



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8.00pm on Tuesday 8th March 2016

Present

Councillors: Ian Hill – Chairman (IH)
Matt Reid – Vice-Chairman (MR)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Jeremy Bell (JB)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Jane Bryant (JBt)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Jo Read (JR)
Bob West (BW)
Tony Williamson (TW)

Officer: Sarah Pullen

County Councillor: Stephen Harrod (SH)

Members of the Public: 3

33/16 Apologies for absence

Terry Jackson, Jon Lorimer, Robin Wilson

34/16 Chairman's Remarks

IH reported that we have received a resignation letter from Elizabeth Winton so we will need to find a replacement. IH stated that the process needs to be followed and it would be hoped to co-opt a Councillor at the May meeting.

35/16 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest notified.

36/16 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 9th February 2016 to be signed as a correct record

Minute 27/16, page 10, **Safeguarding** – agreed to remove the word 'implementation'.

Minute 31/16, page 13, **Low Emission Strategy** – 'Clare' to be spelt 'Claire'.

Resolved: That with the amendments shown above the minutes from the meeting be agreed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman

37/16 Matters arising from the Minutes

Safeguarding (Minute 27/16 refers) – This needs to have a wider circulation than was minuted.

Post Office (Minute 27/16 refers) – TW will set up a meeting with the Post Office Manager who is responsible for finding alternative premises in rural areas.

38/16 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

39/16 District Councillors Report

Anna Badcock had sent her apologies for this meeting. No report had been received.

40/16 County Councillors Report – Stephen Harrod.

Monthly report had been sent to all Councillors.

Budget 2016/2017 – SH said that there is some good news. A total of £2m of savings relating to Early Intervention Hubs and Children’s Centres will now not take place. An original £6m saving on Early Intervention Hubs and Children’s Centres - agreed by the council at its annual budget meeting in February 2015 - will still take place. No decisions have been taken at this stage on how this £2m will be spent. A total of £3m of savings relating to day centres (including transport to day centres) will now not take place. Instead they will be replaced by a saving of £1m from 2017/18 resulting from a full review of all day services for older people. There will be a further £300,000 contribution to the budget from reserves.

The net result of this is that the council will be able to set a balanced budget in 2016/17 but over the medium term now has £15.2m of unidentified savings to make as opposed to the previous figure of £11.2m. The new £4m of unidentified savings will fall in 2017/18. A number of other important decisions were made during the debate and a cross-party board of county councillors will be created to consider how best to use the transitional funds.

RH asked if we should be chasing OCC about Watlington and Chalgrove centre? SH said that we need to stay informed and keep an eye on progress.

Review of Cabinet Members – There will be a review of the number of Cabinet members.

Oakley Wood Recycling Centre – This has had a stay of execution and will remain open.

SH asked if anyone had any questions.

JB asked what the total revenue of OCC is after the budget cuts?

SH replied that it was £450M

TB asked about Environment Act which requires that the County prepare an Air Quality Action Plan for AQMA where the remedial actions fell within their responsibilities.

SH said he has forwarded this as he is unsure who owns this issue, and will let us know when he gets a reply.

41/16 Thames Valley Police Report

No report had been received. BW said that he has seen our PCSO, James Hopkin giving out parking tickets in the High Street.

42/16 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.

43/16 Committees:

A: FINANCE – There has been no meeting

Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit. TW explained that this was necessary each year to appoint an internal auditor for our accounts. The following two items were then resolved.

Resolved: That the:

‘The main role of the Internal Auditor is to check all the financial and accountable records that the Clerk must keep. This is done soon after the end of the financial year and involves all the financial transactions and both the legal authority and procedural authority for such transactions - e.g. the signed minutes of all meetings. Once the Internal Auditor is satisfied with the accounts and records, the Clerk prepares the relatively brief submission to the External Auditor. During the year the Clerk occasionally seeks his advice - eg in transferring the Receipt and Payment accounts,

operated through the year, into Accrual accounts needed for audit. Were the Clerk to leave or become temporarily unavailable, the Internal Auditor would assist a new or acting clerk'.

Resolved: That Roger Symes be appointed as our Internal Auditor for the 2015/2016 Accounts.

B: PLANNING – 2/2/2016 – Jeremy Bell

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

76 Hill Road – JB said that the committee voted to refuse this application on the grounds of the scale of the development which is contrary to CSQ3 Policy. It is not in keeping with the existing style of Hill Road with its diverse individual house type. It is unneighbourly in relation to 74 Hill Road.

C: STRATEGY- There has been no meeting

D: OPERATIONS – 20/1/206 – Bob West

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

New Play Equipment Project for the Paddock – RH said that SODC have recommended that we receive the full amount of the funding requested. RH also said that we need to start fundraising for the remainder of the money needed. Rainbow Nursery will do some fundraising for this also. RH is also looking at doing a 'Just Giving' page. The Clerk has sought advice from OALC and it was:

Resolved: That RH can do this using her own account but that it is promoted as a WPC initiative. All money raised will then be put into the WPC Bank Account. The Just-Giving report would provide a record for WPC of the money raised.

Car Park Clean – There was some hard work done at the weekend. Drainage ditches have also been dug. A vote of thanks was given to everyone who helped to do this, particularly to TB for his work in getting it organised. It has been a very worthwhile job.

Car Park Enforcement – IH is looking into various companies that do this. TB said that he has spoken to the parking attendant in Thame who may be happy to do some work for the Watlington Car Park. IH and KT will follow this up.

Berinsfield Grass cutting contract – IH proposed that we add two additional tasks to the Berinsfield Contract. These are:

- The main football pitch and the practice pitches across the rear of the sports field. The football club has discussed this with Berinsfield and agreed a price per cut. Since the Parish Council leases the field it is reasonable for us to pay for the mowing, but the football club have agreed to reimburse the costs to the Parish Council. Previously this cutting was done by volunteers.
- The churchyard. The Parochial Church Council has agreed a schedule for cutting the grass in the graveyards and the Parish Council has already agree to contribute £850 in the coming year to support maintenance of the churchyard under the 1972 Local Government Act 214(6), which allows us to "*contribute towards any expenses incurred by any other person in providing or maintaining a cemetery in which the inhabitants of the authority's area may be buried*". The PCC would pay the other half of the cost for this work.

Resolved: That subject to financial approval the Berinsfield contract be amended to include these two tasks.

E: ALLOTMENTS – Jo Read.

The report from JR was noted.

IH said that he had two people coming into the office to ask when the AGM is being held. This is being held on Friday 1st April in the Community Office.

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

G: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – 7/3/2016 – Jeremy Bell

Minutes of the previous evening's meeting had not yet been received.

JB reported that the Forum is working very hard. The Housing Survey was distributed and has had a 56% response rate. This will give us information on the housing mix that is required in Watlington. The Traffic Group and Sites Group are also working very hard. The Sites Group are detailing a map and chart of all available sites in Watlington.

At the Steering Committee's meeting last night they approved the criteria for evaluating sites. There is still no certainty about the housing numbers and we are awaiting this from SODC.

The Steering Committee were presented with a programme about what activities the Forum have been doing but not yet a project plan. A draft project plan is needed by April 2016.

There was a major presentation in the Town Hall from a developer about WAT8 but this has not been put in our NP as we are not able to comment and do not want to imply a green light to a scheme at this stage. JR said that she is still unclear about a developer's right to come and present before a NP is in place. It was stated that any developer can put in any application for any place and at any time. If a formal application is put in for WAT8 this will then be considered with due process by the Planning Committee.

It is thought that a decision on site preferences will be made in April.

Pyrton Parish are concerned that Watlington is pushing WAT8 and WAT9 sites. They are reported to have nearly completed their NP. Pyrton are not required to have any houses built under the SODC Core Strategy allocation.

44/16 Watlington Club

RB said that the bar has now been closed for 9 months and asked what is happening. The Watlington Club Committee is still in the process of looking for new tenants. The rest of the building is being used and the Hall is hired out daily to local organisations /classes etc.

45/16 Youth Club

Some progress has been made and Gill Cottell is organising a meeting to agree where responsibilities lie for financial and organisational tasks. There has now been a change of signatories and it is hoped that the Youth Club will re-open in April 2016. The decision had been taken at an earlier meeting that 4 Councillors should be involved in the transition period to manage the finances but this was not now needed.

46/16 Selection of members for Charlotte Coxe Shadow Trustee Body

At the February Full Council meeting four Councillors (IH, TW, RB and JR) were selected as members of the Shadow Trustee Body. Ideally we need another two Councillors to join this group.

Resolved: That Rachel Huckvale be appointed as an additional member of this Body. This leaves one vacancy still available.

IH will set up a meeting of this Trustee Body in early April.

47/16 Oxfordshire Together

OCC have proposed giving communities some control over local services (see attached). Operations Committee has had a preliminary look at what is suggested, but the Council needs to decide in principle whether this is something we want to take on.

TW had reviewed the detail of the proposal and had discussed this with TB. A paper was sent to all Councillors.. As there is some funding available it may to our benefit to take on some tasks to ensure that specific works are done. It was agreed that in principle the WPC would be happy to do this and agreed that the specific detail be discussed in the Operations Committee meeting.

Resolved Unanimously: That WPC are happy in principle to do this and that the detail be discussed by the Operations Committee and a Recommendation to be sent to Full Council.

48/16 Correspondence for Information - List Attached to Agenda

Letter No 18 Stocker and Co – 26 Britwell Road – This is a strip of land that backs onto Hurdlers Green. There is a request that the resident has access over our land/piece of grass. TW and JL have been to look at the land in question. There is a problem that the tarmac is a turning area and it is not clear if they have a legal right to cross it. There is also a 'non' tarmacked area. The Solicitor for this property is going to check what, if anything would be required from WPC. If this is needed WPC will consider this at the relevant time. Our solicitor thinks that some of this land is already owned by 26 Britwell Road.

Letter No 52 – Tim Horton – SODC Planning Meeting – Church Hall Site – TH has asked if anyone is speaking against this from WPC. It was noted that Terry Jackson will be speaking against this application.

49/16 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

A: Children's' Centre - Report on meeting with Helen Rints – this was a positive meeting but it was not possible to specify what, if any, assistance was required from the Parish Council. The Chalgrove and Watlington Children's Centre will be closing in September but this does not affect After School Care. It is hoped that it will be possible for some of the Children's Centre services will be able to continue in a different form.

B: Progress with community amenity land in Christmas Common – MR had sent out a paper to Councillors with the agenda on this issue.

It was agreed that the first thing to do would be to approach the land owner directly asking if he would consider selling the land at the price he bought it for.

Resolved: That MR, TB and TJ be authorised to contact the landowner on behalf of WPC. It was noted that we are not committing any finance at this stage.

Other options for the future of this site include:

1. Look at the process for having this land protected.
2. List as a Community Asset – this would be difficult if in private ownership.
3. To consider extending the existing graveyard.

It was noted that today an Appeal has been lodged. A site visit and written representation will need to be sent to the Inspector.

C: Low Emission Strategy - Report on meeting with SODC – Claire Spendley. TB, TJ and IH attended this meeting. CS produced the Research Report and also newspaper cuttings. The unfortunate term 'Freight Clearway' is used to describe a proposal to remove parking from Couching Street and Shirburn Street so that traffic including HGVs would have an unobstructed route through Town. They say that this parking removal would allow freedom of traffic but WPC are not convinced of this. In particular the WPC view is that this will serve only to concentrate the congestion at the Town Hall where the current level of pollution is already the highest for the town. We questioned whether the modelling that had been done was an accurate representation of the complexity of Couching Street, Shirburn Street, Hill Road junction. CS said that she would ask the consultants who did the work to confirm the assumptions used in the model.

There was no indication given of dates/timescales for implementation of the plan. SODC state that this is just a report but that they do not expect any action to be taken without further consultation. The Councillors who attended the meeting said that if this plan was implemented, could a trial run be done to see if it works before permanent and costly changes are made. TB said that IH had requested a copy of the data which was used in the model that estimated that this measure would lead to a reduction of 35% in the air pollution. We also pressed hard in requesting a direct contact with Ricardo to get them to look at alternative solutions. MR asked if they could measure the road width at the pinch point and TB replied that we already have measurement. This consultation runs till the end of March and we have asked for data to be given to us prior to this.

Resolved: That IH, TW, TB and TJ produce a written response to the consultation, and that this response be circulated to all WPC Councillors for comment.

50/16 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

Watlington Page in Henley Standard – This had been copied to all Councillors. MR said that it was very useful to have this and thanked KT for circulating it.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50PM