

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 10th June 2014

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill –Chairman
David Tindale – Vice-Chairman
Tony Williamson
Robert Barber
Nick Greaves
Bob West
Nick Hancock
Rhian Woods
Roddy Orr
Tim Horton

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillor:

Angie Paterson

County Councillor:

Stephen Harrod

Press:

David White – Henley Standard

In Attendance:

Rev C Evans, David Mitchell (Surveyor for Oxford Diocese)

Members of the Public 4

Ian Hill welcomed everyone to the meeting.

84/14 Apologies for absence

Robin Wilson, Neil Boddington, Keith Lovelace, Elizabeth Winton.

85/14 Chairman's Remarks

There were none.

86/14 To receive Declarations of Interest

Agenda Item 8 - Church Hall Site - Tim Horton declared an interest in this as he is still part of the Church Hall Concern Group but as it was a presentation and no discussion would be taking place, he would remain in the meeting.

Agenda Item 8 - Church Hall Site - Tony Williamson declared an interest in this item but as it was a presentation he would remain in the meeting.

87/14 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 13th May 2014 to be signed as a correct record

Resolved: That these minutes be agreed as a correct record of the meetings and that they be signed by the Chairman

88/14 A Special Meeting of Full Council was held on the 29th May 2014 to discuss the Skateboard ½ pipe which was taken in Confidential Session. –This issue to be taken in Confidential Session at the end of the meeting if any further discussion needs to take place on this.
The Resolution made at the meeting was:

Resolved: That Council set a maximum spend for this equipment of £6000 but require that £2000 come from the contingency in Operations. Therefore a potential reduction from reserves would be £4000. However this last figure would be reduced by that sum made available from the Doris Field Trust. Further it is suggested that a sub-group to include Bob West (Operations Committee Chairman). Ian Hill (Chairman of the Council, and Tim Horton (Finance Chairman) and working with the Clerk have delegation to agree detail for a final contract with one of the tendering companies. A report updating members of the Operation Committee should be provided at its next meeting on 18th June 2014.

89/14 Matters arising from the Minutes

Page 37 – Operations Committee – Flooding – It was reported that Mr Morrissey (OCC) is looking into flooding problems. KT to chase this up.

90/14 Public Questions

Tom Bindoff had notified the following questions:

- 1. Will the parish council consult more widely in the community before drafting their response?*
- 2. Will the parish council press SODC to monitor the small particulates (PM2.5) in the air?*
- 3. Will the parish council try to get information about the health effects of air pollution on the community in addition to writing to the Chiltern Surgery?*

IH gave the following response to the questions above:

1. Item 13 on tonight's agenda is a recommendation that we delegate the preparation of a response to a small group of councillors. It would be premature at this stage to commit them to any particular form of information gathering needed to prepare the response.
2. Monitoring of PM2.5 is to quote the government's Air Quality Expert Group "a challenge with current measurements falling below the requirements of the Air Quality Directive". Under these circumstances careful consideration would be needed before asking SODC to commit resources to collecting data of dubious value.
3. The health effects of air pollution have been documented in many places. If you are looking for specific health effects on the community of Watlington it is unlikely that this level of personal information would be publishable. It may be possible to draw inferences on the local effects from concentrations of pollutants measured or estimated for the Watlington AQMA. It will be up to the group referred to in (1) above to take decision on the value of doing this.

91/14 Presentation by Rev C Evans and David Mitchell on the joint plans for the Diocese and Maria Cook Trust for the limited development of the Church Hall site.

Rev Evans thanked Council for allowing them to address them and introduced David Mitchell, 'the Diocese Surveyor.

DM gave out 3 plans which show the proposal for the Church Hall site limited development. He said that the Watlington Parochial Church Council (PCC) have been liaising to make the best use of this site. They raised concerns of the current Church Hall on its long term viability and the condition of the structure and following an inspection the Hall was condemned and closed on safety ground. In order to raise money to put into the Church which has a planned programme of improvement, this scheme will provide long term funds for this. DM has liaised with SODC Planning Officers and put in a pre-application and following their comments he has redesigned the scheme.

The scheme will consist of two houses, 1 5 bed roomed house and 1 rectory for the vicar as the present rectory is disjointed from the Church and the new one can be designed for purpose. The car park will need to be defined and 22 spaces will be marked. The scheme looks to minimise the impact on this area and some of the grassed area will remain.

There have been extensive consultations with SODC, Highways, Tree Officer, and Archaeologist (who found nothing of interest).

DM stated that the current Church Hall has extensive asbestos both internally and externally.

DT stated that the ground water is very high in this location and any soakaways would need to take this into consideration.

RB said the scheme would cut off the informal route for residents to the brook.

RO asked if perhaps something could be put in writing which would preserve the green area as open space.

92/14 District Councillors Report – Angie Paterson

Planning Appeals – A question had been asked on whether SODC were reluctant to refuse applications in order to keep costs down on appeals. AP reported that this was not the case. Appeal processes have been made more simple and thus cheaper, especially householder appeals which can do be done by letters at quite low cost. What may be interesting to note is that last year the SODC Planning Committee overturned Officer Recommendations four times and that in three of these the council went on to lose the appeal, one with costs awarded against the council. Generally speaking officers do a good job in their recommendations.—AP added what may make it seem as if there are more approvals which may have been rejected in the past is the increase in Permitted Development.

Consultations – AP reported that there are 2 important Consultations beginning: The Air Quality Consultation and The Issue and Scope on the revised Local Plan. AP stated these consultations are not just for Parish Councils anyone can respond on them. SODC need feedback from as many people and/organisations as possible and asked that we encourage residents to respond and their comments have as equal a weight as that of Parish Councils.

Waste Collections – AP asked if there have been any problems in Watlington and the WPC gave her the following:

1. There is often a problem in Chapel Street and Church Street and it was thought that as it is at the end of the run this may be the problem.
2. Sometimes and especially this week, bins were not returned to where they have been left. This was reported in Chapel Street, Church Street and The Goggs. This could be a potential safety issue.
3. How often are the Lewknor bus stop areas cleaned as this area seems to have deteriorated in terms of waste and litter.

AP said that she will investigate these and inform the Clerk of any information she receives on these.

AP said that they have been looking at installing some on-board cameras on the Waste Trucks which would help with any incident disputes and would also help them see what is going on,

RW stated that her impression of the Waste Collectors is that they are very good and well organised and that they do a very good job.

AP said that we all need to work together to make this service good.

Housing Numbers – AP was asked if the Halcrow Report which showed increased traffic flows, was going to be updated to show new patterns. AP said that it would have to be updated but that it will take a while as this is at a very early stage and they will look at anything that people bring up. AP stated that they will first be looking at preferred options and other studies would flow from that. The B4009 and A329 are key constraints and this will be highlighted.

Community Governance Review – RB asked if AP had seen a copy of our responses on this which she has. AP reported that the CGR Committee are meeting this week and will look at putting a formal recommendation to Council. She has stated she felt that parishes should not be tidied up just for the sake of it if it is going to cause more upset than it is worth.

Flooding in The Goggs – TW said that he wrote to SODC, OCC and the Environment Agency on the 15th May 2014 on this issue and had had no response or acknowledgment from anyone. AP said that she will check on this at SODC and let TW know direct.

93/14 County Councillors Report – Stephen Harrod

SH had submitted his June report which was circulated to all councillors in advance of the meeting. He said that comments on the LTP should be raised in the consultations taking place shortly.

Love Lane - Regarding the deterioration of the road surface at Love Lane the Highways Asset and Management Programme (HAMP) will investigate and give the road a score and then if needed it will be put on a programme. However it would take at least two years for them to do the work although OCC will deal with potholes. SH stated that the best way of reporting potholes is via the FixmyStreet link.

TH said that FixmyStreet does not give us the same feedback as we get from the County Councillor and OCC did write about a year ago saying that they would try and communicate better with us.

School Nurses – TW asked how these are funded. SH said that they are funded by Public Health ring-fenced money. This does not have a large financial impact and the money is budgeted for.

Meeting with OCC/Tom Flanagan – SH said that he has not yet got a response from him regarding this.

Flooding in the Goggs –TH said that he has written to OCC and has not received a response on this issue. SH stated that he has had a meeting with Keith Stenning and there is concern regarding the Goggs. This will go through the HAMP process but they are looking into what can be done to alleviate the flooding in the meantime.

Junction 6 – RB said that this area needs upgrading and SH said that it is being looked at within OCC for a long term solution to the parking issue and there was a good meeting on this issue with OCC and Lewknor PC. A meeting has also been held with the bus companies. Some formal research will be conducted on the people who park there and a survey will be done very soon.

TW said that it is very significant that OCC are doing this and that it is very good news. RB said that WPC would be very happy to be invited to any future meeting on this issue.

94/14 Thames Valley Police Report

PCSO Michelle Jacques had submitted a written report for June. The following 2 issues were noted:

Parking- Extra Patrols have been made around the village to help enforce and educate people around parking concerns. Warning letters have been sent to first time offenders and a number of fixed penalty notices to vehicles obstructing the pavement. This will continue over June and reviewed.

5 x warning letters sent.

3x fixed penalty fines issued.

Dog Fouling - A number of people have been approached in the Rec and Paddock area regarding clearing up after their dogs. Everyone so far has been carrying bags and they have been asked to report any offending dog owners initially to the Parish Council. One house visit has been actioned as a result of a report where strong words of advice were given.

95/14 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 Balances of Accounts and the list of payments be settled and signed by the Chairman.

96/14 Air Quality Consultation from SODC – Deadline Friday 4th July 2014.

Resolved: That we delegate a group to research and prepare a response that can be discussed at a special meeting of Full Council on Tuesday 1st July at 7pm (prior to the Planning Committee meeting at 8pm). The group agreed to be IH, DT, RW and TH and IH.

97/14 Committees:

A: FINANCE - 20/5/2014

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

The recommendation from this meeting was discussed at the Special Full Council Meeting held on the 29th May 2014.

TH reported that he is hopeful that a meeting with Barclays Bank to discuss car park contribution will take place shortly.

Audit Information for Year End 2014 – All Councillors were sent this information in advance of the meeting.

Resolved: To approve the information Section 1 and 2 and the report from the Internal Auditor agreed that it be sent to the External Auditor.

The Clerk was thanked for all her work on getting this prepared.

Electronic Payment – It was noted that the Finance Committee resolved to only allow Electronic Payment at the moment to HMRC. The issue of allowing other Electronic payments will be discussed at the next meeting along with the procedure which would need to be in place. Tight financial controls would need to be in place.

Financial Regulations – BW asked that the Finance Committee look at increasing the spending limit under Reg 3.4 for repair replacement or other urgent works.

Cuxham Field – It was noted that the 5 year lease will come to an end in October 2014 and we will need to contact the tenants regarding this.

B: PLANNING – 3/6/2014 – Rhian Woods

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

RW reported that she had been re-appointed as Chairman and RB as Vice-Chairman.

RW stated that there are 7 Councillors on the Planning Committee, however recent meetings have had low attendances with one meeting only having 3 voting members present which is not ideal. RB said that the Planning Committee is a very strong and balanced committee and we need to keep it balanced. It was noted that the Planning Committee used to have 11 members.

Resolved: That a note be sent to all Parish Councillors asking them if they have an interest in joining the Planning Committee.

Co-option onto Planning Committee

Resolved: That Di Tolan and Alex Woodeson be co-opted on the Planning Committee.

C: STRATEGY – 29/6/2014 – David Tindale

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

DT stated that one of the main issues discussed at the meeting was how to speed up processes by the use of Action Boards and the running of Strategy in a more efficient way. An email has been sent out asking Councillors to give their preferences on the Boards.

OCC response to our letter on the LTP – As our questions were not answered it was agreed to write another letter to them.

Watlington Parish Council – Draft Policy for use of Facebook and other Social Media – this was attached to the Agenda.

Resolved: That the Policy for use of Facebook and other Social Media is agreed.

Charlotte Coxe Charity 33 High Street – Memorandum of Understanding

Resolved: That the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix 1, at the end of the minutes) be agreed and that we write back to OCC and get this signed.

D. OPERATIONS – There has been no meeting.

E. ALLOTMENTS – There has been no meeting

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

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – There has been no meeting.

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CORE COMMITTEE – 12/5/2014 and 9/6/2014

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

NH was elected as Chairman and Gill Bindoff as Vice-Chairman. NH said they have appointed a support assistant, Rachel Gill who will work 8 hours per week. IH stated that he is very impressed with the effort she has put in so far. The first report on the consultation was approved at the meeting last night. NH thanked IH and Andy Hocking in constructing the report. Work has begun on a Vision Statement which we have strongly been urged to do. NH said that he will produce a regular monthly written report. A detailed plan for the next few months leading to the second consultation (Sept/Oct) will be constructed. An application for Locality Funding is being processed as it was agreed last night to submit an application.

TH thanked IH for all his work in NH absence and said that he has done an amazing job. IH said that he will still be involved although no longer on the NPCC.

98/14 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 229 – Icknield Community College – Consultation on Alteration of Upper Age Limit to establish post 16 Education. - It was noted that the deadline ends on the 7th July.

Concern was expressed that there was not more information about traffic movements with an increase of 30% in students proposed. It was also thought that the ICC might have acknowledged that there is a NP being developed. It was thought that more information was needed and that we need to have a serious dialogue with ICC which would also include Sport Provision. DT stated that the proposed implement date is September 2015. After discussion it was:

Resolved: That a group consisting of IH, BW, TH, RO, EL and NH meet with the Head teacher and Governors of the ICC urgently. It is hoped that this meeting be held before the 1st July 2014.

Letter 203- Culham Science Centre Supplementary Planning Document – RW reported that this was discussed in the Planning Committee meeting and that there were no particular comments that they wished to make.

Letter 221 – Peter Richardson – Howe Hill Funding – No discussion needed.

99/14 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

1. Report from WATNEXT June 2014 – All Councillors received this in their information packs for Full Council.

2. Town Hall Trust Body – TH reported that there is a lot of activity happening at the Town Hall. Sealing of windows; outside tap has been installed, the wood works have been completed. Painting of

the main stairway will be done shortly. Brickwork replacement works have been commissioned. He reminded Councillors that the 350th Anniversary of the Town Hall Parish Reception will take place on the 11th July at 6pm in the Town Hall. There will also be an Anniversary Party in the Paddock with live music, food stalls and other activities.

100/14 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WENT INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION
at 9.48pm to DISCUSS THE EMAIL FROM THE MEMORIAL CLUB**

According to:

Confidential Items EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC ESOLVED: THAT under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items of business of the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 7,8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.