

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 8th January 2013

Present:

Councillors:

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

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillor:

Angie Paterson

Press:

Janine Rasiah

1/13 Apologies for absence
Nick Hancock, Neil Boddington

2/13 Chairman's Remarks
The Chairman had no remarks.

3/13 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.
33 High Street – This issue will be held in confidential session and Rhian Woods declared an interest in this item as she is the agent for this property. She signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

4/13 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 11th December 2012 to be signed as a correct record
Minute 151/12 should read "*The application covers an area that includes part of the Parish of Cuxham and the attached letter from the Cuxham Meeting supports this application. We are still in discussion with the neighbouring parishes of Pyrton and Britwell Salome about the means by which development on the lands between the villages and Watlington could best be controlled. This may lead to inclusion of parts of these two parishes before the end of the six week consultation period.*"
Resolved: That with the amendment as show above, these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

5/13 Matters arising from the Minutes

SODC Leisure Consultation (letter 283) – IH has sent a response to this consultation (copy held on file).

Local Government Boundary Commission – IH has sent a response on the Electoral Review, making the comment that Cuxham should remain in the Watlington Ward and not be moved to the Chalgrove Ward. The full response is held on file in the office.

Howard Sharp and Partners (letter 287) – IH has sent a response to their letter (copy held on file)

OCC – Consultation on Rights of Way (letter 315) – Tom Bindoff is looking into this.

6/13 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

7/13 District Councillors Report – Angie Paterson

Core Strategy – This was adopted by SODC at their December Council meeting. This means that there is now certainty and even if there is a judicial review it would not change the strategy. Things can now move forward.

Precept – AP asked if the Council have all the necessary information from SODC regarding the precept. It was noted that all the information has been sent to us.

Neighbourhood Plans – It is good news that Central Government will be giving more money towards these. The money will be given to the Local Authority. It is likely to be evenly spread among Councils towards their Neighbourhood Plans and not on a first come, first served basis. . A formal approach will be set out to this in due course.

Housing Allocation – A consultation on this will be coming out soon and Parish Councils need look out for this.

Community Loan Scheme – If Parishes want to do a big scheme or project for their communities SODC will loan them money at a low or 0% interest rate.

Planning – There were problems over the Christmas period with planning applications however this has now been resolved.

Q: **TH:** Is there a date for the Housing Allocation meeting yet?

A: **AP:** Is not aware of any date having been given.

Q: **TH:** Watlington had a very good deep cleanse last year and was one of the first villages to have this done and the community was very impressed with the work. Is this going to be a permanent yearly exercise? Watlington would like to request to have one in June prior to the Best Kept Village Competition if possible.

A: **AP:** This has proved to very popular in all areas and SODC are looking into this as regards budget etc.

Q: **CRL:** Did SODC put on an extra bin service over Christmas?

A: **AP:** No, but Watlington was lucky as the collection is on a Tuesday, whereas places with a Monday collection did miss out on a week. Residents can now sign up for text messages via the SODC websites which alerts residents if there is a change in collection dates eg bank holidays etc.

We will put this information into the Watlington Times along with information on batteries and light bulbs etc.

8/13 County Councillors Report

Caroline Newton had sent her apologies for this meeting but sent the following note:

The Firs: The future of the Firs will be decided this week.

Triathlon: no news yet from OCC on the future of the event, but CN will chase up this issue.

9/13 Thames Valley Police Report

PCSO Diane Greenwood had sent her apologies for the meeting but sent the following report.

Incidents which occurred during December

There has been a couple of vehicles around town which have had their catalytic converters stolen over night, while the vehicles were parked on their driveways. However on house to house enquires nothing was seen or heard.

At the beginning of the month we had a lot of calls about vehicles skidding on ice especially up Hill road in Watlington and Britwell at the end of the month it was about cars being stuck in flooded areas

A 13 year old male was hit by a vehicle down Couching Street, he had ran into the road between parked cars. He was shaken but was not injured.

There have also been a number of attempted break-ins to out- buildings (sheds & garages) but nothing was taken or heard by neighbours

Hare coursing and criminal damage to fields and borders (i.e. hedges and gates) is of concern as we are getting calls from land owners every week and the damage being caused is costing thousands of pound. The policing team are working with the land owners and are patrolling the rural areas constantly. One offending vehicle has been leaving debris around the area and with this and land owners help we are looking for a large orange 4 x 4 vehicle which has front end damage and drives around without lights on (even on the road) but has a noisy exhaust. Any information or sightings please contact the Police.

PCSO's continue to deliver advice or issue a fixed penalty fine to vehicles illegally parking down High Street, Couching Street and outside the school down Love Lane. This will continue into the New Year.

Other crimes in neighbouring areas which need to be highlighted are: burglaries especially to churches, post offices and retailers which sell cigarettes Please be extra vigilant and report ANY suspicious activity

CRL stated that there is a lot of rural crime happening in our area at the moment, more than the PCSO report suggests. He gets alerts from DogWatch and is getting about 3 notices a day on various issues at the moment on incidents within a 25 mile radius. He stated that it might be worth the office subscribing to this

10/13 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

Tim Horton read out the Balances of Accounts and proposed that the payments be settled

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

11/13 Committees:

A: **FINANCE** - There has been no meeting –Tim Horton

TH reported that he has put a working note to the Finance Committee on the precept. We have had a flurry of advice and information sent to us over the Christmas period. If we keep Band D at the same amount we would receive less precept as our tax base has gone down. Even after the Government payment there would still be a gap between last year and this year. To keep the same amount, and taking the grant into account there would have to be an increase of 0.86%. When looking to fix the precept it is against this background and budget requirements that need to be looked at in detail at the Finance meeting scheduled for the 15th January.

B: PLANNING – 7/01/2013 – Rhian Woods

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

RW reported that the most notable application was for the Town Hall which saw 4 members having to declare an interest as they are Trustees of the Town Hall Charity Body. The application was for minor internal arrangement to use a stairclimber and for some pigeon deterrents. The committee approved the application. It was noted that after further discussion with the Conservation Officer we may need to tweak some of the pigeon measures and this issue will be discussed by the Town Hall Charity Body when they meet tomorrow.

C: STRATEGY – David Tindale

There has been no meeting

D. OPERATIONS – Barry Adby

There has been no meeting

E. ALLOTMENTS – Harvey Batten

There has been no meeting.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – Tony Williamson

There has been no meeting

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – David Tindale

DT reported that we continue to chase up ORCC on this issue.

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP – Ian Hill

IH reported that the December resolution on the Neighbourhood Plan area included part of Cuxham, following their letter asking to be included in our plan. When we then checked they thought it should not be included because of the possible change to the ward boundaries [Cuxham is objecting to the proposed move from the Watlington Ward to the Chalgrove Ward]. This is why WPC now needs to change the previously agreed resolution. This was discussed and it was:

Resolved: That council agrees that on or before 11th January 2013 an area for the Watlington Neighbourhood Development Plan that consists of the whole of Watlington Parish be submit to the SODC as a basis for approval, and that the application statement submitted with it includes the following text.

‘The application covers an area that consists of the full Parish of Watlington. We are still in discussion with the neighbouring parishes of Cuxham, Pyrton and Britwell Salome about the means by which development on the lands between the villages and Watlington but not included in the parish boundary could best be controlled. This may lead to inclusion of parts of these parishes in the Neighbourhood Development Plan area before the end of the six week consultation period’.

12/13 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.

TH asked if a reply had been sent to Pauline Harvey and was told that Letter No 277 from Pauline Harvey was discussed at the Planning Committee and RH is drafting a letter which state that the Parish Council cannot do anything at this point as we have no authority. It was noted that is was not through lack of want that the owners are not in a position to do this.

13/13 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

Bus Services to Oxford – Report on Meeting held in December with Thames Travel and OCC to discuss problems with the 1010/106 Service.

Ian Hill reported that Thames Travel acknowledged that the service had become unsatisfactory over the past few months and explained the reasons for this. These were predominantly the result of mechanical problems with the bus fleet used for the 106 services, and with the operating schedule that shared the buses between the 106/101 services and the X39/X40 Reading routes. On the first of these points they confirmed that they are replacing the unreliable buses with a fleet of very reliable Mercedes buses from their parent company the Oxford Bus Company who are part of the Go Ahead Group. The new buses will be single deck 42 seat buses with better quality seats, low emissions, low floor access and equipped with disabled passenger spaces, and would all be in service by January, 2013.

Thames Travel also outlined plans for re-organisation of the operating schedule that remove the interworking of the Reading and Watlington/Garsington services. This would be achieved by allocating a number of the new buses and drivers specifically to the 106/101 routes. This would help to avoid the problems of delays elsewhere leading to buses and drivers not being available for these services. The revised operating schedule would be introduced over the next month or two once the full fleet of new buses is available.

Thames Travel recognised that restoring passenger confidence is essential to securing the long term success of the routes. Thames Travel have now put posters in the temporary fleet of old buses apologising for the problems and explaining that new buses are on the way. It is likely that they will hold local events to demonstrate their commitment to the routes' futures.

Thames Travel also advised that they would reimburse taxi fares for passengers who had waited excessive times for a bus that did not turn up. A receipt from the taxi operator would be required, and he suggested that delays of over half an hour could reasonable be regarded as excessive.

14/13 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council

Youth Club possible extension to Pavilion

RB stated that the drawings to this extension need to be finalised and asked for guidance that if the plans should show the toilet having access from the Recreation Ground. RW stated that in her opinion this would be a weak security point. BA said there would need to be a lot of discussion on this issue and that it should first be discussed by the Pavilion Committee and then by the Strategy Committee. The Youth Club were advised to give their proposed plan to the Pavilion Committee for discussion.

Car Park Survey – The results of this exercise was discussed by the Operations Committee and are held on file in the office if any Councillors wish to look at them.

Henley Standard – BA reported that he has been disappointed by the reporting and the number of errors they are putting in. The facts are often mis-reported and we have had a number of complaints on this sent to us. He suggested that perhaps we need to have a meeting with the editor. IH stated that he was concerned about the report on the Watlington Neighbourhood Plan that the HS reported. He noted

that a correction about the Stairclimber issue had been included in this week's edition for which he was grateful. WPC would ask that all facts are checked with the WPC before printing. TH said that we should be more pro-active and Councillors should be available for press comments at certain times. It was noted that there are pressures on the HS to get out articles but facts and details should be checked wherever possible.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.07PM AND WENT INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION TO DISCUSS 33 HIGH STREET

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.