

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 12th July 2011

Present:

Councillors:

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

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillors:

Angie Paterson, Anna Badcock

Press:

Jennifer Maxfield, Henley Standard

Members of the Public:

1

98/11 Apologies for absence
Tony Williamson, Di Tolan, PC Ian Kent.

99/11 Chairman's Remarks
Ian Hill reported that the judging for Britain in Bloom took place last Friday and the comments the judges made were positive and they seemed impressed with the tour they were taken on. The results from this competition will be announced in September.

100/11 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, Watlington – Ted Backhouse declared an interest in this as he is a Trustee of The Friends of Watlington Library. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for the vote.

101/11 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 14th June 2011 to be signed as a correct record
Resolved: That these minutes were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

102/11 Matters arising from the Minutes

Public Meeting on the Library – This will take place on 18th July at 7.00pm at St Leonard’ Church and it was hoped that as many Councillors as possible can attend. Ian Hill will co-host the meeting with Philip Pinney, Chairman of the Friends of Watlington Library. OCC will be in attendance.

Triathlon – Barry Adby will be attending a meeting on this tomorrow night. It was noted that the Fairmile and the Road from Pishill to Stokenchurch will be completely closed. A map showing the alternative routes is held in the office.

Website Business Directory Issues – This will be an agenda item for the Strategy Meeting on 26th July 2011.

103/11 Public Questions

There were none.

104/11 District Councillors Report- Angie Paterson/Anna Badcock

The Paper Shop, High Street - Angie Paterson reported that this is an issue she has been concerned about and has raised in different quarters. Local residents have also been in touch with her on this and she has put potential tenants in touch with the Letting Agent. Queries have also come via the Parish Office. The current situation is, she believes, that the shop is in a dilapidated state and the Landlord is suing the former tenant for breach of tenancy, which the tenant is disputing. The Agent is pushing for an agreement to be reached as he is unable to proceed with a new lease until the dispute is resolved.

Angie Paterson has brought this property to the attention of the SODC Economic Development department and asked if they could do anything. They are in touch with the Agent to put forward potential leads but there is little more they can do. In mid April Angie Paterson was advised that someone had been appointed to sort out the building with a view to re-letting. Sadly this has not progressed as we all hoped.

From a planning perspective, Enforcement and Conservation staff have visited the site earlier this year. They acknowledge that the physical condition of the property is in need of routine maintenance/repair but the external condition does not suggest the building is at risk or in need of comprehensive works to bring it back into use. From the evidence to date there is no planning justification for action.

It is a concern that if it is left unused for a sufficient period of time the owner would be able to put in a successful application for change of use to residential. This would be hotly contested and hence the regular contact with the Agent and picking up on potential tenants. Through this, it is hoped it would be possible to demonstrate that there is retail interest should it come to it. In relation to the empty flat, the flat is integral to the business and could not be let separately without substantial building work. If this were pushed forward it may further harm the potential to let the whole property for retail.

Core Strategy – Angie Paterson reported that the Planning Inspector had said that SODC were not allowed to include an allocation for windfalls within the housing Allocations. Now strategic sites have to be identified in the towns.

In the larger villages, the sites for new housing will be identified through the Site Allocation process. Work will begin on this as soon as work on the Core Strategy permits. The Site Allocations Document is unlikely to be adopted until 2016. There will be preferred options and

the Planning Team will work with Parish Councils regarding sites at some point in the future. The sites which landowners have put forward for consideration are on the SODC website (a copy of these is held in the office) and it was stated that anyone can put a site up for consideration, even if it would not be suitable. It does not mean that they will be chosen by SODC.

Following a review of the Core Strategy proposal the number of houses to be built in the larger villages has gone up from 740 to 1154. These 1154 houses will be spread over all 13 settlements. If they were to be equally allocated this would mean a total of 90 per settlement. However it will not be spread equally

Parish Councillors raised issues such as the air quality in the centre of the Town. Rhian Woods raised the point that the schools are not big enough to cope with numbers at the moment. Angie Paterson stated that OCC is a major consultee on this and will have all relevant data and trends. There are lots of things that need to be looked at and this will be a long process.

Tim Horton asked regarding the site allocation map if Angie Paterson has met with any Agents of Landowners who have submitted the sites in Watlington. Angie Paterson responded that she has not as District Councillor. Her only specific involvement has been when she was a member of the Parish Council.

Olympic Torch Route –Anna Badcock reported that she has spoken with the Oxford Sports Partnership regarding this and has asked for more details. She has given the number of the person to contact to the Clerk. They are asking for nominations for torch bearers at the moment and anyone interested should contact them but there are no further details on the route as yet. Tim Horton said there is a recommendation on this from the Strategy Committee further on in the agenda about putting a piece on the route into the Watlington Times asking people to get onto the Olympic 2012 site and propose that the torch comes through Watlington. It needs a community push to see if we can get it to come through, Wallingford, Benson, Ewelme and Watlington and then onto Henley.

Election Review – Angie Paterson stated that the Review paper is on the SODC website and this will be discussed by the Scrutiny Committee shortly. She reported that this meeting will be held jointly with the Vale of the White Horse and the SODC Scrutiny Committees. However if a vote is taken it will be done separately. The meeting will be held in the SODC offices and will be recorded on the web-cam.

Tim Horton asked about the Election finances in that the Parish Council set aside money for the Election costs, after all the problems encountered SODC need to restore confidence and one step of doing this might be consideration of the financial expectation. There has been a strong depth of feeling from Watlington Parish Council about the Elections and perhaps a review of the costs in respect of money could be considered. Angie Paterson said that it would be important to look carefully at the paper on this however WPC could write to SODC on this matter.

Polling Station at Christmas Common – There has not been a review on this yet but it has not been forgotten.

Ian Hill thanked Angie Paterson and Anna Badcock for attending the meeting.

105/11 County Councillors Report
There was no report.

106/11 Thames Valley Police Report

PC Ian Kent has emailed the Clerk a report today which will be forwarded onto Councillors.

107/11 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.

Resolved: That the Balance of Accounts be accepted and the List of Payments be settled and that these be signed by the Chairman.

108/11 **Annual Parish Meeting 14/4/2011**

Resolved: That these be approved and put on the website.

109/11 Committees:

A: FINANCE – There has been no meeting.

B: PLANNING – 5/7/2011 – Rhian Woods

Resolved: That the minutes be accepted by Council

Ploughmans, Howe Hill – Rhian Woods stated that Robert Barber had attended the SODC Planning meeting to speak against this application, which was approved by the SODC Committee. He stated that since this meeting he has spoken with Paula Fox, Head of Planning East. The order of speaking at Planning Meetings is:

1. Officer
2. Parish Council
3. Applicant
4. SODC Member
5. Committee who can then ask questions of the Officer.

The committee discussed that that in future if the Parish Council feel very strongly on application and is going to speak on it, that 3 days before the SODC meeting an email is sent to all SODC Committee members with a paper on the reasons why WPC object. It was also noted that it is imperative that our Member speak at the Committee on the Parish's behalf.

P11/E0820 East End House, Watlington. - The committee objected to this application, this decision was swayed by the concerns of English Heritage.

Watlington Times – Planning Issues

Resolved: That decisions on applications are added to the Council's page in the Watlington Times as in item 7 with an added description of what the application is eg extension.

C: STRATEGY – 28/6/2011- David Tindale

Resolved: That the minutes be accepted by Council

David Tindale reported that the Committee made two resolutions in the meeting on Red Kites and the Public Meeting on the Library which are in the minutes.

Shirburn Road/Love Lane

Resolved: That we put on hold this consultation, until a time that OCC may have funding in place if the decision is to make these changes is agreed and that a note on this is put in the Watlington Times.

Tim Horton stated that we should write further to OCC with regard to this issue and it was agreed that this be discussed further by the Strategy Committee.

Large Lorries in the Town

Resolved: That the Clerk speak to the Police and Trading Standards regarding the issue of the community doing lorry checks and if they are happy with it that we organise them. This then to be organised by the Operations Committee.

Diamond Jubilee

Resolved: That the Council wishes to see the Town's respect and admiration for Her Majesty's reign of 60 years marked through local celebration in June 2012. The Council to arrange a meeting, open to all in the Town and written invitations to key bodies to be held in the Town Hall on 16th September 2011, under the initial chairmanship of Ian Hill. The meeting to make appropriate arrangements for the co-ordination of events of the Queen's Jubilee.

Olympic Torch

Resolved:

1. That Council writes to the 2012 organisers with a closely argued case for the Torch bearing progress to visit the historic communities of Benson, Ewelme and Watlington.
2. That Council invites other parishes and members and officers of senior councils to urge a decision for the Torch route to embrace these communities
3. That Council encourages other organisations, especially those for younger people and involving young people, to write in seeking the Olympic torch to come through our community.
4. That, in the event of a positive decision, the role of co-ordination for 10th July 2012 in Watlington should be charged to the same group that would be involved in the Jubilee celebrations. This group would be encouraged to work alongside other local parishes in order to finalise and fund a good quality programme.

Buses – The full paper from Tim Horton was attached to the Agenda

101/106 -A lot of discussion is focussing on the remaining early morning 101 bus. The re-routeing of the 106 will commence on 5 September.

124 on Tuesday (Thame) - The service is run by Arriva ,using a small bus and taking 41 minutes (via Haseleys) for the journey and this has come in for criticism. Several suggestions have been made to improve the position. As a result OCC are in conversation with Goride about this.

Goride - There is discussion with them about how best to use the Junction 6 connection during the times it is not being used. They are looking at how to maximise the use of this bus/ taxi bus under DRT (Demand Responsive Transport) rules for longer times and 7 days a week.

Resolved:

1. That WPC wishes to support a return to two 101 buses between the hours of 7.00 and 8.00 a.m. Accordingly it urges Thames Travel and OCC to engage in productive talks towards this end using some subsidy as may be necessary.
2. Watlington PC urges upon OCC alterations to current arrangements that will lead to a faster service to Thame on market day (Tuesday)
3. Watlington PC welcomes the involvement of Goride in seeking solutions for cost-effective and low carbon solutions to many of the issues of movement around the Watlington area.

These issues to be discussed by the Strategy Committee at their next meeting.

D. OPERATIONS – 22/6/2011- Barry Adby

Resolved: That the minutes be accepted by Council

GLEAM

Resolved: That we subscribe to GLEAM at a cost of £15 per annum.

Pavilion/Toilets in the Recreation Ground for the Summer Holiday period.

Resolved:

1. That after discussion with people who indicated their interest in the selling of refreshments during this period, and other research work, we do not open the pavilion for refreshments/toilets during the Summer Holidays.
2. That further to the research which has been done on the possibility of porta-loos, we hire one for the summer holidays (up to 6 weeks) which will be sited in the recreation ground area at a cost of approximately £22 per week. This issue will be reviewed on a weekly basis by Operation Committee members.

Tree Warden

Resolved: That we appoint Tom Bindoff to become our second tree warden.

E. ALLOTMENTS – There has been no meeting.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 13/6/2011- Barry Adby

Resolved: That the minutes be accepted by Council

At this meeting it was agreed to work towards achieving “Charter Standard Membership” and producing the Football Development Plan, which the Sports Club are doing. The “Business Plan” and “Agreement between the Parish Council are also being drafted and which will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Rabbits are a real problem in the Sports Field and a number of ways to deal with them are being looked at.

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – The first meeting will be held on 14th July at 8pm in the Community Office.

110/11 33 High Street, Watlington – papers were attached to the Agenda.

Tim Horton reported that he is very pleased that OCC have confirmed that monies raised, if 33 High Street was sold must go to the charitable purposes of the Charlotte Coxe Trust. OCC have explored the building being taken over by a local organisations, after the move by Age Concern to 26b High Street but this has not been possible for a number of reasons. It was noted that there has been 2 changes to the Trust document over the years which they did not publicise and did not notify the Council about.

There was much discussion on this issue and further to the questions raised it was;

Resolved: That Council establish a working group of six members; Ian Hill, David Tindale, Tim Horton, Charles Rowton-Lee, Nick Greaves and Rhian Woods who will consider the legal and financial issues that would arise from the disposal of 33 High Street that is part of the Charlotte Coxe Trust.

The Committee should seek an urgent meeting with appropriate County Council Officers and Members and report back on positions first to the Strategy Committee.

The Council shall keep Cllr. Belson as local member appraised of its action and position on the matter of disposal

- 111/11 Correspondence for Information - List was attached to the Agenda
Letter 849 - from Icknield Community College – Ian Hill has drafted a letter to the new Headmaster.
All other correspondence has been passed to the relevant Committee.
- 112/11 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received
There was no reports from any other organisations.
- 113/11 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 9.55PM

