

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council in the Community Office Held at 8pm on Tuesday 12th November 2013

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Chairman
David Tindale – Vice-Chairman
Tony Williamson
Robert Barber
Barry Adby
Tim Horton
Robin Wilson
Harvey Batten
Bob West
Nick Greaves

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock

Press:

Janine Rasiah

Members of the Public:

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140/13 Apologies for absence

Rhian Woods, Nick Hancock, Neil Boddington, Roddy Orr.

141/13 Chairman's Remarks

Filming in Shirburn – IH reported that regarding his press comments about filming on the weekend of Remembrance Day that they were a total misrepresentation of what he said. The Mirror phoned him on the Sunday and he made the mistake of talking to them and was reported totally inaccurately. It was noted that when the letter regarding the filming was delivered to residents in Watlington, TH raised the issue of this weekend and asked them not to film over this weekend. IH said that the filming finished about 1am on the Sunday morning and did not re-commence until the Tuesday morning. Apparently they were due to stop at midnight but filming overrun. IH has spoken to Lynne Parker from Shirburn regarding the press.

TH said that he endorsed the actions that IH has taken and that he handled it very well and said that he had talked to the filming company on this issue.

Mud on the roads of Shirburn, from the film vehicles has been reported by the Clerk to OCC

142/13 To receive Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations received.

143/13 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 8th October 2013 to be signed as a correct record
The following amendments were noted:
Outreach Meeting (Minute 130/13 refers) It was noted that IH not RB chaired this meeting.

Presentation on Church Hall Land – To note that after the presentation TH left the room before the questions session and that a ‘recoupment’ not ‘recruitment’ fund would be set up.

Greater flexibilities in Communities (Minute 132/13 refers)- this should read ‘through’ not ‘though’.
Resolved: That with the above amendments these minutes were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

144/13 Matters arising from the Minutes

Watlington Hill SSSI Footpath 4 (Minute 130/13 refers) – RB stated that he has spoken to the Estate Manager of Beechwood Estates but has had no further news on this issue. This issue to be referred to the Strategy Committee.

Outreach Meeting at Christmas Common (Minute 130/13 refers) – All councillors have received a copy of the notes from this meeting.

145/13 Public Questions

No public questions have been notified.

146/13 District Councillors Report – Anna Badcock

Voter Registration Forms – AB reminded everyone that these need to be filled in and sent back to SODC.

SODC Young Achievers Award – This is now open for young people between 11-18 to apply for if they excel in Sports, Music etc and AB asked the WPC to encourage young people to apply for funding.

Sites Register – AB stated that if anyone wishes for a piece of land to be considered for development they can do this at any time. All these sites have now been included on the SODC website and can be searched by parish.

It was noted that the difference between this list and the published SHLAA is that the sites in the SHLAA have had a preliminary level of review for suitability, but those on this list are totally unchecked. It was not clear what level of review had been carried out for the SHLAA sites as it included sites that are liable to flooding as well as sites in the AONB.

SODC loan to SOHA – AB stated that this is a good way for the Council to put in money and invest in housing and then get the money back. This will be for about 150 units of which 75% will be in South Oxfordshire and 25% in the rest of Oxfordshire. This will take pressure off private landlords also.

Community Governance Review- AB was informed that WPC thought that there was a very tight timetable on this with comments needed by 26th November and that it would be discussed later in the meeting. TH stated that he was unhappy with SODC making propositions. AB said that this is the first part of a process and there will be more consultation. Comments can be made on parish boundaries for example. She stated that when SODC makes its decision it will be final.

NG asked about the Community Infrastructure Level (CIL) and if SODC were planning to change it. AB said that this is constantly discussed at SODC. Each District can make its own decision on whether to change it or not. SODC are awaiting more clarification on this issue before they make a decision.

Leaf-fall in Watlington – TH said that he has spoken to AP on the areas that are SODC's responsibility in the outer town area. He stated that leaves have not been collected in many areas for over 2 years. Six key areas have been sent to AP and AB advised that if they are sent to her she will take up this matter.

Broadband on Hills – RB reported that some unfortunate people in Pishill no longer have access to broadband as they were served from a box at Christmas Common that has been changed and asked if there is some way they could be helped. AB asked RB to map this information down and she will have a look to see if there are any possible solutions. AB said that she is still awaiting a response from OCC on rural issues.

148/13 County Councillors Report

CN had sent through a report which had been circulated to all Councillors.

Council then agreed to discuss the Community Governance Review at this point with a time limit of 10 minutes.

147/13 Community Governance Review – The document was attached to the agenda.

The last Community Governance review was in 1997. It was noted that none of the proposed changes affect Watlington. However this would be the opportunity to change parish boundaries for example. RB said that there are some strange boundaries in the Watlington Parish for example, of the 5 houses in Hollandridge Lane, 1 is in Watlington and 4 are in the Pishill parish. He said that they would relate much more with Watlington than Pishill. Also there is one house in Russell's Water which is in the Watlington Parish and it would be more sensible for it to be within the Pishill parish.

After discussion it was:

Resolved: That RB consult with the residents above and obtain their views as it seems a logical thing to be done. It was also agreed that we contact Pishill Parish Council for their views.

DT stated that the Watlington Sports Field should logically be in Watlington and not Pyrton. Discussion took place on this culminating in a vote as to whether we should suggest this change.

Vote: 6 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention

CARRIED

Resolved: That we speak to Pyrton Parish Council regarding this issue. HB and RB to make contact..

It was agreed that we contact David Buckle at SODC regarding the deadline for comments and if comments have to be in urgently we send the above comments in for consideration.

149/13 Thames Valley Police Report

No report had been received.

150/13 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

Tim Horton read out the Balances of Accounts and proposed that the list of payments be settled.

Resolved: That the Balance of Accounts be agreed and the list of payments be settled and signed by the Chairman.

151/13 Committees:

A: FINANCE - 8/10/2013 – Tim Horton

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

B: PLANNING – 5/11/2013 – Robert Barber

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

RB reported on the decisions made by the committee on the following applications:

P13/S2915/FUL Greenacres Farm, Howe Road, Watlington –No objection subject to it being used for holiday accommodation only.

P13/S3016/HH The Granary, 30 High Street, Watlington - The only objection was that the chimney on the street facing gable end of the forge should be retained; the drawings show this retained but the D and A Statement in the introduction refers to a chimney being removed but it is not clear which chimney it refers to.

P13/S3192/FUL Eatonsfield Shaw, Britwell Hill, Watlington - No objection subject to a Section 106 Agreement being implemented to ensure the Agricultural Tie remains in perpetuity.

C: STRATEGY – David Tindale

There has been no meeting

D. OPERATIONS –16/10/2013 – Barry Adby

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council with the following change; that the minute (93/13 refers) which states ‘section opposite 86 Hill Road’ now reads ‘the section from the Care Home to the Icknield Way’.

BA reported on the following issues:

Drains – OPC came out last Thursday and managed to unblock the drains. They also put a camera down which showed that when SODC installed the pedestrian ramp they blocked the drain off which means that this drain will not take any run-off. They have suggested that digging a soakaway may solve the problem and they will be sending a quote on this. This issue will be further discussed at the Operations meeting next week.

Painting of outside of office – This has now been completed.

Operations Committee Membership

Resolved: That Harvey Batten become a member of the Operations Committee.

E. ALLOTMENTS –There has been no meeting

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 21/10/2013 – Tony Williamson

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council with the following amendments that all references to ‘rents’ should read ‘contributions’. Therefore the resolution under 6b now reads: ‘That the points above about clearing hedges and contribution increases are noted and taken to Full Council’.

TW apologised for the inadequacy of the report for the Full Council October meeting. He said that information had not come to the PSFC and was trying to get more clarification on the Business Plan. However the meeting last night made a lot of progress. Financial issues were discussed last night as there was no time at the October meeting for discussion on these. He said that there is no Tenant and Landlord Agreement with the Sports Club but there is an agreement with the Parish Council. A 5 year Financial Forecast has been noted but not progressed. A letter has gone to all pavilion users to attempt to find a way of keeping the social area clean.

Regarding the Sports Field Hedges it was noted that it has been very unhelpful with various people contacting Beechwood Estates direct and this needs to be regularised. The Parish Council is the Tenant and therefore the PC should have the relationship with Beechwood Estates and all requests need to come through the WPC and not the Sports Club.

TH stated that he found the minutes difficult to read and that there were issues that needed to be discussed urgently.

Resolved: That a daytime meeting to be scheduled so that Parish Councillors can deal with the various Pavilion and Sports Field issues. BA, RP, NB, TW, IH and TH to attend this meeting.

IH said that as WPC have the leased asset it is up to the WPC to obtain quotes and choose which

companies to use. Users input is essential so that we can clarify things. There should be a clear procedure on how things are dealt with.

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – There has been no meeting.

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP – 29/10/2013

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Resolved: That:

1. Council appoint the 3 Parish Council members to the NPCC which will consist of 6 members at the December Full Council meeting.
2. Council agree the Terms of Reference for the NPCC as a draft and that the NPCC once agreed, look at this and fine tune it. (*This was Attached to the Agenda*)
3. That we publicise the remaining spaces properly. Publicity to be given to this in the Watlington Times, website etc. The scope and details to be clearly worded. IH to do this.
4. To agree a code of ethics which members of the NPCC will have to accept and which will govern the behaviour of members of this group.

Budget for Neighbourhood Plan

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we start our approach for funding through our District Councillors and ask them to explore the possibility of a significant amount so that Watlington can commission specialist works eg Highway assessments etc.

152/13 Leave of Absence from Watlington Parish Council Meetings

If a councillor fails to attend any meeting of the authority for six consecutive months he/she becomes disqualified unless he/she seeks an extension of time from Council prior to the expiry of the six months. As councillors will be aware Mr Nick Hancock has been ill and needs time to recover.

Council is requested to approve the non-attendance of Mr Nick Hancock from any meetings of Watlington Parish Council for a period of six months.

Resolved: To approve the non-attendance of Mr Nick Hancock at meetings for a period of six months and to send him Council's best wishes.

153/13 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 323 – Mrs J Lambert – Community Governor for Watlington Primary School and would like it to be a Parish Councillor – letter was attached to the agenda.

Resolved: That this be an item for the December Full Council meeting and that Councillors think about whether they would like to be a governor.

Letter 294–SODC–Couching Street Numbering –letter was attached to the agenda.

Following discussion on this, it was:

Resolved: To agree to the changes that SODC recommend for Couching Street numbering which are that Numbers 2, 4a, 4 and 6 Couching Street be re-numbered 1, 3, 4 Watlington Court and 4 Couching Street respectively.

154/13 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

Appointment of Trustee to Watlington Support Fund. There are 2 known candidates: Linda Nicholson and Roger Beattie.

BA proposed Linda Nicholson and this was seconded by NG and this was unanimously agreed.

Resolved: That Linda Nicholson be our representative on the Watlington Support Fund.

155/13 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

SODC Town and Parish Forum – This was attended by IH and TH. Topics covered were:

Relaxation of Planning Regulations – which dealt with the creeping growth of permitted developments and the ability to change shops to residential status in rural areas. TH brought up the fact that this is a concern to a number of parishes who feel that shops should be defended much more strongly.

Community Governance - The letter which had been sent out to towns and parishes was discussed as minuted above in 147/13.

Oxfordshire Local Plan – There will be a SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) to go with SHLAA. Oxfordshire has been identified as a single housing marketing area and will be addressed as a whole. SODC will have to accept more houses than they agreed to as Oxford has not the space for more. There is no clear indication of numbers at this point and will be quite a while before numbers are given.

Buses –TH reported that questionnaires have been given out to specific areas in Watlington asking for views on specific services.

It was thought that the paper given out would be useful for all councillors to read. TH to give a copy to KT who can then circulate it.

Car Park Order – IH reported that we now need to make this official.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.10PM