



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COMMUNITY OFFICE AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 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)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Rob Smith (RS)
Fergus Lapage (FL)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

County Councillor:

Steve Harrod

Press:

David White

Members of the Public:

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The Meeting opened with Ian Hill presiding.

63/17 Apologies for Absence.

There were none.

64/17 Election of Chairman.

Bob West proposed Ian Hill and this was seconded by Roger Beattie. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Ian Hill unanimously be elected as Chairman.

TW congratulated IH on the exceptional quality of work he has done during the last year.

65/17 To receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office.

Ian Hill signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' form.

66/17 Election of Vice-Chairman.

Rachel Hill proposed Matt Reid and Ian Hill seconded. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Matt Reid be unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

67/17 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

68/17 Public Questions
There were none.

69/17 To appoint Statutory or Standing Committees:

Committee Membership agreed

Finance: Roger Beattie, Ian Hill, Matt Reid, Tony Williamson, Nicky Smallbone, Stephanie Van de Pette, Fergus Lapage

Planning: Jeremy Bell, Terry Jackson, Matt Reid, Bob West, Ian Hill, Tom Bindoff, Fergus Lapage, Rob Smith

Operations: Roger Beattie, Tom Bindoff, Rachel Huckvale, Terry Jackson, Ian Hill, Bob West, Tony Williamson, Fiona Paterson, Fergus Lapage

Co-opted Member: Jenny Wilkinson

Strategy: Tom Bindoff, Ian Hill, Terry Jackson, Matt Reid, Tony Williamson, Stephanie Van de Pette, Fergus Lapage, Rob Smith

Allotment Representative: Nicky Smallbone

Pavilion and Sport Field: **WPC Members:** Roger Beattie, Ian Hill, Nicky Smallbone, Matt Reid

Neighbourhood Steering Group: Matt Reid, Tom Bindoff, Terry Jackson, Jeremy Bell, Tony Williamson, Stephanie Van de Pette

70/17 Representatives to other Bodies:

1. "Support Fund" and "The Watlington Public Charities" Trustees

Mrs Nicholson to serve until May 2020 and Mr Barber to serve until May 2018.

2. Watlington Education Foundation

Tony Williamson was elected in 2015 to serve until 2018.

3. Friends of Watlington Library – Rachel Huckvale was appointed as our representative.

4. Representative for Youth Club – Fiona Paterson was appointed as our representative.

5. Charlotte Coxe Advisory Body – to appoint 3 representatives

Ian Hill, Tony Williamson and Roger Beattie were appointed as our representatives.

6. Icknield Community College – to appoint 2 representatives

Matt Reid and Fiona Paterson to continue as our representatives.

7. Parish Transport Representative – to appoint 1 or 2 representatives

Ian Hill and Rob Smith to be our representatives.

9. Town Hall Charity Trustee Body - to appoint the Trustee Body

WPC Trust Body Members are: Tony Williamson, Bob West, Roger Beattie and Terry Jackson,

Non Council Members: Alison Morgans and Tim Horton

71/17 District Councillors Report

Anna Badcock has sent her apologies for this meeting.

72/17 County Councillors Report - Steve Harrod

SH reported that he sent his annual report out today and gave a brief update on the following issues:

UNITARY COUNCIL – Following a year of negotiation, proposals, counter proposals and deadlock, the County eventually persuaded South and Vale Districts to join in the proposal for a single unitary council for Oxfordshire. This has now been submitted to the DCLG for consideration by the Secretary of State and has very recently received the support of local MP, John Howell. There had been hope of an early indication of support or otherwise from DCLG but the snap General Election may put the kibosh on that.

CHILDREN'S CENTRES - Of the 44 Children's Centres from which we had to withdraw funding, 33 have successfully converted to self-funding models in various shapes and sizes and we continue to advise the remaining centres on how to move forward in the best interests of children and families in the county.

DAY CENTRES - Elderly residents who make use of Day Centres in the county will continue to receive support from the Council while they also transition to new and sustainable funding models. The Council will go out of its way to ensure that vulnerable residents in the county receive the services they deserve.

TW said that Age Concern in Watlington will now receive £10,000 whereas last year they received £16,000 and that all funding will cease in 2018 with no transition money given after this. SH said he would get some clarification on this.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES (HWRCs) - HWRCs in the county will continue to operate as usual despite the threat of cuts to funding and the Council will continue to lobby central government for permission to charge (modestly!) for these services in order to ensure their sustainability

ADOPTION SERVICES ACROSS THAMES VALLEY - OCC is joining forces with neighbouring councils to create a Regional Adoption Agency. (RAA) for the Thames Valley. The agency will improve outcomes for both children and adopters – including the ability to match children with families more quickly and improve support services for adopters. Oxfordshire will be the host authority within a partnership known as 'Adopt Thames Valley', alongside six other councils (Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Swindon and Reading) and two Voluntary Adoption Agencies (PACT and Barnardo's).

SCHOOLS - Solid forward planning has once again ensured the overwhelming majority of Oxfordshire children have been offered a place at their first-choice primary school. The proportion of children receiving a first-preference offer rose to 93.68 per cent this year, from 91.51 per cent in 2016 and 88.04 per cent in 2015. A further 4.55 per cent of children were offered their second-choice school.

RB asked for an update on Chiltern Edge School which has gone into Special Measures. SH said that OCC has an obligation to consider closure and go to consultation. This is an option being considered as well as other possible options such as it becoming an Academy. Only 150 pupils that attend the school live in Oxfordshire. The timing so close to the OCC elections was unfortunate but OCC are trying to do the best thing. There would be no impact on the ICC in Watlington.

EXTRA FUNDING SECURED IN ADDITION TO 2017/18 BUDGET PROPOSALS - The County Council set its budget for 2017/18 on Tuesday 14th February. Ahead of the meeting, it was announced the Council had £1,957,000 extra, as a result of better than expected business

rate collections, council tax collection fund surpluses and a higher than expected grant. The County is proposing to hold £926,000 of this until the 2018/19 financial year, and to spend the rest of the money (£1.03m) in this financial year in the following ways:

- £170,000 to be spent on additional grass-cutting work on highway verges. This is an area of spend that has been reduced in recent years.
- £250,000 one-off funding initially for a pilot Communities Fund for parishes and towns to bid for matched funding schemes following changes/reductions for funding for services.
- £600,000 additional funding for children's social care – a part of the council that has been exempted from cuts since 2010 but has continued to experience significant rising demand on services in common with children's social care departments across England.
- £11,000 increase on the Council's Flood Defence Levy.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION 2017 - No overall majority has been achieved. The Conservative group, with 31 of 63 seats, will be seeking an alliance with independent members to achieve a voting majority.

Ian Hill congratulated Stephen Harrod on his re-election as County Councillor and thanked him for attending the meeting.

73/17 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.

74/17 To agree Format of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 18th May 2017

IH asked that all Chairmen get their annual reports to the Clerk as soon as possible. It was agreed that the NP Forum give an update on the current Consultation. It was agreed that a short questionnaire (draft sent to Councillors) asking for opinions on specific issue eg car parking, red kites be given out at the meeting. TJ asked if a question could be if residents would like to meet with Councillors. This was agreed to be added. The meeting will take place at the Watlington Club. JB gave his apologies for this meeting.

75/17 Committees:

A: FINANCE –There has been no meeting

B: PLANNING – 2/5/2017 – Matt Reid

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

MR stated that this was quite an interesting meeting, the most important application to be discussed was that on Lys Mill. The committee asked for two more conditions to be added to the list on the planning application.

The Church Hall Land has now gone to Appeal and TB will represent WPC at this.

C: STRATEGY- There has been no meeting

D. OPERATIONS –26/4/2017- Tom Bindoff

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

TB reported that the fencing has now been put up at the play area at the paddock and said that Dave Pullen did a very good job. The last 1/2m of fencing to be put in will be done by Bob

West as the fence area was changed slightly after the fencing order had been put in.

The idea of a Performance Stage was discussed and there is a Working Group set up to look further into this and come up with ideas that the Operations Committee can then discuss. TJ, BW, TW and FL are part of this group which also includes residents from our community.

There was agreement to reprint the 3 walks leaflets, the Town Walk having already been printed and the Committee have asked the Finance Committee to look at the funding as the budget allocated will not allow for the total cost.

E. ALLOTMENTS – NS reported that the AGM took place last month and 10 allotment holders attended. The collection of rents is a lot better this year. There are still some vacant plots and these will be advertised. There is to be a noticeboard put up for allotment information.

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

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – 3/4/2017

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

TW reported that there was a meeting last night at which the Design Guide was discussed. There are some splendid photos included in this, which TJ and Keith Jackson have taken and they were thanked for these. It was agreed that the Design Guide should now go on the NP website.

78/17 Correspondence for Information - List Attached to Agenda

All correspondence has been referred to Committees.

79/17 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

Citizens Advice Bureau – paper was attached to the Agenda. This was noted.

ICC - MR and FP have met with ICC and they have agreed that extra steps are taken this year after the Year 11 Leaving do and after party. MR will organise a team to be available the next morning so the area can be cleaned up if necessary. RB will lock up after the event and will check the condition of the Pavilion.

80/17 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

NP Questionnaire – TB asked that all Councillors remind their neighbours that they need to get them back soon. There has been a good response to date. TW thanked the NP especially the main 4 people involved for doing much more than other people to get all the information out for the Consultation.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10PM

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