

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 14th June 2011

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Chairman
Di Tolan
Robert Barber
Ted Backhouse
Barry Adby
Nick Greaves
Charles Rowton-Lee
Harvey Batten
Tony Williamson
Tim Horton
Nick Hancock
Rhian Woods

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock

County Councillor:

Roger Belson

Press:

Jennifer Maxfield – Henley Standard

Members of the Public:

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82/11 Apologies for absence
David Tindale, Roger Beattie

83/11 Chairman's Remarks
Ian Hill reported that as part of the Twinning Events on the weekend 2nd-5th June there was a Symposium when the people from Mansle, Korb and Watlington compared their situations on volunteering. There will be a report issued in due course. All the communities rely on volunteers and we need to encourage and involve people from all walks of our community as much as we can.

84/11 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.

Grant for Age Concern – Tony Williamson declared a prejudicial interest in this item as he is a Director of Watlington and District Age Concern. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

85/11 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 10th May 2011 and the Special Meeting held on the 31/5/2011 to be signed as a correct record

A change to Minute 77/11 was agreed now to read 'To agree members of the Town Hall Charity Body Trustees' with this one change it was:

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

86/11 Matters arising from the Minutes

MOD Site Pyrton (Minute 81/11 refers) – The presentation on this was cancelled.

Affordable Housing (Minute 68/11 refers) – A meeting of this committee will be held shortly.

Polling Station at Christmas Common (Minute 71/11 refers) – Robert Barber stated that 180-190 people were able to use this station. SODC had said that only about 30 voters used the station, however records show that at the last general election a turnout of 129. around 70% voted in person.

87/11 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

88/11 District Councillors Report – Anna Badcock

Election Review

Q Robert Barber - Asked about the Election Review and what makes it independent as the External Returning Officer–Tim Reville, has been appointed by David Buckle. There are degrees of independence. He also asked about the cost of the Review.

A Anna Badcock – David Buckle has a dual role of Chief Executive and Returning Officer and there is a question over whether he should be able to choose the External Returning Officer.

Q Tony Williamson – Asked who is Tim Reville?

A Tim Horton – He was the Returning Officer in recent elections for Salisbury District Council. However this Council ceased to exist as of May 2011. He was also Head of Corporate Services for Salisbury DC.

TH also stated that the Elections in Oxfordshire in 2007 went awry and has asked for a report on this Election. SODC were invited to appoint Mr Buckle for a set number of years as Returning Officer and he thinks it is wrong that Mr Buckle has sole responsibility for the appointment of the External Reviewer.

Olympic Torch Relay 10/7/2012 Oxford to Reading

Tim Horton – Stated that details about the route are to be formally announced in September 2011. It would be good if this area could see the torch if at all possible. He said that this issue should be taken up with some urgency. Henley are discussing the arrangements regarding the rowing aspect of the torch going through Henley. He asked if the District Councillor could take up this issue and said that it could come through Benson/Ewelme onto Watlington and go through to Henley via the Chilterns. Watlington does have the largest Secondary School in the area which specialises in Sport and Art. Watlington is also an important historical Town.

The Chilterns also has the three ancient routes namely the Ridgeway, Icknield Way and Shakespear Way.

Anna Badcock- They are also asking for nominations for Torch Bearers

Harvey Batten- The Judo Club and Fire Cadets may be interested in doing this.

Anna Badcock will forward information on this to WPC.

Core Strategy – Anna Badcock stated that this is mostly about Planning, where houses will be going until 2027 (15 years). The Government has said that Windfall sites (which SODC had included) cannot be included and these will now have to be allocated to an area. Thame and Wallingford will take a lot of the allocation. However larger villages will be affected such as Nettlebed, Chinnor,

Watlington and Goring although there is no data at the moment on actual numbers. There will be a 60:40 split on large towns and large villages.

Tony Williamson- Is it correct that there is a change to the ratio of 10:3 of developer houses and the affordable element?

Anna Badcock – I will find out about this.

Nick Hancock – I have read the documents on the Core Strategy and found it very hard to follow. There was nothing included about Brown Field Sites and no indication on how this may be addressed?

Anna Badcock – Brown Field Sites are Windfall Sites that SODC were hoping to include and now not able to. SODC will be able to use them at some point and these will then be taken off the total allocation.

Ian Hill thanked Anna Badcock for attending the meeting.

89/11 County Councillors Report – Roger Belson

Chief Executive OCC - Roger Belson reported that the Oxfordshire County Council's Chief Executive, Joanna Simons, has been awarded a CBE which is a good reflection on her work and also the County Council.

Boundary Review – OCC will be conducting a boundary review of all the divisions and the number of areas will be reduced from 74 to 63. This means that each County Councillor at the moment looks after 6,500 electors and in future will be in charge of 8,500 electors as the area will be bigger geographically. In view of the comments by Roger Beattie last month about attendance at meetings it will get even more difficult to give more time to Parish Councils in the light of these changes and it will probably have to take the form of written reports a lot of the time.

Roads – The Government has just announced that they will give the County Council an extra £3million to fix the roads in Oxfordshire and the money will have to be spent by October. He stated that he thinks Gorwell is on the list to be resurfaced.

Harvey Batten – does it include pavements?

Roger Belson – No only the kerbs would be included.

101/106 Bus Service – There has been a meeting between OCC and Thames Travel which went well. There will be another meeting on the 22/6/2011. It is a complex issue with changing routes, bus schedules and turn around time.

Triathlon – This is taking place on Sunday 18/9/11. Roads in Watlington that will be affected by this are Howe Road and Hill Road. Maps of the route showing road closures are available.

Roger Belson then stated that he would take any questions.

Tim Horton: It is good that £3.5 million be allocated to roads, do we know which roads will be done?

Roger Belson – will send a list to the Clerk of roads that money has been committed to.

It was asked if money could be re-allocated within a village, Roger Belson said that works will be happening very soon.

Robert Barber: Stated that he is very relieved that the road through Christmas Common has been done.

Ian Hill thanked Roger Belson for attending the meeting.

90/11 Thames Valley Police Report

There was no report.

91/11 To receive the Balances of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

Tony Williamson read out the Balances of Accounts and proposed that the List of Payments be approved for payment

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

92/11 Annual Parish Meeting 14/4/2011

The draft minutes have been produced by the Clerk and Councillors were asked to read these through for the next Full Council meeting so that they can be approved.

93/11 Audit 2009/2010

Resolved: To approve Section 1 –Statement of Accounts and Section 2- Annual Governance Statement and Section 4 – Annual Internal Audit Report and that Section 1 and 2 and to be signed off by the RFO and the Chairman..

94/11 Committees:

A: FINANCE – 31/5/2011- Tony Williamson

Resolved: That these minutes are accepted by Council.

Salaries

Resolved:

a) That the Caretaker received £125 for 2010/2011 and £125 for 2011/2012 a total of £250 over the two years.

b) That the Clerk receive 81.08% of £125 for both years. A total of £202.70 for 2 years.

c) That the Assistant to the Clerk receive 19% of £125 for both years. Total of £47.50 for 2 years.

Hill Road Car Park

Tony Williamson reported that at the end of the 31/3/2011 we had not received payment from the Co-op but we now have received payment for the year 2010/2011. The Business Association is going to discuss the contribution issue shortly. We have asked the WBA to see what amount it could contribute to the car park. The original idea was that Businesses contribute $\frac{3}{4}$ and the Parish Council $\frac{1}{4}$ of the costs. Last year we invoiced £7,500 and received £6,900. The Parish Council cannot afford to support the Business's shortfall. There could be other ways of getting income in which could be explored in the future. Tim Horton stated that he did not think the amount going toward the sinking fund was enough. It was noted that the Operations Committee will be conducting a survey of car park usage soon.

Resolved: That we seek a meeting with the Co-op to discuss the car park issue which would be attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Finance and also the Chairman of the Council.

B: PLANNING – 7/6/2011- Rhian Woods

Resolved: That these minutes are accepted by Council.

Rhian Woods reported that she was elected as Chairman and Charles Rowton-Lee as Vice-Chairman at this meeting. There were 3 applications discussed and all were approved unanimously.

Hunters Moon – The appeal on this was dismissed but we note that there is advertising up that it is available to let – SODC Enforcement to be advised.

54 Love Lane – It was noted that SODC have approved this application whereas we had recommended refusal.

C: STRATEGY – 24/5/2011

Resolved: That these minutes are accepted by Council.

Watlington Website – Business Directory

Discussion took place on this issue. An email has been received from Simon Jones, Chairman of WBA. It was noted that the WBA is of value to Watlington and they need to protect their members.. The situation is similar as with the Memorial Club, The Parish Council support them but not financially. It was thought that this needs to be a issue which is discussed by Strategy following their email. This will be conveyed to Simon Jones

Resolved; That the arrangement with the Watlington Business Association regarding the Business Directory be withdrawn following advice from OALC.

Watlington Website - Minutes

Resolved: That minutes be put on the website in their unapproved form as soon as is practicable following them being checked with the Chairman of the relevant committee.

Ian Hill and the Clerk to discuss how the draft minutes should be put on the website.

Grant to Age Concern

Resolved: That we invite Age Concern to re-apply for a grant as the old application does not relate to their current premises.

Anonymous letters

Resolved: That Watlington Parish Council will not deal with anonymous letters as they cannot follow up on the issues. In almost all cases the Council need to be able to get further information and clarify details to enable us to pursue matters. If a resident has a concern and good reason to seek anonymity please address the letter as confidential and we will treat it accordingly. There are a number of ways to deal with the Parish Council and residents can contact the Clerk or individual Councillors on any issues. That WPC do not reply to anonymous letters in the press

Pavilion Summer Opening

Resolved: That the Operations Committee do what they can to see if the Pavilion facility could be operated for the summer months.

Buses to/from Watlington

Tim Horton reported on his meeting at OCC on 25/5/2011(paper held on file). The main points that came out of the meeting were:

1. Friday and Saturday services following some lobbying of Mr Rodney Rose (Cabinet member)
2. Sunday running
3. Special consideration towards Garsington issues
4. Potential financial support for the above from Tesco's and interests at the Cowley Centre

It was noted that there is another meeting scheduled for 22/6/2011

Council Resolved to:

1. Continue to engage in the joint discussions involving Thames Travel, County Public Transport Officers and County members and the parishes.
2. Send Representations to the Oxfordshire Cabinet on Friday and Saturday service support,
3. Send written support to the company on the access to Cowley Centre.
4. Send letters to those in our parish who have written concerning the 101 and 106 services, urging them once again to write to Thames Travel
5. That the reference to Strategy Committee regarding the review of other bus service arrangements that have been implemented and also the challenge in a new (non-subsidy) environment of finding new routes that would meet contemporary local demands for public transport.

It was noted that in May 2011 Thames Travel was 'bought out' by the large Go Ahead group. This is a radically new departure and we need to explore the interests of this to support and extend

local services.

Tim Horton was thanked by the Chairman for attending this meeting.

Election Process

Discussion took place on the paper written by Robert Barber (held on file) and the points on this were agreed.

It was agreed to add to the list of issues to report to Tim Reville who is reviewing this issue, the issue of slow or non-reply to letters/emails before, during and after the Election.

It was noted that his report will be put to the Scrutiny Committees of SODC and Vale of White Horse in July. There will be cost to SODC for this review.

D. OPERATIONS – 18/5/2011 – Barry Adby

Resolved: That these minutes are accepted by Council.

Pavilion Easter Opening

Resolved: That the £110 profit made over the two week trial over the Easter Period of the opening Pavilion be given to Ella Smart in return for the regular cleaning/maintenance of the toilets and main hall she carried out during this period.

Co-option onto the Operations Committee

Resolved: That Linda Nicholson is co-opted onto this committee

E. ALLOTMENTS

There are no issues to report

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – An informal meeting was held on the 16/5/2011- Note was attached to Agenda. The 3 main actions that need to be completed are:

1. Tony Yeulet to progress the “Football Development Plan” and “Charter Standard Membership” with Owen Prosser (Oxon FA) with whom he would arrange a meeting in the near future
2. Owen Prosser will discuss the “Business Plan” with Tony Williamson.
3. Mick Lloyd to discuss the “Agreement between the Parish Council and Sports Club” with the Sports Club.

It was noted that the ‘Agreement between the Parish Council and Sports Club’ will be an agenda item for the Strategy Committee to discuss.

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A date for the meeting will be circulated by the Clerk.

95/11 Correspondence for Information - List Attached to Agenda

Correspondence will only be discussed if urgent and if it cannot be passed to the relevant committee to discuss.

Letter 832 – Icknield Community College – Appointment of new Head in September. It was agreed that Ian Hill send a letter inviting him to meet with representatives of the Parish Council preferably before he starts in September.

96/11 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

There were no reports received.

97/11 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair
To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council

Watlington Library – Ted Backhouse reported that OCC have a Library Consultation in which Watlington Library has been downgraded and OCC propose to provide a fully supported infrastructure (building, ICT, book stock and the installation of self-service) For Watlington this would mean two thirds volunteers and one third paid staff. The Friends of Watlington Library (FOWL) are not satisfied regarding the data used and other information and are pursuing this issue. He stated that he hopes all Councillors are members of the Library and if not urged them to join. A film crew have been in the Library and it will be shown on the Politics Show at the weekend. A public meeting will be held shortly.

Twinning – Parish Reception on 2/6/2011 – Tim Horton thanked all Parish Councillors who attended this event . He reported that the Twinning Committee is in a strong financial position and that they hope to help young people to go to Mansle for a visit or for volunteer work. He also thanked Robert Barber for his talk on the Environment Group which was very well received.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.02

