. The water regime in Southern Oxfordshire

4. Consideration of Watlington as a ‘hub’ village should be important to

planning activity.

5. Upgrades in communication – including super-broadband.

6. There should for example be the deployment of regular and certain inspection of smaller communities for fly-tipping and waste by roadsides. Rotas for street cleaning should be improved and applied in villages as well as towns.

**B. More attention to management and better communications within and by SODC including:**

1. The practice of awarding bonuses (including those for election staff) should be closely questioned.

2. Watlington welcomes many of the cost savings that have arisen from close working with the Vale of the White Horse. But the physical separation of teams – even in a technically advancing area – does pose problems and some officers are confused about the areas of their jurisdiction. We are sympathetic to this process continuing and would support too more joint working with OCC where this can be achieved

3. We believe that Outlook might eventually develop as an online bulletin.

4. Above all senior officers should see themselves as being accountable to the press and media and not only to their Cabinet.

**C. Further attention to the legitimate needs of young people, including those in established structures such as scouting and cadet forces:**

1. The Community Support Fund should not be allowed to shrink further as it should have a continuing role.

2. If volunteers and truly local bodies are to pick up the need to provide services that are, at one and the same time, absorbing, creative and safe the encouragement and training of adults in the community is vital.

It was agreed this paper be amended by Tim Horton and that after the Chairman has seen it the Clerk email to SODC due to the deadline of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January. A copy of the full consultation response will be available in the office.

13/12 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 10 – Revd Christopher Evans inviting all Councillors to a presentation at 7pm at St Leonard’s Church on the 23rd January 2012. IH encouraged Councillors to attend this if possible.

14/12 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

No reports had been received.

15/12 Sports Field – Paper including Recommendation from Nick Greaves – to be taken in Confidential Session

16/12 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

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

**Benches by War Memorial** – Ted Backhouse reported that he had been contacted by the executor of Vernon King’s Estate who would like to put a bench (to replace the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bench that used to be in this location) in remembrance of Vernon King.

Councillors agreed that this could be done, but that the benches should match and if they do not then another bench of the same style to be moved there and the new bench to be sited in another position. It was agreed that Ted Backhouse and the Clerk be in charge of this issue.

**Cars parked on the apron of the War Memorial** – It was noted that we have had previous complaints about this and the Clerk has spoken to the Police regarding this. It was noted that as there are double yellow lines around this area that it is actually illegal to park in this area. The Clerk to look into whether it is illegal.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9PM AND WENT INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION TO Agree the Affordable Housing Confidential Note of 13/12/11 and also to Discuss the Sport 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.