



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COMMUNITY OFFICE AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 8th MAY 2018

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid (MR)
Ian Hill (IH)
Nicky Smallbone (NS)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Jeremy Bell (JB)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Fergus Lapage (FL)
Stephanie Van de Pette (SvP)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock (later)

Members of the Public:

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The Meeting opened with Ian Hill presiding until Election of Chairman.

66/18 Election of Chairman.

Ian Hill proposed Matt Reid, and this was seconded by Nicky Smallbone. TW proposed Ian Hill, who stated that he did not wish to stand. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Matt Reid be elected as Chairman.

MR was congratulated on his appointment as Chairman.

MR gave a massive thanks to Ian Hill for his chairmanship of the Council for the last 9 and half years and also welcomed back Steph Van de Petter after her six months leave of absence.

67/18 Apologies for Absence.

Andrew McAuley, Rob Smith, Bob West.

68/18 To receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office.

Matt Reid signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' form.

69/18 Election of Vice-Chairman.

TW proposed Ian Hill and this was seconded by Matt Reid. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Ian Hill be elected as Vice- Chairman.

70/18. Declarations of Interest

Allotment Polytunnel - TB, TJ, FL and JB declared a non-prejudicial interest in the Allotment as they are all allotment holders. They said they would remain in the room but would not vote on this issue.

71/18 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th March 2018 to be agreed as a correct record.

Resolved: That these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

72/18 Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.

73/18 Councillors Leave of Absence
Resolved: That Fiona Butler be given a six month leave of absence following the birth of her daughter.

74/18 Public Questions
There were none notified.

75/18 To appoint Statutory or Standing Committees:

- A STRATEGY
- B PLANNING
- C FINANCE
- D OPERATIONS
- E ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVE/S
- F PAVILION AND SPORT FIELD
- G NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Committees 2018/2019

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, Andrew McAuley

Operations: Roger Beattie, Tom Bindoff, Terry Jackson, Ian Hill, Bob West, Tony Williamson, Fiona Butler, 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, Andrew McAuley

Allotment Representative Nicky Smallbone

Pavilion and Sport Field: **WPC Members:** Roger Beattie, Nicky Smallbone Matt Reid – **One Parish Councillor to be appointed at the next meeting.**

Neighbourhood Steering Group: Matt Reid, Tom Bindoff, Terry Jackson, Jeremy Bell, Tony Williamson – One Parish Councillor to be appointed.

76/18 Representatives to other Bodies:

1. **“Support Fund” and “The Watlington Public Charities” Trustees** - to appoint 1 representative Mrs Nicholson to serve until May 2020 and Mr Barber to serve until May 2018.

The Trustees have asked that Mr Barber be re-appointed to these bodies until 2022.

Resolved: That Mr Barber be appointed to serve until May 2022.

2. **Watlington Education Foundation** – to appoint 1 representative

Tony Williamson was elected in 2015 to serve until 2018.

3. **Friends of Watlington Library** – To appoint a representative. – **Deferred to next month**

4. **Representative for Youth Club** –To appoint a representative - – **Deferred to next month**

5. **Charlotte Coxe Advisory Body** – to appoint 3 representatives

Resolved: That Ian Hill, Tony Williamson and Roger Beattie to be appointed.

6. **Icknield Community College** – to appoint 2 representatives

Resolved: That Matt Reid and Nicky Smallbone to be appointed.

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

Ian Hill was appointed. Second representative – **Deferred to next month.**

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

Currently the Trust Body Members are: Tony Williamson, Bob West, Roger Beattie and Terry Jackson, Co-opted: Alison Morgans and Tim Horton

Resolved: that the Trust Body Members above are re-appointed.

77/18 District Councillors Report - Anna Badcock
RB congratulated AB on her appointment to Cabinet.

Rubbish at the Industrial Estate – the amount of rubbish with Polish labelling in this area, presumably from lorry drivers had previously been raised to AB. She said that unfortunately SODC cannot do much about this. However, it was agreed that the Clerk send a letter to SODC requesting a bin and a sign in Polish be put up in this location.

Homes England and Chalgrove – Over the years there has been broad discussion on the Strategic sites which culminated this year as the Local Plan came to fruition. Legal advice came to light that Chalgrove looked like it could not be deliverable in the time plan to 2031 as the site in its entirety would have to be built by then and was less likely due to the road infrastructure needed. This site had a lot of people in favour and a lot against. John Cotton was adamant that he wanted to build Chalgrove. Physical Infrastructure had to be essential to deliver that large site (the size of Wallingford). OCC objected to the Plan because Infrastructure was needed but there was no money for it. The reasons why the cabinet objected to it being in the plan was because of the legal advice, the long length of tenure by Martin Baker and because Compulsory purchase could be an issue and therefore it may not pass through the examination process. Councillors began to feel very uneasy about including Chalgrove. John Cotton then resigned as Leader and Jane Murphy is now the Leader. The Local Plan is now going back through Council and will be reviewed and consideration of bringing other sites into it.

Bullying – AB said that there has been a culture of bullying and sexism within the Council and SODC are looking to give Councillors more support with these issues. AB said that this is one of the main reasons that not many women go into politics.

5 Year Land Supply – A press release has been given out which states that SODC are now within the 5-year land supply.

Edge Road around Watlington – AB said she would continue to fight for this.

78/18 County Councillors Report
Steve Harrod had sent his apologies. His monthly newsletter was emailed to Councillors.

79/18 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.

80/18 Committees:
A: FINANCE – There has been no meeting
B: PLANNING – 1/5/2018- Jeremy Bell
Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

JB reported that the Committee objected to P18/S1018/HH May Cottage, 8 Britwell Road, Watlington Ground floor front extension on the grounds of Overdevelopment. WPC support the Conservation and Traffic Officers reports.

The Committee also objected to P18/S1259/FUL 10 Hill Road, Watlington, Erection of a detached, two storey dwelling with associated parking and landscaping on the grounds of Overdevelopment of the site. Overwhelming impact on an important key building in the town which is at the edge of the Conservation Area.

Another objection was to P18/S0206/LB P18/S0205/HH Meadow Court, 11 New Road, Watlington

Alterations and extensions to existing detached dwelling. New detached garage building **WPC are not against the principle of developing this house per se. However, WPC have the following comments to make:**

1. Materials are not in the local vernacular and are grossly inconsistent with the rest of house in terms of style and finish.
2. WPC agree with the comments on this made by the Conservation Officer.
3. The existing wall around the site should be kept intact.
4. WPC have concerns about the construction of the basement interfering with the aquifers that feed the chalk stream that surfaces alongside the churchyard.

C: STRATEGY- There has been no meeting

Resolved: that the Note from the Brainstorming Meeting on the 16/4/2018 be noted.

National Air Quality Day – 21st June 2018 – Do we want to have an event for this. **It was agreed to defer this to the Strategy Committee.**

Charlotte Coxe Trust – TW reported that we have finally received copies of the leases for the parking spaces and garages which have been sent to our Solicitor. IH stated that last week the fence was taken down on the space next to the SSE building for building works to take place and this has caused a lot of problems in this area. IH has spoken to the owner of the house regarding this. OCC have given access lease now to Mr Smith in spite of the FOWL objection. TW said that FOWL are very annoyed by people abusing the library spaces.

Meeting with Pyrton Lane Residents and OCC– IH will send out a date for this meeting which has to be after the Referendum.

D. OPERATIONS –18/4/2018-

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

MUGA – RB said that this is now for one pitch only.

Public Conveniences – The refurbishment work will start next Monday.

E. ALLOTMENTS – Nicky Smallbone

NS reported that a special meeting of the Allotment Committee (Minutes attached to the end of these minutes) was called to discuss the erection of the polytunnel on Nicola Schaffer's plot. The majority of the Allotment Committee are against this being erected.

Nicola had asked George Bruce if she could erect a polytunnel on her plot, in order to grow a giant pumpkin. She had grown giant pumpkins in previous years but was now looking to grow a bigger one under a polytunnel. George gave his permission. He understood that the poly tunnel would cover the entire plot but was not told the height.

The polytunnel is a commercial structure approximately 15metres long 7metres wide and 3 metres high. Each of the seven hoops is concreted into the ground.

Nicola was unaware that she had to seek permission from the Parish Council as the agreement that the allotment holders sign had been shortened and the specific point regarding the erection of any structure did not feature on the agreement.

The Allotment Association is not affiliated to any National Association and has been run for many years under the chairmanship of George Bruce. The maintenance of the allotments has successfully been managed by the allotment holders themselves. They look after the tracks, paths, hedges and trees and any issues that arise are dealt with efficiently. It is very much a community led arrangement.

The erection of the polytunnel has caused one allotment holder to contact Anna Badcock, the District Councillor and she passed it to the Planning Department. Another allotment holder contacted the Planning Department directly and a case study was opened. This is now being handled by the Planning Enforcement Officer who will be visiting the site during the week commencing May 14th.

The Officer has asked if the Allotment Committee and Parish Council would be minded to grant permission for the polytunnel to stand.

Nicola Schafer then spoke on the Polytunnel Issue and the value to the Community of allowing this Polytunnel. Jane Beard and Sally Stewart then spoke on the reasons that it is not appropriate on the allotments.

The Council then discussed the issue and agreed that more information and advice is needed on this issue.

Resolved: That a Special Meeting of Full Council is held prior to Strategy on 22nd May to discuss this issue only, when we have more information and have had the site visit with the Enforcement Officer. MR will prepare a paper for this meeting.

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

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – 9/4/2018

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

The response to the Pyrton Neighbourhood Plan consultation has been sent.

H. Outreach Meeting – 20/3/2018

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

The Outreach Working Group are meeting on the 21/5/2018 to progress the issues raised.

81/18 Referendum on the WNDP – How the Parish Council should publicise this.
Resolved: That the Strategy Committee discuss this issue at the next meeting,

82/18 Correspondence for Information - **List Attached to Agenda**
Resolved: To put up posters and a banner to advertise the Referendum

83/18 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies
No reports were received.

84/18 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10PM

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Pyrton Field Allotment Association held at the Allotments at
3.00pm on Saturday 5th May 2018**

Present George Bruce – Chairman (GB)
 Robert Rogers (RR)
 Jane Beard (JB)
 Sally Stewart (SS)
 Shane McIntyre (SM)
Councillor Nicky Smallbone (NS)

Apologies for absence: Alec Powell, MC Allen, James Tappin

All the members of the committee were concerned about the amount of water that will be needed to grow the pumpkin. RR stated that the water pressure is already low in the particular area where the pumpkin will be growing, so any extra water taken will not help the surrounding allotments. Also, as the tunnel covers the whole plot there was a concern that when it rains the rain will run off and potentially flood the surrounding plots. RR was also concerned about the amount of feed and fertilizer that will be used on the soil.

JB was worried about the precedent that the poly tunnel may set. If this one is allowed to stand, how many others could be erected, causing shade to many allotments. JB had checked with three other areas that had allotments. All of them had restrictions on sizes of sheds, greenhouses or poly tunnels which were much less than the size of the poly tunnel for the pumpkin. She was also concerned how the pumpkin would be removed as the contractors erecting the poly tunnel had already caused damage to some plots. JB suggested that the School or Babylon Plants would be a better place for the poly tunnel.

SS had been approached by several allotment holders deeply upset by the sight of the poly tunnel on the allotments. Many thought it went against the ethos of having an allotment as it was not actually growing 'food for the table' and was not in the spirit of what allotment holders were about. SS was also concerned that it will obscure a large area and therefore prevent other allotment holders from keeping a look out for each other, something that SS felt was important for single women.

NS suggested that as a compromise the poly tunnel be allowed to stand for one year so that the giant pumpkin could be grown. This was rejected by the committee.

NS then asked the committee to vote.

Those in favour of it staying 1

Those against 3

Abstention 1

Alec Powell and MC Allen although absent from the meeting had expressed their disapproval of the poly tunnel by email.

It was agreed that the committee would speak to as many of the other allotment holders as possible to canvas opinion.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm