



## Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8.00pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Ian Hill – Chairman (IH)  
Matt Reid – Vice-Chairman (MR)  
Jeremy Bell (JB)  
Bob West (BW)  
Fiona Paterson (FP)  
Tom Bindoff (TB)  
Stephanie Van de Pette (SvP)  
Nicky Smallbone (NS)  
Tony Williamson (TW)  
Rob Smith (RS)  
Fergus Lapage (FL)

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan (KT)

**County Councillor:**

Stephen Harrod (SH)

**District Councillor:**

Anna Badcock (AB)

**Members of the Public:**

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31/17 Apologies for absence

Terry Jackson, Rachel Huckvale, Bob West.

32/17 Chairman's Remarks

IH welcomed the new Councillors, Fergus Lapage and Rob Smith to the Council.

33/17 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no Declaration of Interest notified.

34/17 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 to be signed as a correct record

**Full Council 14/3/2017**, the following changes were agreed: Minute 24/17, page 8, line 3 should read 'tackle' not 'tack'; Minute 26/17 C, page 9, to take out 'Red' before telephone box; Minute 26/17 G, page 10, line 2, to take out 'will be' and replace with 'is likely' with the same wording being changed in the last paragraph also to change, in the Resolution on this item, to take out 'of 400' and replace with 'a minimum of 200'.

**Resolved:** That these minutes, with the amendments shown above, are a correct record of these meetings and that they be signed by the Chairman.

35/17 Matters arising from the Minutes

**33 High Street** – TW reported that there has been some progress on this.

**Children's Centre** – SvP reported that they have now opened a Bank Account and that she will give the details to the Clerk so that the grant awarded for this year from the Parish Council can be paid in.

36/17 Public Questions

There were none notified.

37/17 County Councillors Report - Steve Harrod

**Unitary Council** – SH reported that there have been developments on this and at the Cabinet meeting today it was agreed to submit a proposal to DCLG with South and The Vale District Councils proposing a single Unitary Council for Oxfordshire. They will then need to wait for the feedback from DCLG. If they agree to this the next step would be to appoint an Interim Executive to devise the new structure.

**Elections**- The County Council elections will be held in May 2017.

**Children's Centres** – 34 out of the 44 Centres are now up and running. SvP said that the Watlington and Chalgrove Centre has now appointed 1 centre co-ordinator and two play workers. They are also looking at forming a CIO (Community Interest Organisation).

**Watlington Issues** - SH said that he would follow up on:

1. Change of Priority for Christmas Common Road
2. Britwell Road Traffic Calming proposals
3. Proposed new Bus Stop on Brook Street Consultation.

**B4009** – TW asked SH if he had an answer to the email he sent asking if OCC would reconsider reducing the weight limit area to the centre of Watlington. SH said he has passed this on to an Officer and is awaiting comments. He will pass on the response as soon as he receives one.

IH thanked SH for attending the meeting.

38/17 District Councillors Report – Anna Badcock

**South and Vale Forum** – this is being held tomorrow at Cornerstone, Didcot. TW and NS will be attending this. AB said that it should be very interesting and would like to have their feedback on this.

**Business Breakfast** – this was held last month and Matthew Hornsby, Sales Director at Williams Jet Tenders who runs this business at Berinsfield gave a talk which was very inspiring. This is an annual networking event and is very useful and gives businesses a lot of useful information and contacts.

**Leader Funding** – This is now open and details are on the SODC website.

**Young Achiever Awards** – These were awarded last month. AB said that not enough young people are applying for these so the Grants Team are looking into having a different format for next year.

**Christmas Tree Recycling** – 2000 trees were collected by SODC from resident's doorstops in January. JB asked what it cost to collect these. AB said she did not know but could find out.

**Unitary Council**- AB said that there was a special meeting on Friday to discuss the proposal on Better Oxfordshire to combine South and The Vale District Council with OCC. This was agreed with only 1 abstention. AB stated that too often the split between services given by OCC and the District Councils miss doing the best for residents. The success of it will be in the detail. The plan is to save £100M in five years.

MR said that at present SODC have very generous grant schemes and asked if these would be affected. AB said all councillors will work hard to protect the grant schemes. RB asked if OCC would remain in Oxford and AB stated that this would be part of the detail that will be looked at once a Chief Executive and Managing Team have been appointed. It is also envisaged having between 15-20 Area Boards in place.

SvP stated that lots of Councils in other areas are doing this and they are very effective.

TW said that having read the proposals he is horrified about the detail in it. It will take two years to be up and running with the second year being run as a shadow Council before full implementation takes place. AB said that shadow working was commonplace and TW agreed that it had happened in 1974.

JB stated that SODC have a very good reputation as being a good performer whereas OCC less so. AB said that the Government steer is to cut down bureaucracy and cost and become Unitary Councils and that it is hopefully to the benefit of SODC residents to be part of any bid rather than have it forced upon them.

**Budget** – AB reported that SODC have stopped the budget for PCSO's which was started 10 years ago so as to have more police presence on the streets but this is not now happening as they are being diverted to other things which are police responsibilities.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – JB said that the NP has been progressed a long way but there are still issues on traffic that need to be resolved. SODC officers have given lots of comments on this. AB said that we need to find solutions which are achievable and appropriate. AB said that currently it looks like the most achievable solution, if the Chalgrove Proposal goes ahead, is that there will be a relief road around Watlington.

IH thanked AB for attending the meeting.

39/17 Thames Valley Police Report  
No report had been received.

40/17 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 and the Chairman of Finance.

41/17 Committees:  
**A: FINANCE** –There has been no meeting  
**B: PLANNING** – 7/3/2017- SvP  
**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

SvP said that there was only 1 application for discussion, P17/SO588/FUL Greenacres Farm, Howe Road, Removal of Condition 8 on application P14/SO236/FUL – 'Conversion of storage building to provide one holiday apartment' which the committee objected to.

Protocol for planning applications by having a set of rules in which applications are dealt with through the whole process

After discussion a few minor changes were agreed to add 'Highways' to the consulting bodies and to change the wording from 'must notify' to 'advisable to notify'.

**Resolved:** That with the changes agreed, the Planning Committee Protocol and the Public Guidance for Commenting on Planning Applications be accepted.

**C: STRATEGY**- There has been no meeting

**D. OPERATIONS** –18/21/2017 - TB  
**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes  
TB said that at the Full Council meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March it was resolved to co-opt Jenny Wilkinson onto this committee.

**Members of Operations Committee**

**Resolved:** That Fiona Paterson be appointed onto the Operations Committee.

**Street parties planned across UK in memory of murdered MP Jo Cox on the weekend of 17/18 June 2017.**

After discussion it stated that this event is purely in memory of MP Jo Cox and is not political in any way. It was:

**Resolved:** That Watlington Parish Council hold an event on this weekend in the Paddock and that the Operations Committee organise this.

**E. ALLOTMENTS** – NS

NS reported that she had spent a morning with George Bruce in the Allotments and has now got a list of all allotment holders and plot numbers which she will put on the Allotment Plan. It has been

agreed to increase the rent by £1 to Allotment Holders for 2017. There is one plot available at the moment.

**F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 5/3/2017 – Ian Hill**

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

IH reported that discussion took place on what charges should or should not be passed onto the sections. WCC had some concerns over the split of utilities between them and WTFC but agreement was made on the way forward. The committee finally agreed to the Business Plan which will now be sent to the Football Foundation.

TW said that we also have now had the bar accounts. The flower beds around the Pavilion have now been sorted out by our gardener and the beds now look much better.

**Appointment of a New Member on this Committee**

**Resolved:** That Matt Reid be appointed to the PSFC Committee.

**G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – 6/1/2017 – Jeremy Bell**

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

JB said that this was a very productive meeting with Peter Canavan (SODC) in attendance and he went through the draft NP with the Committee. As a result there will be a Steering Committee meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> March and a Special Full Council meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> March with the only agenda item being approval for the Draft NP. At the meeting Peter Canavan also said that SODC would provide £7,500 towards the Traffic Modelling which can now be commissioned. SODC in their new Local Plan (to be published on the 29<sup>th</sup> March) are going to propose a preferred route around Watlington which would be paid for by SODC and OCC and it would be up to them to take the decision as to where to put it which will then need to be included in our NP.

MR said that this date is also when SODC will be making a decision on WAT8. The HGV limit issue is not a NP issue as it is up to OCC to review the limit and it was agreed that this be discussed in the Strategy Committee.

- 42/17 Thame Market Day Service – Community Travel Club to be formed –paper was attached to the agenda.

IH reported that he attended a PTR meeting at the end of February and most of the discussion was on the Comet Services which are working very well but the way we have dealt with the Thame Market Bus Service is beyond the power of the Parish Council and we have to now set a Body outside of the WPC to provide a link between Comet and the users of the bus service. This is because WPC cannot pay a subsidy and sell the bus tickets. After discussion it was:

**Resolved:** that a Body is set up outside of the WPC to take over this issue IH/KT to put an item in the Watlington Times and we need to look for people who may be interested in taking this on.

- 43/17 Correspondence for Information - List Attached to Agenda  
**Letter 44 – OALC** – Do we wish to support the proposal from OCC and SODC on Unitary Proposal – see attached. – **This issue was referred to the Strategy Committee for discussion.**

- 44/17 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

**Town Hall Charity Trust Body**

1. Appointment of a new Councillor on this Body following the resignation of Robin Wilson  
There were no nominations for this.

**The Village Hall at Russells Water** (1930 Schedule – this is for the benefit of the Parishes of Swyncombe, Bix, Watlington and Pishill with Stonor- see attached)

1. Appointment of Representative to attend the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Resolved:** That Roger Beattie attend this meeting on behalf of WPC.

- 45/17 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.55PM**