

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 13th March 2012

Present:
Councillors: Ian Hill – Chairman
David Tindale – Vice-Chairman
Di Tolan
Barry Adby
Tim Horton
Nick Hancock
Roger Beattie
Robert Barber
Tony Williamson
Rhian Woods

Officer: Sarah Pullen

District Councillor: Anna Badcock

Thames Valley Police: PC Russell Hounslow

Press: Janine Rasiah

Members of the Public: 1

34/12 Apologies for absence
Ted Backhouse, Nick Greaves, Harvey Batten

35/12 Chairman's Remarks
There were none.

36/12 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.
St Leonard's Church – Tony Williamson declared a non prejudicial interest in the Church which related to the last meeting and signed the Declaration of Interest book.

37/12 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 14th February 2012 and Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 28/2/2012 to be signed as a correct record
It was noted that there is one correction needed. Minute 23/12 should read Maria Cook trust not Maria Coxe. With these amendments it was:
Resolved: That these minutes were a correct record of these meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman

38/12 Matters arising from the Minutes

Triathlon (Minute 25/12 refers) – Barry Adby and Robert Barber attended this meeting and it was noted that it is fait accompli for this year although there is still room for improvement for this year and the possibility of working more with the organisers in the future. There is to be a meeting with the local MP, John Howell to find out why the problems happened. Barry Adby stated that Peter Ronald, OCC stated that Watlington is being promoted as a cycle centre.

39/12. Public Questions

There were none.

40/12 District Councillors Report – Anna Badcock

Boundary Review – SODC have requested an assessment to be done to see how many Councillors are required per ward. She stated that she is not sure of any implications for Watlington, it could be that we will no longer have two District Councillors. The consultation is going on at present.

Budget – This is taking up a lot of time at SODC.

Community Investment Fund – This fund is now open for applications and there is £500K that can be given out for this year. This amount was previously £1m but has halved due to poor interest rates.

Tim Horton stated that this fund was set up from the sale of council houses and hopes that there is a genuine commitment to keep this fund.

Tony Williamson asked if this money was ring-fenced for this fund only. Anna Badcock said that this fund stands alone in its own right.

Verges by Junction 6 – Tony Williamson stated that he was pleased to see work being carried out on the verges but hoped that it will still be possible for people to park on them. Anna Badcock said it would be best to speak to Lewknor Parish Council (who had a meeting last night) on this issue. She stated that there have been 3 bad accidents in this area over the last 2/3 weeks.

Broadband – Anna Badcock has been in touch with OCC and Oxfordshire has not been given a reasonable share of the Government funding for improving broadband speeds. The County Council will match the funding given and are hoping to get more from the Government. She told WPC to keep an eye out for communication on this issue. Rhian Woods said that British Telecom have said that broadband in this area will be upgraded this month. There is a trial being done at the Benson Airbase as the broadband there is very bad. BT are using it as a test case. It was suggested that the Business Association are written to by AB to give her any broadband issues. AB asked that all councillors check their broadband speed and advise the Clerk of the results so that they may be passed to her.

Annual Parish Meeting – Anna Badcock said that last year's meeting was fantastic and she was very impressed. She stated that Andrew Markham, Headteacher of the Primary School would like to speak at this year's meeting. It was stated that Headteachers from both the Watlington School are invited as a matter of course.

Drains – There has been an issue with the High Street drains for a number of years. OCC have cleaned out the drains and will continue to do so. AB will be writing a piece

for the Watlington Times on this issue. It was noted that on the 'Bank' side there is no separation between sewerage and rain water.

Roger Beattie asked if there is any ambition to give main drainage to people who do not have it? AB said she will ask the District Council if they are aware of any plans to do this. It was noted that Watlington is a Town but for planning purposes we are classed as a village.

Anna Badcock was thanked for attending the meeting

41/12. County Councillors Report

County Council Elections – These will take place on the 19th April 2012.

42/12 Thames Valley Police Report - PC Russell Hounslow

Local Priority - Theft from Motor Vehicles/Parking - There have been a couple of incidents this month where number plates have been stolen from separate locations . All of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams on the Thame sector are working on a number of different operations which include car park locations in urban areas and rural beauty spots. These include checking vehicles for security and valuables on show. If the vehicles are found to be displaying items warning letters are sent to the owners explaining that they are putting themselves at risk of crime.

Parking Issues - Junction 6 of the M40 continues to be monitored with regard to the issues around Hill road and the associated verges. Further issues of parking in and around the centre of Watlington have been raised and this has been included on the local Patrol Plan .

Crime information - Hare coursers were active this month around Pyrton. Police officers, along with the police helicopter, were deployed and contained the area . One vehicle was located abandoned in a field. Two suspects were identified and arrested on suspicion of Criminal Damage and hunting offences.

The Police received a report from Aston Rowant Nature Reserve very close to Watlington sector where five sheep were slaughtered and professionally butchered by offenders. The offenders took the valuable meat from the animals and left behind the remains, throwing them into bushes. This crime would have taken a couple of hours to commit when considering transportation of the meat , possibly to a vehicle nearby as the remote location is some distance from the nearest road.

Rural crime remains a concern both nationally and locally with a recent increase in reports of various thefts including farm machinery and dogs. Officers from the local NH team continue to focus on local rural areas and are currently operating Operation Maginot and Muddy to assist in the prevention and detection of these crimes

This month three offenders have been brought to justice in the Watlington area for the offences of Criminal Damage and Drug possession (Class B , Cannabis)

Robert Barber asked if speed camera signs could be installed at Christmas Common. He will speak to Ian Kent regarding this.

PC Russell Hounslow was thanked for attending the meeting.

43/12 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments
Tony Williamson read out the Balance of Accounts and proposed that the List of Payments be settled. Discussion took place on the invoice from SODC for Election Costs and it was agreed that this be referred to the Strategy Committee. It was felt that no explanation had been given and Council would like more information as to why the sum was reduced. It was agreed that the Clerk ask for a breakdown of these costs.

Resolved: That the Balance of Accounts be approved and the List of Payments be settled apart from the SODC invoice for Election Costs and that these both be signed by the Chairman.

44./12 Committees:

A: FINANCE - There has been no meeting.

B: PLANNING – 6/3/2012 – Rhian Woods

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

The committee looked at four applications. P11/E2252 Chiltern Farm Cottage, Land adjacent to Chiltern Farm, Hill Road was objected to as per policy H12.

Planning Award

Resolved: That as we only have one property on our shortlist we carry this property over to next year and do not award a Planning Award for 2012.

Standing Orders – At the next review The Planning Committee felt that the following should be added: That no site meetings to take place without the sanction of chair or vice chair of Planning Committee or in their absence, the Proper Officer. A minimum of two people must attend, and any meeting attended should have minutes taken. This was discussed and some Councillors were against this. However it was agreed to discuss this at the next review of Standing Orders.

C: STRATEGY – 28/2/2012 – David Tindale

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Annual Parish Meeting – The format for this meeting was agreed.

D. OPERATIONS – 22/2/2012 - Barry Adby

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Dogs in Recreation Ground/Sports Field

Vote: 8 in favour, 2 against.

Resolved:

1. That we put posters and flyers out with the following wording:

‘ Dear Dog Walker,

We would be very grateful if you could keep to the perimeter of the field and please ensure that your dog does not walk on the playing field areas. Kindly clear up all dog waste and put it in the bin provided.

If the current dog waste problem is not resolved the Parish Council may have to consider banning dogs altogether from the recreation ground and sport field.

We hope that together we can keep this area in a condition that allows Sport to be played without the problem of dog waste.

Many thanks for your co-operation’

This wording to also be put in the local press.

2. That this issue be reviewed in 12 months time.

E. ALLOTMENTS –There has been no meeting.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 16/2/2012 – Tony Williamson

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Tony Williamson reported that 18 months ago there was a meeting with the Football Foundation and the Football Association and they were very firm about commitments. They have now called for another meeting in May which will be about progress made on the commitments. KT is sending a response to them.

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – 1/3/2012 – David Tindale

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP –23/2/2012 – Nick Hancock

Resolved:

1. That WPC lodge with SODC Planning Department the intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.(note: at this stage no assumptions are made about geography, scope and timescale of the plan).

2. That a Core Group is formed to progress the creation of the plan. The Core Group will be governed by agreed terms of reference as stated in the last page of these minutes. It was agreed that Tim Horton be added to the core group.

45/12 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 48 - SODC letter regarding TPO which relates to trees around the Surgery. It was noted that the numbers probably need re-addressing.

Letter 51 – 33 High Street – IH to organise a meeting on this issue, it will then probably revert to the Strategy Committee.

Letter 52 - :Letter from Peter Richardson regarding our letter in the Henley Standard.

This was written further to the Peter Richardson article in the HS in which we readdressed the balance.

All other correspondence was noted.

46/12 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

No reports had been addressed.

47/12 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council

Diamond Jubilee Committee – It was noted that there was a good meeting on this held last night. They will be asking WPC for use of WPC property in the near future. The issue of the Legacy Project will be discussed at the next Strategy Committee meeting.

Youth Club – IH reported that the Youth Club have expressed a desire to look into building a Youth/Storage facility on the pavilion. It was agreed that this request should be discussed by the Pavilion Committee.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THIS MEETING
CLOSED AT 9.59PM
Neighbourhood Plan Core Group Terms of Reference**

1. Objectives

- To define the geography, scope and timescale for the Plan
- To create the Plan

2. Background

Neighbourhood Plans are a key component of the 2011 Localism Act. Parish and Town councils are being encouraged to participate. On a local level John Howell has invested time and energy into this policy and both Thame and Woodcote have been granted funds to support creation of their plans in the “Front Runner” pilots.

Several South Oxfordshire parishes have lodged with SODC an intention to produce Plans. For WPC not to do so could be seen as passing up an opportunity to exercise a degree of control over the future of the community and abdicating responsibility to SODC.

Additionally there is a “pot of money” (to quote SODC) in the Dept of Communities and Local Government which may be used to support Parishes, probably on a first-come basis. The regulations, process and level of support (notably SODC) governing the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan are as yet not clearly defined and there is a risk that the initiative will run out of steam if political will fades, however at present there is cross-party support for the concept.

3. Membership

The Core Group will consist of Harvey Batten, Rhian Woods, Robert Barber, Di Tolan, Nick Greaves, Charlie Rowton Lee, Tim Horton and Nick Hancock (Chairman).

4. Key Activities

The process for generating a Neighbourhood Plan is currently being tested by the Front Runner pilots. In addition legislative details are still being refined, with completion anticipated early summer 2012. There are however identifiable milestones:

- Lodge the intention to produce the plan with SODC
- Gain SODC approval to produce a plan (SODC are required to run a 6-week consultation)
- Establish the Community Forum, which is likely to be WPC, although adjacent parishes and other public sector bodies can participate. (SODC are required to run a 4-week consultation)
- Create, publish and gain SODC approval for the draft plan
- Finalise the plan
- Achieve inspection
- Run a referendum on the plan

5. Reporting

The Core Group will report to Full Council as milestones are reached and in any event not less than every two months.

March 2012

