

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 10th July 2012

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill
Tony Williamson
Nick Greaves
Robert Barber
Ted Backhouse
Barry Adby
Roger Beattie
Tony Williamson
Nick Hancock
David Tindale

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillors:

Angie Paterson

County Councillor:

Caroline Newton

Press:

Janine Rasiah

97/12 Apologies for absence

Di Tolan, Rhian Woods, Charles Rowton-Lee, Harvey Batten

98/12 Chairman's Remarks

Ian Hill said that he has been a bit concerned about the time meetings are taking. He asked that all giving reports to please keep them as short and succinct as possible. Please ask questions but asked that there is no long discussions on issues that could be dealt with outside the meeting.

99/12 To receive Declarations of Interest

New Tree in the vicinity of Pavilion – Tim Horton declared an interest in this item as he is the Chairman of the Jubilee Committee who have offered to donate the tree. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

100/12 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 12th June 2012 to be signed as a correct record

Robert Barber said that regarding minute 86/12, Localism Act that the word 'original' be put before 'consultation paper'. It was also agreed that 'if ' should replace 'is' before 'accepted'. It was also noted that 2 lines were missing from the Operations report prior to the Recommendation for changing date and time of the meetings.

Resolved: That with the above change these minutes be agreed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

101/12 Matters arising from the Minutes

Election Invoice (Minute 92/12 refers) – Tim Horton reported that SODC have accepted our payment of this invoice which did not include the costs relating to the postal vote and have issued us with a credit note for the amount we withheld. This issue is now concluded.

102/12 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

103/12 District Councillors Report – Angie Paterson

Planning Application Fees – These will be increasing by 15% in the Autumn. This has been set by the Government.

SODC Neighbourhood Plan Seminar – AP stated that she had been delighted to sit with NH and RW at the recent SODC seminar and at the understanding this Council appears to have of the matter. They seemed much more forward thinking than many. She offered to arrange for a SODC Policy Officer to attend a meeting with Watlington Parish Councillors on this issue.

NH stated that we have been assigned Phil Moole as the Policy Officer to help Watlington with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Householder Appeals– AP reported that she had looked into this as requested, and that nothing has changed as regards Householder Appeals. Extra information has/is only allowed if the Inspector asks for more information, which, in this case the Inspector did not. It is important to always put comments in on the original application.

104/12 County Councillors Report - Caroline Newton

Howe Hill – Proposed 40mph Speed Limit – This will be progressed by OCC under the Area Stewardship Fund if the Parish Council gives its approval.

Triathlon – OCC will be delivering letters to all residents affected by this event on the 24th/25th July. Henley Town Council will be hosting a meeting on this in August (date tbc) to which the OCC Officer, Peter Ronald will be attending. They have invited all the Parish Councils affected by this event.

Broadband – Caroline Newton reported that she and Anna Badcock had a good meeting with the people who are leading the community broadband project in Chipping Norton. They have compiled a detailed survey of this area. There will then be a template that a survey can be based on. They will continue working on this issue.

105/12 Thames Valley Police Report

PC Ian Kent had sent his apologies and has sent a written report, of which the following points were noted.

HGV Weight checks` During the month PC Kent has conducted several more HGV checks at various times in and around Watlington . Although it is fully acknowledged that there are offending drivers entering this restricted area all the vehicles checked on these particular occasions again had valid delivery documentation and therefore lawful excuse to operate within the zone . Further checks will be carried out to apprehend and deter offenders in conjunction with operations by Trading Standards.

Crime - As reported last month , the offender caught for operating without a valid waste carriers licence who had his vehicle seized has now been fully dealt with for no

insurance on his vehicle by police and a prosecution is proceeding by the environment agency for operating in the collection of waste without a licence, ie scrap metal collection.

As I am sure the Parish council is aware, the investigation and case of the serious assault against members of a local family in Pyrton Lane Watlington at the end of last month is currently ongoing by our CID office.

106/12 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.

107/12 Committees:

A: FINANCE - Tim Horton

There has been no meeting and therefore no issues to report.

B: PLANNING – 3/7/2012 – Robert Barber

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Robert Barber reported that the committee had objected to two planning applications;

P12/S1059/CA 8 Cuxham Road, Watlington -Proposal to replace the timber wall with concrete. This was objected to on the grounds of an extension of unsympathetic materials in a Conservation Area.

P11/S0001 54 Love Lane, Watlington - Demolition of existing house and garage and erection of 3 x 2-storey 2-bedroom dwellings and 2 x 4-bedroom dwellings with integral garages, incorporating new vehicular access and surface parking and turning. Amendment to planning permission P11/E0164

This was objected to as our previous objections to this scheme have not been addressed and therefore our objection remain as previously stated.

Marigold Cottage, Howe Road – Robert Barber stated that the Inspector's report was very strange. He stated that although it was not done with the right materials under the present planning policy he deemed the wall not to be so detrimental to the surroundings that it needed to be taken down. (The full appeal report is held in the office)

C: STRATEGY – There has been no formal meeting.

Cuxham Road o/s Bulrushes – Robert Barber, Barry Adby and the Clerk met with Keith Stenning from OCC to look on site at the issues that residents have complained about. He suggested various options, that the owner be asked to give up some land to enable a pavement to be built; that there is a build-out which would also give the added benefit of traffic calming. At present OCC have no funding for such a scheme. It was noted that mirrors are not possible in this location.

Howe Road proposed 40mph speed limit – It was noted that we have just received the proposed map showing this limit.

Resolved: That this be discussed at the next Strategy Meeting on 17th July and that this committee be delegated to making the decision on this and to report back to OCC

/

D. OPERATIONS – 27/6/2012 – Barry Adby

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Watcombe Road Entrance

Resolved: That we write to OCC asking them to adopt this path from Hill Road to the Co-op entrance.

It was stated that if OCC does this it could have implications of the residents that are frontagers to this section. WPC is a frontager as regards the Hill Road car park. The Clerk to check this with SODC.

It was noted that we have also asked the Co-op to repair this footpath and they have sent a letter asking a number of questions. The Clerk will reply to this.

Public Conveniences - Improvements

Resolved: That we purchase 2 toilets for the ladies and 2 urinal bowls and 1 toilet for the mens. The bowls will replace the existing panel urinal. To spend up to £6,000 which will include any works needed to install these.

Ash Tree and a New Tree by the Pavilion

Resolved: That we plant an English Oak tree in commemoration of the Queens Jubilee, which would be supplied by the Jubilee Committee in this area with a view to it being the landmark tree in this location once the Ash tree, which is nearing the end of its life, dies.

Porta-loo in Recreation Ground

Resolved: That we hire a porta-loo for the Recreation Area for the Summer Holiday period

War Memorial

Resolved: That we agree to seek some quotations from experts in pointing in lime mortar, and when we have the quotes to seek a grant for this work from the War Memorial Trust and then get the work that is needed to the War Memorial attended to.

The Old Paper Shop – High Street. Watlington

It was noted that this is not just a shop it also has a flat. A year ago Angie Paterson gave us a useful note on this property. It has now been empty for 4 years. There are Economic Officers allocated to the 4 big towns by SODC and it was thought they would not allow a building to have remained this long and in this condition in for example, Henley.

Watlington has an economic role. It was also noted that no business rates are being paid on this property due to it having a housing unit.

Watlington has previously been designated as a Market Town by SODC and it was thought that a SODC Officer in Economic Development should be looking at this issue.

Resolved: That we write to the Chief Executive of SODC, asking that he intervenes over the continuing vacancy of the former Paper Shop . To ask his advice as to whether compulsory purchase through the District Council is now an appropriate means of relieving the problem of this site.

Our District Councillors to be informed of our decision on this.

Watlington in Bloom- The judge's visit took place last week and the results will be announced in September. Tim Horton thanked all who helped with this.

E. ALLOTMENTS –There has been no meeting.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 2/7/2012 – Tony Williamson

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Vandalism issues to outside of Pavilion

Resolved:: That any damage done to the outside of the building by users of the recreation ground should be paid by the Parish Council in the same way that if a major amount of damage happened the Parish Council would claim on their insurance.

The Finance Committee will look at any financial implications of this.

Tim Horton asked about the Resolution to form a small group to look into the possible extension onto the Pavilion and said he felt this should have been discussed by the Strategy Committee. Ian Hill stated that he attended the Pavilion meeting and that there is not enough information at the moment for Council to even agree an in-principle resolution and therefore all information will be gathered together before it comes to Parish Council Committees to discuss this issue.

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – There has been no meeting.

David Tindale reported that we are awaiting a response from ORCC and then a meeting will be held, hopefully in September.

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP – 17/4/2012 and 5/5/2012 – Nick Hancock
Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Nick Hancock said that at the meeting held on the 5th July there was a wide ranging discussion. A letter will be sent to our neighbouring communities to determine their level of interest in being part of our Neighbourhood Plan. It will then be our intention to submit a designated area to SODC. Following this SODC will then conduct a 6 week consultation on the area submitted. There will shortly be a meeting of the Core Group with representatives from Thame and SODC. It was noted that Thame are at the stage that they have produced a draft plan and are inviting comments from residents.

Nick Hancock stated that there are lots of regulations and legislation on Neighbourhood Plans which have not gone through Parliament yet.

108/12 Request from Sports Club for a loan

*“There is a football tournament as well as the social event on the 26th August and another tournament on 12th August. At the present time the Sports Club do not have sufficient funds to pay for the band but the summer events will cover the costs”
Would the Parish Council be able to pay for the band as a loan to the Sports Club?
We should be able to pay this back immediately after the social event on the 26th”.*

Advice had been sought from OALC on this and according to the legislation (Local Government Act 1976 Section 19 (3)) WPC is unable to ‘loan’ money for social events. The Clerk has spoken to the Football Club regarding this and therefore this issue does not need to be discussed.

109/12 Report on Ian Hill’s meeting with Mat Hunter – Headteacher of Icknield Community College – notes on this have been given to all councillors.

Ian Hill reported that Mat Hunter is very keen get involved with the community and having better communication in place. Discussion took place on having regular meetings and having community events. He is also interested in involving local expertise within the school. Meetings would include representative of WPC, a representative of the Governors and the Head Boy and Girl. A meeting will be set up after the school holidays. A link has now been put on our website to the ICC and they will include on their website any community events that would be of interest to the school. It was noted that copies of their newsletters are available on their website and it would help if Councillors could read these on a regular basis. Robert Barber stated that it will be very interesting to get the views of the pupils, what things they feel important as regards the community. David Tindale said that under an initiative by Angie Paterson, members of WPC had previously held mock interviews for the 16 year olds on a volunteer basis. However these then stopped but may be a good thing to do again. It was noted that there is a large proportion

of children from Stokenchurch and Stadhampton at the school and they should be equal partners and be involved from an early stage.

In summary the five priority areas identified are:

1. Setting up a forum for regular meetings
2. Communication
3. Developing community involvement
4. A community event run by both school and community
5. Use of local expertise

Ian Hill stated that he came away from the meeting very encouraged by such a positive view. WPC will need to appoint a representative to liaise with the ICC. Rhian Woods has said that in principle she would like to do this. Robert Holmes-Smith has taken on the role of a Community Governor.

This issue, after an initial meeting with Luisa Howden, Business Manager of the Icknield Community College, will be an agenda item for the Strategy Committee.

110/12 To make any changes to Committee Membership and Town Hall Charity Trustee Body.
It was noted that Tony Williamson and Robert Barber have resigned from the Town Hall Charity Trustee Body.

111/12 Correspondence for Information - List Attached to Agenda
Letter No 138 from the Co-op – Council was very pleased to see this letter.

112/12 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received
There were no reports received.

113/12 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair
Signs around the Town – It was noted that there are at least 17 signs from the Teak Sale at the Church still up even though the event has happened. These are being taken down but it was noted that people should have a licence to put up signs and that they do make the town look very untidy. It was also noted that signs for a concert have been taken down due to them being in unacceptable places and the Clerk has emailed the company concerned to tell them this.

33 High Street – Nick Greaves asked if it is time we had a meeting with OCC on this and was told we have not as yet.

SODC Tourism Website– A press release from SODC on this issue was released on 27th June 2012, in which they are encouraging communities to list their events on. It was agreed that IH/KT contact SODC regarding the the process for doing this.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.40PM

