



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held in the Community Office at 8.00pm on Tuesday 12th July 2016

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill –Chairman (IH)
Matt Reid – Vice-Chairman (MR)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Bob West (BW)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Jeremy Bell (JB)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Tony Williamson (TW) – 8.30pm due to SODC Meeting

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

County Councillor:

Stephen Harrod

Press:

David White

Members of the Public:

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104/16 Apologies for absence

Nicky Smallbone, Tom Bindoff, Jon Lorimer, Jo Read, Robin Wilson.

105/16 Chairman's Remarks

Ian Hill said that Jon Lorimer has asked for a leave of absence from meeting until October as he has to finish a dissertation and needs the time to write this. This was unanimously agreed.

106/16 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

107/16 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 14th June 2016 to be signed as a correct record

Resolved: That the minutes from the meeting be agreed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

108/16 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

109/16 Public Questions

There were none notified.

110/16 District Councillors Report

Anna Badcock had sent her apologies as she is attending the SODC Town and Parish Forum and then going to the Berinsfield Leisure Centre for the launch of a new children's triathlon club. She has said that she is available for discussion about the Chalgrove development at any time and advised all to look closely at where a road might go to service the development, which is not deliverable without one. However, a development by the HCA

rather than a commercial developer would be far better for Chalgrove and neighbouring communities as far more infrastructure, and better design and services will be delivered as would otherwise be the case.

TW , who had attended the SODC Town and Parish Forum prior to this meeting, stated that SODC said that they are now launching into Bus Services and that the Corporate Services Office stated the importance of SODC working with Parish Councils and went on to talk about the air pollution problems in Henley, Wallingford and Watlington. TW asked the officer why there was no consultation at all with Parish Councils on this issue. The officer replied that they had consulted only with consultees that they had to. The officer said that SODC discussed the Air Pollution this morning and that they will be consulting with Parish Councils which TW thought was quite significant.

JB said that Ricardo, who were the Consultants who produced the report have said that they would only discuss the details of their modelling with Parish Councils if they pay for it. IH said that he has asked SODC about this and is still waiting for a response.

111/16 County Councillors Report - Stephen Harrod

Referendum Results in South Oxfordshire – SH reported that there was an 81% turn out with 46,000 people voting to remain and 38,000 voting to leave.

Proposals for Unitary Councils – Both the Consultants reports, SODC (PwC) and OCC (Grant Thornton) should be completed by the end of this month. OCC have held 10 workshops with Parish Councils on their proposal during June to obtain input on this issue.

New Park and Rides – Not very relevant to Watlington but there could be up to five new park and ride sites built to serve Oxfordshire

Increasing Adult and Social Care Costs – These care costs continue to increase as a proportion of OCC's expenditure now accounting for nearly half OCC's budget as unaccompanied young asylum seekers has added further pressure.

High Speed Broadband – The second phase is now underway with an extra £7M to be made available to extend the fibre network to even more remote communities.

Third Reading Bridge/Infrastructure – This issue is being discussed again as OCC are very conscious of what the impact could be as well as the impact of the development of Chalgrove Airfield. Highways are concerned that they have had no infrastructure proposals but it is at a very early stage.

Chalgrove Airfield Proposal - JB said that he had been told by Peter Canavan (SODC) that Watlington should ignore the Chalgrove proposal in the Watlington NP. SH said that the NP Groups have to ignore it as it is only a proposal at this stage. JB stated that if the NP proposes a relief road that went gently through some housing then Chalgrove could consider this as a relief road to get to the M40 with a lot more traffic than the NP proposed. It is a big factor so how can we ignore it. SH said that he has been led to believe that the plan would be to put a new junction or changes to Junction 7 on the M40 and this maybe an opportunity to acknowledge needs for a new link between this and the proposed Chalgrove proposal. TJ stated that the timing of this Chalgrove Proposal is very bad for Watlington's NP.

MR asked about the rail network and if any modelling had been done on this SH said no there had not and said that this is a very valid point and that WPC should raise this on the Consultation.

SH said that the Chalgrove Airfield proposal went through very quickly at SODC, who agreed it, and that he will be trying to debate whether it is a good or bad idea at District Council. Little Milton, The Hasleys and Cuxham are very concerned about the effects on traffic flow, GP surgeries, schools etc. The District Council will be debating this issue next week.

TW stated that 3 or 4 sites will not meet the real needs in Oxford. SH said that with Brexit there is a question if we need to build so many new homes and he will be raising this as an issue with SODC next week as the previous figures may not be so relevant.

JB said that if the NP's number one priority is that Watlington should retain the same scale and character. The number of houses built can only go so far before this was no longer possible. Watlington is very worried that they would have to accommodate a large number of houses (1000) and that we would have no control over this as the Chalgrove Airfield issue is totally contrary to Watlington's number one priority.

MR stated that post Brexit people are not buying houses in Didcot and asked if we could see figures on Didcot. SH said that Peter Canavan should have information on this. SH said that it seemed that the more houses that are built in Didcot the less people want to live there. SH declared that with all these issues it is increasing pressure on the Parish Council to get a NP in place which would stop any speculative developments happening and suggested the NP ignores the Chalgrove proposal as the NP could always be amended in the future. There is a question mark about taking the airfield out of use as Benson RAF still use it and they have not yet been contacted on this issue.

JB noted that HCA (Housing and Community Agency) which is a Government organisation responsible for Housing used to be called the Housing Corporation. It was noted that there is a meeting on this in Chalgrove this Friday, 15th July which will be attended by Watlington Parish Councillors and also people from the NP Forum.

33 High Street – TW thanked SH for all his help on this issue.

Verge Cutting - TW said that he had just driven from SODC in Didcot and that because the grass on the verges is so high drivers cannot see the repeater speed signs. He asked if the County will be cutting the verges again. SH said that this was an unforeseen consequence of not cutting the grass. SH has requested a costing for a second cut which should be cheaper than the first cut. When he receives a cost OCC will look into seeing if there would be money available for doing this. BW said that high grass on some junctions is making pulling out very dangerous for drivers. SH stated that this issue is under consideration at the moment. MR asked if it was possible to have working groups doing some work eg repairing potholes, grass cutting etc in terms of legality. SH said that theoretically there would be no problem but suggested speaking to the Highways officers.

Britwell Road – WPC are still awaiting proposal from OCC on this area.

Children's Centres – SH reported that the funding for these centres will be cut in March 2017. All 44 Children's Centres are in discussion with OCC on how best to continue services through Community Initiatives.

Dragon's Teeth on Howe Road – IH stated that no dragon teeth have been painted in this location but noted that some have been done in Park Corner. SH said to ask Keith Stenning about this.

IH thanked SH for attending the meeting.

112/16 Thames Valley Police Report
No report had been received.

113/16 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.

114/16 Committees:

A: FINANCE – 28/6/2016 – Tony Williamson
Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

Staff Salary Increases – NALC recommendations were attached to the agenda.

Resolved: That the Clerk's salary be increased by 1% in line with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services 2016 -2018. This will be backdated to 1st April 2016 and a further 1% increase will be implemented from 1st April 2017.

All other staff's wage and salaries will similarly be increased by 1% backdated to 1st April 2016 with a further increase by 1% on 1st April 2017.

B: PLANNING – 5/7/2016 – Bob West

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes with one amendment. TJ to precis (not draft) the SODC Design Guide review for Full Council.

BW reported that the Planning Committee objected to the 5 Brook Street application on a number of issues. All other applications discussed were approved.

C: STRATEGY- There has been no meeting

D. OPERATIONS – 22/6/2016 – Bob West

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

BW reported that the Watlington Walk leaflets have been ordered and that the Midsomer Murders leaflets (organised by Andi West) will soon be available.

Public Conveniences - Updating of the facilities

Resolved: That the Operations Committee be delegated to make a decision on choosing the quote for the refurbishment/upgrading of the public conveniences.

Unofficial Path to Watcome Road at the corner of the Car Park – BW said that the Committee had agreed to fence this off but since the signs have gone up informing residents that it will be closed off we have received a number of complaints about this. The Committee will re-visit this issue at the meeting next week.

Skate ½ Pipe – BW reported that he has eventually managed to get RSS to meet him on site and they have fixed the rivets on the sheet. It can now be painted.

New Paddock Play Equipment – RH stated that the new equipment has now been ordered and work will begin on the 25th August. The Clerk will write to neighbouring residents informing them of this.

E. ALLOTMENTS – Nothing to report.

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

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – 4/5/2016

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

IH stated that the committee agreed at the beginning of the meeting to make no decisions at the meeting as there were only 3 members present. The next meeting will take place on Monday 18th July as agreement is needed for the Traffic Modelling Proposal so that quotations can be sought as soon as possible as this information is needed for the Locality Grant.

TW said that the recent Roadshows were very well presented and he understands that a draft paper on these Roadshows would be produced by the NP Forum by the end of August so that it can be discussed at the September Full Council meeting.

TW asked if the NP timescale is still viable and TJ said that it is hoped that it will be even though the timescale is very tight. JB stated that he has doubts about the time-frame as there are still a number of things that still need to be done. IH said that it would be up to the

NP Steering Committee to decide whether the time frame is still viable.

TW said that he has seen no evidence that the NP is going anywhere. JB asked TW to withdraw this statement as lots of things are going on. IH said the main issue at the moment is going forward with the Traffic Modelling which is what the next meeting will be discussing. TJ said that draft plans and policies are being worked on simultaneously. Peter Cananvan has said that we could use the SODC Preferred Options and write these into the plan. TW re-iterated that he has not seen any documentation. JB said that the Traffic Modelling issue is the priority to be done soon.

- 115/16 SODC Planning Policy South – Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation– email has been sent as it is 89 pages (A paper copy is available in the office). A presentation on this is attached. Deadline for comments is 19/8/2016,

IH stated that we need to delegate this as a task for a small number of people to produce a draft and it was:

Resolved: That the NP Steering Group to draft the response.

- 116/16 New SODC Design Guide Review –Comments needed by 29th July 2016 –

TJ had prepared a draft precis of this which was very readable and was thanked for doing this. The deadline is very tight on this consultation and it was:

Resolved: That IH, TJ and TW meet and draft a response which concentrates on the issues we are most concerned about. This can then be agreed at the Strategy Meeting on 26th July 2016.

- 117/16 Correspondence for Information - List was attached to the Agenda

Letter No 200 – Robert Pritchard, Community Liaison Officer for SSE asking if he could give a presentation to Council on Smart Meters - This was discussed and it was thought this would be best done on either the Strategy or Operations meetings and for the Clerk to contact him to see what dates would be best for him.

Letter No 183 – Presentation by Peter Clark –OCC –Town and Parish Unitary Meeting. It was noted that the view came over very strongly, with ignoring the District Council, that delegating work to Parish Councils is great but needed bigger areas and in Lincolnshire this has been tried by creating groups of parishes that work together on specific issues. Watlington has done this with the 5 Parishes Bus Group. OCC were very keen on parishes doing this.

RB said that there are 10,000 Parish Councils with 80,000 Parish Councillors in England who spend a total of £2-3 Billion so it would make sense for some Parish Councils to work together.

TW stated that on the District Council's proposal they have said that they would ensure independence of Parish Councils with no requirement to group with other Parish Councils. The Clerk to email this to all Councillors.

Letter No 193 – Richard Goodlad – The Library, Watlington – Draft lease, Head of Terms and a set of plans were attached.

TW reported that IH and he met with the Senior Surveyor, Kay Thomas, who has the job of pulling everything together. She will send more information through by the end of the week. Nick Greaves has said that he will have a look and give us any comments. We will then need to get our Solicitor to deal with the documents. There is a meeting of the Charlotte Cox Shadow Trust Body on the 19th August who will probably have more questions. It would be good to get to a position to have a Resolution to put to the September Full Council meeting. IH said that it is good that OCC have put someone in charge of this who has the time and is keen to progress this issue. We would also need to get an independent survey done on the property.

- 118/16 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

Buses – OCC's Independent Transport Unit (ITU) have said that we could have 8 weeks free to do a pilot of the service. However to see if it would work we would need to charge people

as there will have to be a cost after the 8 weeks (£6000 for one year for a service 1 day a week). Both Watlington and Chalgrove have lost the service to Wallingford. After discussion it was:

Resolved: To delegate this issue to IH and another Councillor to see what could be worked out.

IH was thanked for all the work he has done on the bus issues.

Defibrillator – TW said that the Beaconfest will be giving a donation to this which he has suggested should be located outside the Town Hall. This issue will be further discussed at the next Strategy meeting.

119/16 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

Grass Cutting at Willow Close – JB said that our Contractors are not cutting as close to the hedge as they previously were doing and this has led to a much smaller grass area. He asked that the cutting go back to the original line. The Clerk will speak to our Contractors about this.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30PM