



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8.00pm on Tuesday 14th July 2015

Present:

Councillors

Ian Hill (IH) - Chairman
Matt Reid (MR) - Vice Chairman
Jeremy Bell (JB)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Jon Lorimer (JL)
Jo Read (JR)
Bob West (BW)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Elizabeth Winton (EW)
Roger Beattie (RB) from 8.25pm
Jane Bryant (JBt)
Robin Wilson (RW)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

County Councillor:

Steve Harrod

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock

Press:

David White – Henley Standard

Members of the Public:

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118/15 Apologies for absence

There were none.

119/15 Chairman's Remarks

IH reported that as from today Watlington has now got faster broadband. If you want to have it you need to subscribe. IH thanked Peter Richardson for passing on this information.

120/15 To receive Declarations of Interest

Charlotte Coxe Trust (Agenda Item 6) – Bob West declared a prejudicial interest in this as he has a leasehold on the flat above the library. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

Charlotte Coxe Trust (Agenda Item 6) – Tony Williamson declared a personal interest in this as he is Chairman of Watlington Age Concern. He remained in the room for this item.

Football Club and Cricket Club Stewardship Agreements (Agenda Item 11F) – Matt Reid declared a prejudicial interest in this item as he is Chairman of the Sports Club. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

Football Club and Cricket Club Stewardship Agreements (Agenda Item 11F) – Liz Winton declared a prejudicial interest in this item as she is a member of the Football Club. She signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item. She also left the room when the Football Barriers and Dug-Outs were discussed.

121/15 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 8th, 9th June and 23rd June to be signed as a correct record

Resolved: That the minutes are a correct record of the above meetings and that they be signed by the Chairman.

122/15 Matters arising from the Minutes

Full Council 9/6/2015 - Elections survey (Minute 106/15 refers) – This was referred to the Strategy Committee but was not discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk send a response to SODC stating that WPC has no comments to make on this issue.

123/15 Public Questions

Gill Bindoff: *I was so pleased to see the resounding support for the continuation of the NP last week. What is clear to me is that many people from our community want to be actively involved. I think that it is vital at this point that the parish council responds very positively to this enthusiasm and enables everyone who is interested to have an opportunity to make a contribution. If the NP is to achieve a high level of community support people need to feel confident that their ideas matter. The key point is that the neighbourhood planning process should be genuinely community led.*

I know that the parish council is the statutory body with responsibility for the development of the NP and needs to have effective oversight of the process, but it does not need to have control over it. Good points were made yesterday evening that the parish council has many other responsibilities which need its attention. In my view, the NP does need a core management group but I think the membership should be largely self-selecting. We need to have working groups looking at several key aspects of the NP and one or two members of each of these groups should make up the management team. What would be damaging at this point would be for the parish council to exclude anyone from the process and just 'select' certain people to take the NP forward. It is clear that this process failed last time and that a new, inclusive, approach is needed.

In order to capture the enthusiasm demonstrated at the meeting the community needs to see some early action. I think a good strategy would be to set up a short term ad hoc group just to kick start the process with a view to establishing the working groups as quickly as possible. There is already a group looking at traffic and some people have already met to look at environmental sustainability.

Tony Williamson is planning to activate a group of older members of our community and it would be relatively easy to bring together people with an interest in housing and the local economy. We certainly need a group to make a thorough investigation of all possible sites for housing and for the other facilities which have been identified via local consultations so far. I would really like to be involved in this process and am willing to help get groups set up and running. I was initially recruited by the parish council to help with the development of the NP because of my extensive community experience. I would like the opportunity, now, to put this to good use and help to get our NP back on track.

Gill Bindoff asked that her question be deferred until before the Neighbourhood Plan Agenda Item. This was agreed.

Peter Richardson: *With the news of the closure of Barclays Bank from October 1st and the situation regarding the Post Office, will the WPC endorse a campaign that WATNEXT might mount to fight these closures and the subsequent loss of status and if so on what basis.*

Furthermore is it acceptable for subscribers to the Neighbourhood Plan, to be approached for their support as these issues are central to the commercial and public facilities offered by Watlington" This also raises the question of the relationship between the WPC and WATNEXT and the need to establish clear terms of reference

IH said that in terms of WatNext, how compatible would this issue be within the traffic issues. PR said that Watnext have not yet met to discuss this but he thought he would ask the question to Full Council this month as there is no Full Council meeting until September. TW said that he raised the issue of the Post Office at the Annual Parish Meeting and SH suggested that this issue is raised with our MP John Howell. TW said he has spoken to John Howell's PA Angie Paterson and she said that he is dealing with similar issues in other towns and villages. However he can only get involved if the Postmaster asked specifically for his help. AP said that Watlington will have a Post Office but not sure where. He also said that losing a bank service is very significant. It was noted that cheques can now be paid into the Post Office. TJ said that perhaps 33 High Street could be a site for the Post Office if needed. TB stated that there will be a period of public consultation regarding the Post Office. TW said

that WPC should send a letter of concern to both the Post Office and Barclays Bank and this was agreed.

WPC have officially been informed that Barclays Bank will close in Watlington on 23rd October 2015. IH stated that Watnext should go ahead and start their campaign. Regarding using the subscribers to the NP their email addresses have been given specifically for the NP issue and they cannot be used for this campaign. However the email addresses collected at the Annual Parish Meeting could be used for this purpose.

124/15 District Councillors Report – Anna Badcock

CIL – This examination is going on at the moment and will be independently examined on the 29th July at Benson Village Hall.

SODC Full Council meeting scheduled for 16th July – This was cancelled due to lack of business.

Outlook Newsletter – A new one has just been sent out.

Joint Scrutiny Committee with SODC and Vale of White Horse - This is being trialled. Leisure and Waste will also be joined as this gives economies of scale to both Councils. However SODC and VWH are separate Councils and make decisions separately unless it make economic sense to do a joint contract.

SODC Move to Great Milton Park – AB stated that all staff are now back in the same building and very happy about this. She said that there is a great atmosphere there and it makes it much easier for people to communicate. The majority of meetings will be held in Howberry Park. In the long term will need to look at a number of options as to where their offices should be located. They will also consult residents on this. AB said that if anyone experiences difficulty in getting hold of any officers to please let her know. TJ asked what was happening with the Wallingford Site. AB said that the only salvageable building is the Council Chambers and there has been no decision made about it. BW said that he thinks that Great Milton Park is too far to go for a lot of residents with it being near the edge of the South Oxfordshire boundary and it is okay for a temporary measure but that SODC should not be located there permanently

AB was asked if she could bring up the issue of relaxing the Brick and Tile rule as Milton Park is a long way for everyone to go to drop off samples of the brick and tiles being used on projects which have been granted planning permission. It was thought that this would be a very sensible idea. AB said she would raise this issue. BW will write to her regarding this issue.

Budget 2016/2017 – This process is just starting to be looked at.

IH thanked AB for attending the meeting.

125/15 County Councillors Report – Stephen Harrod

SH said that he attended an Annual Parish Meeting of a nearby Parish recently and only 3 residents turned up and then left after 10 minutes which was so unlike the Watlington one which was so well attended by local residents.

Cross Party Review of Children and Early Intervention- OCC have to save £6M for the current budget and the first public consultation will take place from September to December. The Staff and Union will be consulted February to April 2016.

Cuts need to be made to non- statutory services such as Children’s Centres. However this is not being rushed. Streamlining of services will be looked at. Things that will be taken into consideration will be location and base funding on the need of parishes, population, need, age and geographical spread. The current regime would not be sustainable due to Government cuts

Council Tax - An increase in Council Tax will be looked at. This could impinge on Parish Councils having to increase their precepts. This is purely speculation at this stage but OCC are capped at 2% and if any greater increase there would have to be a Referendum which is costly but perhaps this may need to happen.

Recycling Centres and Bus Services – These may end up having to be up to local parishes to pay towards these.

OCC Budget – This will start to be looked at in September for the 2016/2017 financial year.

Fostering – CC are looking for foster parents as OCC is a fostering friendly Council.

Broadband – OCC hope that by 2017 most areas will be covered by faster broadband and SH said that he hopes by 2018 all areas in Oxfordshire will be covered. However he said this is an aspiration rather than a firm goal.

Major Transport Projects – The A40 section is being done and will be mayhem from the 20th July and will last for 6 months. The Frideswide Square works will continue until December 2015. The roundabouts at Cutteslowe and Wolvercote, on the A40 are being upgraded and have traffic management in place. These works will last until at least June 2016 and maybe longer. SH said that the roadworks are a short term pain for a long term gain.

Britwell Road Crossing Point – He said that the engineers have looked at this and it seems positive. The design team are now looking at what could be feasible and there maybe some 106 money available to fund this.

HAMP Assessments in Watlington – Brook Street, Love Lane, Couching Street and Spring Lane will be re-assessed.

Pound Close/Pyrtton Lane – OCC are monitoring the situation here.

Speeding Survey at Christmas Common – SH said that Keith Stenning has advised him that as soon as OCC receive a cheque for £250 they will schedule this in. KT stated that she has sent a map with preferred location etc to KS. KT will contact KS direct.

Hedges on the outskirts of Watlington – There is a danger that these will no longer be cut by OCC due to lack of funds and resources.

Questions from Councillors

RB asked about the closure of re-cycling centres eg Oakley Wood. SH said that there will be a public consultation on all sites. AB said that from Sept/Oct SODC will be collecting small electrical appliances and clothing from the doorstep/kerbside. This will be well communicated to residents prior to it starting.

BW asked SH where we are with the Ecotec road repairs. SH said that they seem to have done a runner. They have been unable to be contacted. IH said that we have given information to our Solicitor to look at what the council can do regarding Ecotec.

TJ said that the Electric Sign by the Cuxham Road roundabout is the wrong way round and cannot be read by motorists. KT said that she has spoken to Mark Francis (OCC) who has been out to investigate and he will ensure that it is put in the right position.

126/15 Thames Valley Police Report

The Clerk reported that Michelle Jacques has done her last shift and PSCO James Hopkin will be taking over from next week.

127/15 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

IH read out the Balances of Accounts and proposed that the list of payments be settled. It was noted that there have been 6 Trestle Tables ordered for the Town Hall and that the payment for the Smoothie Bike is for the Get Watlington Active project.

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

128/15 Committees:

A: FINANCE – There has been no meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting will be held on 21st July and if anyone has specific items for the agenda to let the Clerk know.

B: PLANNING –9/6/2015 and 7/7/2015 – Jeremy Bell

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

JB reported that the Committee listened to a presentation by David Parker regarding the Ingham House site for a limited number of infill houses. Councillors listened but made no comment other than to ask for clarification on a number of points.

C: STRATEGY – 23/6/2015

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council subject to one amendment, that in minute 32/15 Item 6, should read that 'TB asked that IH be asked for an update....'

Ecotec Works – IH reported that Ecotec met with IH and Tim Horton in December 2014 and accepting that the works proposed would lead to major disruption in Watlington they volunteered a sum of money for each day the works continued which could be used for community benefit. Ecotec confirmed this in an email in January 2015. At the same time there was a dispute between them and Cuxham as they had not offered them any recompense. The roads in Watlington were disrupted for 61 days. Letters were sent to Ecotec but we have never had any response to them. IH has tried phoning and emailing them but to no avail. IH then contacted the Ecotec parent company in Germany who stated that Ecotec UK is not a part of their company, but that they just purchased a license to use their name. Ecotec World is a Chinese company which is based in Hong Kong. Information on this issue has been sent to our Solicitor and we have asked that if the exchange of emails would constitute a Contract in Law and we are awaiting his comments. IH said that he has looked up their Company's Accounts and for the last year it states that they made £300,000 and their total debts are £2.5M. It was asked if the owner of the Solar Farm had been contacted. It was noted that they have not been contacted. MR stated that the Solar Farm was created and then handed over to an Operator who is Armstrong Energy. SSE could also be contacted and it was noted that bad publicity may make them uncomfortable. TB said that he feels that we should not just leave this issue we should do our best to pursue this issue. It was noted that ideally the cabling should have gone through the fields and not underneath the roads.

After discussion is was:

Resolved: That a group be set up and have a separate meeting to discuss this issue. IH, MR, TB, JB, TJ to meet up ASAP. A date for this will be sent out.

CIL Consultation – JB and IH will meet to discuss a WPC response to this.

Footpath 4

Resolved Unanimously: That we apply to OCC for a DMMO and Tom Bindoff and Terry Jackson will lead on this. The application will be made in the name of Watlington Parish Council.

It was noted that there would be no cost to WPC.

Survey of attitudes of older people in Watlington and surrounding area

Vote: 12 in favour, 2 abstentions.

Resolved: That Council support the Survey of Attitudes to Older People in Watlington and surrounding areas. TW and JBt will be the WPC representatives for this.

Safeguarding Children – Local Parish Councils should have in place a Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure – draft policy attached

Resolved Unanimously: That Council accept the Watlington Safeguarding Children's Policy and Procedure.

It was noted that we need to discuss how this is implemented – Strategy Agenda for September.

Skips on High Street in parking spaces

Resolved Unanimously: That we write to OCC stating our concerns about long term skips in the parking bays in the High Street.

D. OPERATIONS – 17/6/2015 – Bob West

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

BW stated that SH dealt with quite a few issues in his report above. The recreation ground car park will be cleared of rubbish and sides scraped back by a working party on the 1st August. A skip has been ordered by the Clerk. Regarding potential marking out of car park spaces we have not heard whether Anglo Liners visited site to assess the condition of the surfacing and whether it would be good enough to mark out. The Clerk will contact them.

Paddock – Fencing option.

TW said that he was concerned that chestnut paling or other fencing is used and that it is installed before the hedging plants are put in.

Vote: 9 in favour, 5 abstentions.

Resolved: The Committee is minded to fence the play area with chestnut paling and not put in metal fencing at this stage and keep the existing metal fencing in situ and paint it green.

That Council delegate responsibility to the Operations Committee to decide on the type of fencing and to arrange installation within a budget of £350.

E. ALLOTMENTS – Jo Read/Jane Bryant

JR had written the following report:

ALLOTMENTS REPORT - Jane Bryant and Jo Read met with George Bruce on Friday 12th June 2015-06-14. We discussed points raised at AGM:

- Conifer of concern is now horizontal. Just in time, as badly diseased. Association are arranging disposal between them.
- Three people were approached to do the job on the understanding that it was a labour of love (ie unpaid). Person chosen for the job has now presented the council with a bill. GB is looking into this issue.
- Members are collecting rocks/stones from plots to infill holes in main track,
- George would appreciate an acknowledgement to their response to NP Consultation 2. Reassurance would be appreciated. Explained new group is being formed.
- New noticeboard now in place -Awaiting Perspex.
- No dog signs as yet. Member at base was investigating source of those used at RAF Benson. No further information from her as yet. Robust signs required.
- Fly tipping - hard to tell! But seems to be under control now.
- Site is flourishing and concerns previously expressed about state of some plots are no more!
GB has Jane and Jo's phone and email details and will keep us informed.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD –30/6/2015- Ian Hill

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Football Club and Cricket Club Stewardship Agreements

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: – Council to accept the signed agreements by the Clubs and that these be signed by WPC.

IH reported that the Cricket Club agreement has been signed but the Football Club have never signed the agreement. There has been a meeting and some progress is being made. CC and FC met last night as we did not want agreements running in different time frames so both clubs would need to sign at the same time and they would run until 31/12/2015. Both Clubs have agreed a form of words which will need to be seen by all the PSFC members. As the agreements have not been

signed this issue will need to come to Council for approval when they have been. It was noted that a special Full Council meeting could be held if agreements have been signed, before the Finance meeting next Tuesday. The Clerk will email Councillors if this is to be held.

Meeting with Football Foundation – This was scheduled for the 4th August but this has been postponed by the FF. We await a new date from them. IH stated that some documents still need to be written for this meeting.

Crowd Barriers and Dug Outs for Football Club

KW had sent an email on this issue which was circulated to all Councillors with the pictures of what is proposed. These proposed works are to complete the football pitch perimeter barriers and add new team dugouts (shelters). This issue was discussed briefly at the PSFC meeting held on 30/6/2015.

There was discussion on this and it was noted that the dugouts are in principle removable and therefore may or may not need planning permission. Beechwood would have to be contacted for permission for both items as the agreement with them for the original crowd barriers was only for two sides.

RB asked if they are needed as part of the rules. It was stated that there is no requirement for these at the moment but will be needed if the FC gets into the Hellenic League. TW stated that he did not think these works should be done until the Stewardship Agreements have been signed. After further discussion it was:

Resolved: That WPC agree to these works being done once the Stewardship Agreements have been signed. It was noted that WPC will then need to write to Beechwood Estates for their permission. Clarification will also be needed as to whether planning permission is needed for the dugout.

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CORE COMMITTEE- There has been no meeting

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP - There has been no meeting.

I. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AD HOC GROUP – 9/7/2015. See minute 130/15 below.

129/15 Charlotte Coxe Charity – Discussion of Options

Discussion took place on the Recommendation from Ian Hill. It was noted that TW is the second representative therefore a) can be removed.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That a meeting of the Advisory Board be arranged as early as we can to discuss the process and implications of transferring the CCT to a Watlington based organisation (probably the Parish Council)
- 2) Prepare a brief for the work needed to refurbish 33 High Street to a condition in which it would be suitable for short term residential letting.

130/15 Watlington Neighbourhood Plan – Discussion on the view from the Annual Meeting. A Paper was circulated following the meeting on the 9/7/2015.

Gill Bindoff: There has been tremendous support for the NP to continue and WPC should go ahead and invite as many people from our community from all ages to help to progress this. There are a number of residents who are very keen to help. GB offered to help with doing this. GB said that in Woodcote 59% of residents voted in the Referendum and 98% of these supported the draft Neighbourhood Plan and Watlington should be able to equal this.

The Recommendation made by Ian Hill was then discussed and voted on.

Resolved Unanimously :That the existing *ad hoc* group set up to prepare briefing material for the Annual Parish Meeting be asked to continue with the additional task of preparing detailed recommendations and terms of reference for creating a new NP controlling body and to report back to Full Council at the earliest opportunity.

The Ad Hoc meeting to take place in July and a Special Full Council meeting will need to be arranged in August if necessary.

131/15 Correspondence for Information - List Attached to Agenda
Correspondence was noted.

Due to Standing Order 3(w) and with the time being nearly 10pm it was:
Resolved: That the meeting be allowed to continue until 10.15pm at the latest.

132/15 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received
The Allotment and Youth Club report submitted to Councillors by Jo Read were noted.

133/14 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.04PM