



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8.00pm on Tuesday 14th June 2016

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid – Vice-Chairman (MR)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Bob West (BW)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Jeremy Bell (JB)
Nicky Smallbone (NS)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock

Members of the Public:

3

Chairman of the NP Forum:

Gill Bindoff

88/16 Apologies for absence

Ian Hill, Rachel Huckvale, Jo Read, Jon Lorimer, Roger Beattie.

89/16 Chairman's Remarks

There were none.

90/16 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

91/16 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 10th May 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.

92/16 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

93/16 Public Questions

Mr Facy-Planning Application P16/S1112/FUL 40 Ingham House, Brook Street Watlington.

Mr Facy made the following statement.

'OCC have no objection to my planning application with regard to access. There was suggestion that 2 trees may be replaced but this is not the case and the trees on the driveway will not be touched. The apple trees are the only trees which will be removed.'

Mr Facy's comments were noted.

Mr Richardson (PR) – Watlington Post Office

PR stated that Gill Bindoff and he met with the Co-op as a part our Economic and Sustainability work on the NP. The Co-op showed an interest in taking over the Post Office

and that this is preceding to an advance stage. He said it was unclear if they are proposing to take over the existing building or looking to put it in the Co-op store. PR said he has previously sent in a note on this building to the Parish Council.

TW said he had been in touch with the Post Office in the last week. When the WPC representatives met with them earlier they said that 2 local businesses were preparing business plans but he thought that neither of these were the Co-op. He said that he had heard that one business had not given in a business plan and had dropped out and that he believed talks were progressing with the other interested business. If both have dropped out than the Post Office would be asking for further tenders.

PR said that he has not been in touch with the Post Office but the Co-op had told him they were having talks with the Post Office and said that the Post Office is a vital part of our community and needs to be supported and that the community would wish for the same opening hours.

TW said that in the discussion with the Post Office they said that the Post Office would still give a full service and the present Post Office would continue until a new business takes it on.

Action: TW to contact the Post Office to find out which business they are progressing the Post Office issue with.

94/16 District Councillors Report - Anna Badcock

Devolution – The work that Price Waterhouse is doing on this is on-going.

MR said that there is angst about the money being spent on these consultations by SODC and by OCC. AB said that both consultations have to be done to see if there is a viable 2 tier system. It needs to be done and will eventually save money and that it is right and proper that this is done by an Independent Company. AB said that there is a drive from Westminster to do this as devolution or unitary needs to happen. There will be 3 options to be consulted upon.

TW asked if we will be able to see the proposals from SODC and OCC and if SODC are co-operating with OCC. AB said that SODC are doing their utmost to liaise with OCC and all reports will be in the public domain.

Planning and Development – The Inspectorate found against SODC as they did not meet the 5 year housing supply. SODC are pushing for communities to do a NP and are putting more resources into helping communities achieve this. AB said that if at any point WPC are not getting what help is needed for the NP to please contact her direct.

Housing Team – They have developed action plans to help navigate this issue. They have improved the website and also made it mobile friendly.

PCSO's in South Oxfordshire – SODC put in £100,000pa to help fund PCSO's. If Councils feel that they are not getting their money's worth and feel that they need more from their PCSO's please let them know or come direct to SODC.

BW asked if AB knew what our allocation of PCSO's was within the District. AB said that she did not know but asked KT to send her an email on this.

AB said that there is now much more on-line fraud and this is a huge learning curve for everyone.

Community Safety – AB said that she is a Committee Member of this and said that children need to be very aware of risks.

Rubbish and Waste – AB stated that residents can now order a second brown bin and get a 10% discount of the price.

Grants – These are open for applications at three times during the year. Round two has been open from 2 May to 1 July 2016 Round three will open: 1 August to 30 September 2016 and Round four will be open from 31 October to 23 December 2016.

Chief Executive – SODC have appointed a new Chief Executive, David Hill and he will be in position on the 1st September 2016.

MR asked if his remuneration package is on the website. AB said that it should be.

Residents Survey – This is taking place and is asking if people feel involved and engaged with SODC. People's views are taken very seriously and can alter policy if a significant number of people are making a point. Comments on this need to be received by 28/6/16.

Cornerstone – Didcot – This is really pushing to be self-sustaining and are engaging with lots of organisations. AB said it is a great Theatre which has been nominated for the Muddy Stiletto Award. They are putting in an in-house café. AB urged Councillors to look at their website and to go and visit.

Air Quality – TW said that SODC have not been very helpful with giving us information on Air Quality. AB said she has sent out questions to the Air Quality Team. TW said he also thought that we should not be charged to go and see the Consultants as they have advised. WPC should not have to pay extra to see the report that SODC have already paid for.

AB said that she would check on this and get back to us. TW also said that the Air Quality Report took 3 years to complete and at no stage was WPC allowed to comment. AB said that she disagreed with this comment. TW said that he would like to see the evidence that shows differently as we had to wait until it was published before we could comment on it.

JB said that the traffic issue going through Watlington was much bigger than Watlington eg the proposal for Chalgrove Airfield would have a massive impact on Watlington and the Traffic Group are looking into getting advice from OCC about what modelling will be done. AB said that the identification of this site is at a very early stage and that there are no facts available as yet. AB said the NP need to speak to Peter Canavan on this. This site has been flagged up but has not had any modelling done. It was stated that the route through Watlington is already at capacity but what is the solution. AB said that more homes would need to be built and the biggest question is whether a relief road is needed. JB said that we will need some statistical figures and that it is important that we keep on top of the planning policies at SODC. TB said that the NP Traffic Group has been in touch with Peter Canavan.

TJ asked AB if there is an Arts Grant available. AB said that there is a Public Art Box but this is usually funded by a Developer and suggested that TJ gets in touch with the Grant Team direct.

NP Shadow Group leaflet – AB said that she had one dropped in through her door. She said that it is very tough when people are putting in a lot of work and then get criticised anonymously. If people want to say something they should put their names to it.

Providence Land – AB asked if WPC are in contact with them. It was stated that yes WPC are.

MR thanked AB for coming to the meeting.

95/16 County Councillors Report

Steve Harrod had sent his apologies for this meeting.

96/16 Thames Valley Police Report

No written report had been received. The Clerk reported that the PCSO's are following up a number of dog fouling issues in the Recreation Ground.

97/16 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.

98/16 To approve the information of Section 1 and 2 of the Audit Report 2015/2016 and supporting paperwork and to approve Section 4 by the Internal Auditor.

Resolved: To approve the information in Section 1 and 2 and supporting paperwork and the report from the Internal Auditor and that it be signed by the Chairman and Clerk and sent to BDO the External Auditor.

99/16 Committees:

A: FINANCE – There has been no meeting

Paddock New Play Equipment – Tony Williamson

TW said that it is excellent news that RH has virtually succeeded in raising the necessary money for this equipment and asked that a decision to go ahead with placing the order be delegated to the Finance Committee.

Resolved: That The Finance Committee be delegated to agree whether to place the order for this new equipment. RH will provide a paper with all the necessary information for this meeting.

B: PLANNING – 7/6/2016 – Jeremy Bell

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

P16/S1112/FUL 40 Ingham House - JB reported that the committee had a site visit prior to the planning meeting and that this application was given very thorough consideration with the information that was available at that time. When the committee make a decision on a planning application this is sent to SODC. If further information is then given an application can be submitted as an amendment and this will then be re-consulted upon.

C: STRATEGY- There has been no meeting

Buses – Proposal for Thame and Wallingford Services to be agreed. This was sent by email to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolved: That Watlington Parish Council has allocated a sum of £1000 in its 2016-17 budget to support our bus services, and are willing to use these fund to ensure that at least a minimum service to two of our three nearby market towns continues.

D. OPERATIONS – There has been no meeting

E. ALLOTMENTS – No issues reported.

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

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – an informal meeting was held on the 6/6/2016 which was to agree the material for the Roadshows.

JB reported that the Roadshows are a tremendous success, they are being taken all round the parish and this has worked very well. There is a roadshow at Marlbrook tonight and at Paul's Way and Springfield Close tomorrow. There has been very positive feedback.

NP Shadow Leaflet

It was agreed that Gill Bindoff and Peter Richardson answer any questions on the leaflet which has been distributed to residents by the NP Shadow Group.

Gill Bindoff (GB) reported that a leaflet has been delivered by the NP Shadow Group which has been sent anonymously which accuses the NP of being led and controlled by Marlbrook residents and also gives questions that should be asked.

GB has prepared answers to these questions which had been agreed by Ian Hill. She asked Council that this information be put on the WPC Facebook Page which was agreed. GB said that she had been told verbally that the leaflet has been put together by members of the original NP Committee who resigned in April 2015.

TW said that he is very much hoping that there is an opportunity for the people of Watlington to see what would be involved in having a new road or not having a new road. It

appears from figures given that a new road would involve building 1000 new homes to create a new road and TW stated that he still hopes that there is a direct consultation with real proposals on minimum numbers to create a new road or not and also proposals which would deal with the traffic going through the town.

BW said he also had concerns that there are no options on road strategy. TB said that this is not an official consultation only an information giving exercise. TB also stated that we do not know as yet how many houses could be put on each site. Site 8 is in Pyrton and we do not know how many houses SODC will require Watlington to build but it is hoped to have more information on numbers by September 2016.

The NP Forum is beginning to have discussions with developers but the number of houses would be dependent on a lot of issues. TW said that we have all seen the Providence Land proposal which is for 200 houses with a road through to Cuxham Road. The Chalgrove Airfield proposal would be an issue that would affect Watlington.

JB asked that it be minuted that the Parish Council thanks all members of the NP Forum who have organised the Roadshows and congratulations especially to Gill Bindoff and Peter Richardson for all their work and for organising such a high quality of presentation. All the display boards used are available electronically and will be on the NP website next week.

100/16 Correspondence for Information - List Attached to Agenda

There was no correspondence discussed.

101/16 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

33 High Street – TW reported that things are moving very slowly. OCC told TW that they are working on a draft lease for the Trust Body and the Library Body but has not heard anything further for a while and has involved Peter Clark (OCC). 5 people have been approached to give a quote for the repair and upgrade of this building. One quotation has been received and one have said they would quote if an architectural specification is provided. TW stated that a meeting will take place soon with the Shadow Trust Body to discuss issues. TW has also asked OCC about the asbestos issue and the whole file on 33 High Street needs to be seen so that we are clear about what things have been done to the building in the past.

102/16 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

OALC Training Course for new Councillors – Nicky Smallbone said that she would like to attend this course. KT will book her on it.

Queen's Birthday Event in the Paddock – MR thanked everyone who helped with this event which was a great success and very well attended.

Response to Rev C Evans letter sent by WPC – TJ asked if she could be sent a copy of this. KT will send to TJ.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.35PM