



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held in the Community Office at 8.00pm on Tuesday 10th January 2017

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid – Vice-Chairman (MR)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Jeremy Bell (JB)
Nicky Smallbone (NS)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Bob West (BW)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Fiona Paterson (FP)
Tom Bindoff (TB)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

County Councillor:

Stephen Harrod (SH)

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock (AB)

Press:

David White – Henley Standard

Members of the Public:

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01/17 Apologies for absence

Ian Hill –Chairman, Stephanie Van Pette, Jon Lorimer.

02/17 Chairman's Remarks

MR wished Council a Happy New Year and said that we need to agree the Budget and Precept tonight for the next financial year.

03/17 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no 'Declarations of Interest' notified.

04/17 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 13th December 2016 to be signed as a correct record

Minute 191/16 refers, Page 62 – Dates referred to on Letters no 318 and 320 should read '2017' not '2016'. These changes were agreed.

Resolved: That with the amendments shown above, these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

05/17 Matters arising from the Minutes

Improving connections between Watlington and The Ridgeway National Trail (Minute 189/16 refers)

It was agreed that TB and TJ prepare a draft response on this which will then be circulated to Councillors prior to it being sent by the Clerk.

Watlington Hoard (Minute 190/16 refers) – MR asked if there should be a working party set up on this to help with this project and if so which Councillors would be interested in doing this in conjunction with Tim Horton. TJ is already involved in this project and thought a working group was a good idea.

It was agreed that TJ, TW, FP and RH be part of this working group.

06/17 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

07/17 County Councillors Report - Stephen Harrod

SH wished all present a Happy New Year and thanked Council for the card sent to him and his wife. SH referred to his monthly report which covered the following topics; Plans to transform the adoption services across the Thames Valley; Launch of new online flooding toolkit; Adult Social Care in Oxfordshire scores higher than the national average; Home Library volunteers is a success and they send out monthly e-newsletters; Grant funding for Children's Centres, it was noted that the application for Watlington and Chalgrove has been resubmitted; Application deadline for Primary School Places is the 15/1/2017; Health Inequalities Commission Report and the Oxford Parkway/City Centre opening – this link was opened on the 8th December 2016.

SH had the following information relating to Watlington specifically.

Chicane on Britwell Road – Keith Stenning has said that he needs some guarantee that there would be funding available for this from the Parish Council. TB said that he thought that there was some Section 106 money available to do this. SH said he will re- open this issue with KS

Overgrown Vegetation on Howe Hill – A local resident has contacted OCC regarding this and this has been investigated. OCC have said that it does not meet the criteria of being dangerous and they can therefore take no action.

Drainage Channel - A Couching Street Residents has requested to have a concrete footway drainage channel inset into the pavement by his downpipe. OCC have asked the owner if he will pay for these works and this will be then be done.

Unitary Council – OCC are still pursuing this but there is still a divergence of opinions by both Councils.

Pyrton Lane Hedge –RB thanked OCC for cutting this hedge back and doing such a good job.

Brook Street sinkage of Ecotech trench – TB asked if this issue could be chased up with Harlaxton.

Hill Road/Christmas Common – KT asked SH to chase up the possible change of priority to 2 junctions in Christmas Common as was suggested at the Outreach meeting.

OCC Budget –OCC are still working on this. SH said that they are hoping not to make any cuts but to do some things differently. The precept can be increased but only for Adult Social Care. There will nothing as drastic as last year's budget.

Charlotte Cox – RH asked if SH would chase this up as the information that has been requested from OCC has still not been sent.

Oakley Wood – MR asked for an update on the possible charging for this service. SH said that OCC have not done anything further on possible charging and this facility will remain open for the foreseeable future.

Matt Reid thanked Steve Harrod for attending the meeting.

08/17 District Councillors Report - Anna Badcock

Didcot Garden Town - Following the consultation, all comments from the website, events and talks with community groups are being used to help prepare a draft masterplan for the Garden Town. This masterplan and vision for the area will be published in spring / summer 2017, at which point the community will have another opportunity to comment.

South Local Plan 2033 - The Preferred Options Part II consultation is scheduled to commence in March 2017. The slight delay from the last update is to ensure we have the most robust evidence available to support the consultation.

A competition for new businesses - Together with our partner Council, Vale of the White Horse, we are sponsors of a new competition for businesses which are less than two years old and applications will be accepted from 1 January to 28 February. Judges are looking for the brightest

rising stars in local business, whatever their trade or industry. The winner will receive a serviced office rent-free for a year, plus a host of other great prizes to help boost their business.

Grants available to help get residents active

New funding from Sport England will be available to councils, community groups and sports clubs from January 2017. The funding is aimed at projects which reduce inactivity, increase volunteering and improve facilities. The following funds are available:

1. **Community Asset Fund** for capital projects to provide new or enhanced facilities, or new facilities in fields or unused buildings. Types of projects that could be eligible include renovating a sports pavilion, installing floodlighting or creating a new sports pitch. £5,000 - £150,000 is available.
2. **Inactivity Fund** for revenue projects that increase activity levels in people aged 55 and over such as Walking Football or care home activities. Funding is anticipated to be between £250,000 and £500,000.
3. **Volunteer Funding** which targets under-represented groups and young people aged 10-20 years. Projects could include charities and organisations working with groups to promote volunteering opportunities for example matching volunteers to sports club volunteering roles.

It was noted that Sarah Fountain is producing a list of all the sports activities that are on in Watlington which can then be promoted in various locations. TJ said that there should also be a list of all other activities such as WEG and Friends of Watlington Hill for example as these need volunteers and also help with fitness. AB said she is happy to be given any ideas as she will be attending a workshop on this soon. It was also noted that Walking Football is a popular sport in Watlington and Chalgrove.

CIL Money - AB said that once the NP has been accepted the CIL percentage is 25% rather than 15% for communities that do not have a NP. It was stated that there is no longer a hall in Watlington which is big enough for large events and as more housing is built should we be looking to build a bigger venue in the town. It was noted that this has been a discussion item on the Watlington Town Noticeboard Facebook page.

Councils' meet Food Standards Agency targets - The Food Standards Agency has recently published its report on local authority food law enforcement for the period 2015-16. Out of the 323 English authorities that provided data, only 18 met the target to complete 100% of inspections scheduled for the year. Both South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are included within these 18, and are the only Oxfordshire authorities to have met this target. Both councils also achieved the national average of 93% for food premises that are 'broadly compliant' with food law.

Waste Collections – RH said that she has noticed that electrical items and not recycled if not left in a clear transparent bag, they are just put in the normal rubbish lorry. There has been a big Facebook thread in Wallingford about the issue of electricals and textiles not being recycled and it seems residents did not understand that the bag needs to be transparent and not opaque. We need to make this clear to people. AB said that Communications has been reviewed and improved and hopefully residents will see an improvement. AB also said that there has been a lot of problems with lorries breaking down and thereby leading to collections being missed.

All the Bin lorries are due to be replaced this year. It was noted that clear bags are sold in Thame Market and DG Homecare also stocks them. If there is bad weather and the bin collection will be affected BIFFA will tweet to update residents. It was said that it would be useful if the message was able to be tweeted to the Parish Council and Town Noticeboard Facebook page and AB said that she would look to see if this is possible to do.

Evening for sports clubs – All sports club members are invited to attend the next sports club evening on Monday 23 January at 6.30pm at Tilsley Park, Abingdon. The event is for anyone involved in the running of a sports club who would like to learn more about the council's community grants; how the council can support you in applying for funding; the projects delivered by the councils' participation team and how you can get involved and Sport England's new funding streams.

Planning Matters – AB said that the Pre-Application Advice offered by SODC is very useful and this should stop having to have amendments on some applications. This advice will now be available to

the public. JB stated that some applications do not have a decision made within the 8 week period and they can then take a very long time for a decision to be made. AB said that this would only be with very controversial applications. AB reported that Planning is quite an aggressive market place. AB also said that Chalgrove are going to need to have Watlington thoughts on the HCA application and said it is important to keep her in the loop on the Councils view on applications especially this one and what is important for this community eg infrastructure and its implications. AB said that will need more time to discuss this issue than is available at this meeting.

TW asked at what stage would it be worthwhile to meet with AB who stated now.

KT will set up a meeting and will liaise with AB as to date and time to discuss this issue and any other issues needed with our District Councillor.

Lys Mill – AB asked that we send the Council's comment on this application to her. KT will do this.

Matt Reid thanked AB for attending the meeting.

09/17 Thames Valley Police Report

KT said that we are getting a new PCSO, Lee Kehoe but as he is not yet in place we do not have a report. It was noted that there have been a number of van break- ins during the last week.

10/17 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

TW read out the Balance of Accounts and proposed that the list of payments be settled as per the prescribed process.

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

11/17 Committees:

A: FINANCE –4/1/2017 – Tony Williamson

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

Precept and Budget

TW stated that at the last Full Council meeting in December a significant increase in the Precept was discussed and it was agreed that with the needs of Watlington and having to take on financial issues that OCC and SODC are no longer doing that this is something that we should do so that services do not suffer. Looking at the draft budget the main extra items are a new upgraded Assistant Clerk, pensions, some extra amount for the Clerk training in order for the Council to achieve 'General Power of Competence, Bus Subsidy, grant for the Children's Centre, Neighbourhood Plan, increased grass cutting areas in the town etc. We have also taken on more assets such as the play equipment in the paddock.

MR said that we lack a philosophy with regards how we charge for services if they're not 'like for like' and highlighted the fact that despite ongoing cuts in local services council tax is still rising year on year. RB said that we are now providing additional services that had been cut such as grass cutting on a 'like for like' basis. RH said that any money raised through the parish precept represented good value for the tax payer as the majority of the administration involved in the spending of this money is carried out by volunteers. MR cautioned that historically the Parish Council have been very good at bringing about new facilities, but that we needed to have stronger ongoing management of those facilities in order to lessen the burden on the precept. It was also asked that Council are given a complete breakdown of spend on the NP to date. The Clerk will ask Rachel Gill for this.

TW gave out a table of precept calculations for Band D to show the effect an increase on precept would affect a Band D resident and also on Band E properties.

He also said that it is likely that our balances at year end would be in the region of £90,000 of which half is committed and the other half should be at least half the precept.

After much discussion there was a vote taken on the recommendation: 8 in favour, 2 abstentions

Resolved:

i) To increase the annual payment of Council Tax Band D from £92.70 to £105.37 and other bands proportionately. A statement will be given out on this as per last year to our residents (IH/TW/KT)

ii) To establish a precept (being the Band D figure multiplied by the Tax base of 1157.40) of £121,956.00. This equates to an increase of £1.27 for each month (Band D) for the 10 months payable.

iii) To approve the attached Committee Budgets figures (titled Budget Recommendation for Full Council on 10th January 2017)

Watlington Hoard

Resolved Unanimously: That the Parish Council support the Appeal to raise funds by the Ashmolean Museum to purchase the Watlington Hoard and keep it in Oxfordshire.

The Parish Council to also support the fundraising appeal by circulating, from the Ashmolean and the Parish Council, a joint letter to residents in our community.

That we allocate £500 from our Reserves, with the proviso that this is returned to the Parish Council if the total amount is not raised by the Ashmolean.

TJ said that there could be fundraising done to fund a replica set of the coins at some point. MR asked if it would be a good idea to set up a Working Party to support the Appeal and TJ said that would be very useful. Councillors to let TJ know if they are interested in being part of this.

Pensions –TW had circulated a paper on this.

Resolved: That Watlington Parish Council enrol with NEST (National Employment Savings Trust) and that Finance Committee manage the procedure needed for Auto –Enrolment.

Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit.

Resolved: To agree the following statement:

‘The main role of the Internal Auditor is to check all the financial and accountable records that the Clerk must keep. This is done soon after the end of the financial year and involves all the financial transactions and both the legal authority and procedural authority for such transactions - eg the signed minutes of all meetings. Once the Internal Auditor is satisfied with the accounts and records, the Clerk prepares the relatively brief submission to the External Auditor. During the year the Clerk occasionally seeks his advice - eg in transferring the Receipt and Payment accounts, operated through the year, into Accrual accounts needed for audit. Were the Clerk to leave or become temporarily unavailable, the Internal Auditor would assist a new or acting clerk’.

Financial Regulations Review

Resolved: That the attached draft Financial Regulations for 2016/2017 be agreed.

B: PLANNING – 3/1/2017 – Bob West – Vice-Chairman

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

BW said it was a small but quorate group with only 3 members present. There were no contentious planning applications on the agenda.

C: STRATEGY- There has been no meeting

Communications Policy – SvP has drafted this and there are a few changes needed. She will make these and this will be further discussed at the next meeting.

D. OPERATIONS – There has been no meeting

E. ALLOTMENTS – Nicky Smallbone

NS said that there are 5 plots available at the moment. It was agreed that this information be put on our Facebook page.

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

The next meeting will be held on the 30th January 2017. The Sports Club AGM will take place on Sunday 5th February at the Sports Pavilion.

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – 9/1/2017 (Minutes were not available for the meeting) – Jeremy Bell

JB said that The NPSC continues to work with FORUM, facing a four sided dilemma:-

- (a) How to add additional houses to Watlington
- (b) How to retain the original qualities of Watlington in its scale, texture and character
- (c) How to deal with the peak time traffic congestion and also some type of B4009 diversion around Watlington.
- (d) How to accommodate the additional traffic which is likely to pass through Watlington as a result of the proposed additional 3000 houses at Chalgrove Airfield.

With respect of the proposed Chalgrove Development, the HCA is assessing the region-wide traffic implications, including Watlington. The results are expected in March 2017.

There are planning applications in for houses on WAT 8, for houses on land in the Parish of Pyrton, and there are likely to be planning application going in for houses at WAT 11 and 12. Should both of these applications which have already been submitted be approved, this will provide two ends of a possible B4009 diversion with WAT 9 and 10 still not progressed, although WAT 9 is within the initiative of the same promotion as WAT 8.

The council will recollect that at the Summer Roadshows, a daisy chain of sites along a potential diversion of the B4009 was shown on the sites WAT 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, this is likely to far exceed the anticipated 200 houses, by a fraction of around 4 (800), thus requiring some considerable design expertise to retain the quality, character and scale of Watlington. With respect of WAT 8, this is in the Parish of Pyrton, who are conducting their own NP, and their current view is that they are totally opposed to the WAT 8 application and also any kind of B4009 diversion crossing land within their Parish.

TJ said that the HCA have had a meeting with Cuxham and said that the solution for Cuxham is to put in a pavement and a narrower road which Cuxham are not very pleased about.

Traffic Impact Modelling on Specific Sites

Resolved Unanimously: That Council agree to spend £4,500, this amount has been received from Locality, to pay for the modelling of traffic impacts on specific sites (see attached sheet for details). That the NP Steering Committee be given delegated authority to choose which company, out of the four quotations received, to commission these works from. That the NP Steering Committee can agree the provider by email if a decision needs to be made before a scheduled meeting as the work must be completed and paid for by the end of March 2017.

It was noted that only 15- 20% of Traffic is derived from Watlington, the remainder of traffic comes from outside Watlington.

12/17 Discussion Items requested from Councillors

1. **Chinnor Railway** – Roger Beattie stated that this year will be the 60th year since the passenger service on the railway ceased. He asked if WPC would be in agreement to be part of the celebrations in some way. Council agreed in principle to this and RB will bring some ideas back to Council once more details are known.

13/17 Correspondence for Information

Letter No 331 – Meeting with John Howell on Friday 20th January – SvP and FP will attend this meeting.

14/17 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

Friends of Watlington Hill – TJ stated that they are always looking for new members. They have volunteers from many areas but only a few from Watlington. They have two Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers.

Age Concern – TW reported that they are waiting for an OCC decision on cutting of funding. It is likely that Age Concern will no longer get a grant from the end of August 2017. More discussion will be needed on the best way to go forward.

Watlington in Bloom – TJ said that they could do with more help.

15/17 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50PM