



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 11th November 2014

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Chairman
David Tindale – Vice-Chairman
Tim Horton
Nick Greaves
Tony Williamson
Robert Barber
Robin Wilson
Nick Hancock
Roddy Orr
Keith Lovelace
Bob West

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillor:

Angie Paterson

In Attendance:

Marcus Reay – Station Manager, Watlington Fire Station.

Members of the Public:

1

150/14 Apologies for absence

Rhian Woods, Elizabeth Winton, Neil Boddington

151/14 Chairman's Remarks

There were no Chairman's remarks

152/14 To receive Declarations of Interest

Church Hall Land Planning Application – Tim Horton declared a prejudicial interest in this item as he is a member of the Watlington Church Hall Committee (WCHC) that has sought in the past a business relationship with St Leonards Church. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

Speedwatch – Keith Lovelace declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item and remained in the room for the discussion of this issue.

Church Hall Land Planning Application– Tony Williamson declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item and remained in the room for discussion of this issue..

153/14 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 14th October 2014 to be signed as a correct record

The following two amendments were agreed:

Minute 145/14 page 65 item Charlotte Coxe Governance, line 2 to add the word 'initially' before '2 years'.

Minute 145/14 page 65 item O14/2118/FUL line 2 to add the word 'prior' before 'to this Full Council'

Resolved: That with the two amendments listed above these minutes be accepted by Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of this meeting.

154/14 Matters arising from the Minutes

Charlotte Coxe – TH will send the draft governance document to Councillors in the next few days.

Parking Issues – IH reported that our PCSO Michelle Jacques has been very active issuing tickets in Watlington. The police have made a decision to spend some time in the Town monitoring the parking issue and ticketing when necessary. She has asked that on days that she is coming over photographs are taken with date and time on so she can check on the 1 hour parking when she comes over and see if people are infringing the one hour parking.

155/14 Public Questions

There were none notified.

156/14 Marcus Reay – Station Manager – Update on Fire Station Issues

IH welcomed Marcus Reay to the meeting.

MR said that he has been in Watlington for over one year. He is looking into several areas:

1. Availability of the Fire Station

Watlington used to have for many years 100% turn out however in 2012 it was down to 95% and in recent years down to 60-65%. This is mainly due to people leaving and day cover is proving hard to get. However 2 people have recently been recruited who will do the day cover. There were 10 people interested but the National Test is very tough and 4 people failed either the written or physical test. He is talking to local businesses and also women in the town to see if there is any interest in becoming a part time fire fighter. At the moment there are 10 part time fire fighters.

He said that when there was the big fire at Lys Mill the fire engine was not able to attend due to lack of fire fighters. Some fire fighters are giving 120 hours a week cover. A change in the rules to offer people contracts would make a big difference. MR said that if anyone had any good ideas for recruitment to let him know.

He asked if the Parish Council employed anyone who would wish to be a fire fighter that they would support them being on call. MR said that it is good to get a few of the Fire Cadets becoming part time fire fighters every year.

The number of fire calls are going down which is good news in terms of safety and Watlington is well ahead on the 365 initiative. Road deaths have decreased which is due partly to education and car safety. Road Safety Teams now work with Fire Stations and this is getting good results. Home Fire Safety Checks are done on vulnerable people and this is linked in with Social Services. Last year Watlington checked over 50 homes and this year to date have done over 40.

Presentations have been made to the Secondary School and also to the Youth Club which helps to educate the youth.

This year has been quieter in terms of calls, last year there were 155 calls and this year there have been 114 to date.

TH stated that a lot of hydrants and fire signs around the town are under weeds etc and said that if they look smart this does enforce the significance of the fire service. MR said that every 3 years hydrants are inspected and their covers are now plastic. He said if any bad ones are noticed please let him know and he will ask the Hydrant Inspection Officer to investigate. However all fire engines have a tomtom showing the locations of all hydrants rather than them having to look for them.

NH asked if there is any indication that traffic or parking in Watlington impedes emergency vehicles?
MR said that there is no evidence to suggest this.

IH thanked MR very much for coming to the meeting and updating Council.

157/14 District Councillors Report – Angie Paterson

AP reported that there has been a change after the death of Ann Ducker. They have had a leadership election within the Conservative Party and John Cotton was elected as Leader. AP has been appointed as his Deputy. There are now 10 Councillors in Cabinet (instead of 8) which means that cabinet members have smaller portfolios and there are more to share the load. AP has the Planning Policy portfolio. Anna Badcock has Housing. One new thing introduced is a portfolio holder for geographical areas. Formerly only Didcot had a dedicated cabinet member looking after it but now there is a cabinet member with a watching brief for all areas. Judith Nimmo-Smith has the task for the central parishes which includes Watlington. This role will not take over from cabinet member portfolios but will simply mean that someone is looking at the implications of every cabinet discussion and decision on a given area.

Resolved: That the Parish Council send a letter to John Cotton congratulating him on his position of Leader of the District Council

Town and Parish Forum is being held tomorrow and AP was advised that IH and TH will be attending to represent Watlington. The forum will be discussing housing and Community Infrastructure Levy, which for communities with a Neighbourhood Plan has financial importance as Parish Councils can receive 25% to put toward priorities. It was noted that the Consultation on Community Levy is active.

The Air Quality Action Plan has now been submitted to DEFRA and will come to the Licensing Department of SODC. TH asked if DEFRA has to approve it before SODC can move forward? AP will check with Officers what the process is and will let us know. NH said that if the Action Plan is authorised by DEFRA it will need a lot of funding and co-operation with implementation. AP agreed that implementation will not be easy and some things have been tried before, but it is a step in the right direction. TH asked if any of the solutions could be incorporated within the LTP4

RW asked if the Church Hall Land application will be going to Committee as AB called it in but a resident has heard that it will not. AP said she would check into this and let the Clerk know.

Regarding funding for Broadband there is a suggestion that Cabinet 2 in Christmas Common be included in the current programme and AP was asked if she could put any pressure on this happening it would be much appreciated. AP said she would be happy to do so.

TH asked if SODC has prepared papers that it will send in its own regard on the LTP4 or are they leaving it to the County Council to develop the approach? AP said that she will find out what response the district has made.

158/14 County Councillors Report – November Monthly Report from Steve Harrod was attached to the agenda.

IH noted the written report but also said that Steve Harrod had updated us on the following outstanding issues on highways matters in Watlington.

1. The Goggs flooding - Resurfacing underway
2. B4009 from the rec to Station Road - Sprayed but some cutting back needed - Ordered
3. Dropped kerb on Britwell Road - Ordered for Jan 2015 (MAY be in December)

It was also noted that The Icknield Community College has been given permission to go ahead with its 6th form.

Regarding the OCC Consultation on Subsidised Bus Services it was:

Resolved: That IH and TH will prepare a response to this and submit it by the deadline date of the end of this week.

159/14 Thames Valley Police Report

Michelle Jacques our PCSO had sent an email in which she reported that she had issued 7 tickets in an hour on a recent visit which she then followed by issuing a further 9 on separate patrols this month. Shop keepers have also been visited by her and Ian Hill as a representative of Council.

160/14 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

TH stated that he and KT are still trying to meet with our Business Manager at Barclays Bank.

Resolved: That the Balances of Accounts and the list of payments be settled be signed by the Chairman

161/14 Speed Watch Campaign – Keith Lovelace – a paper was circulated to Councillors.

Resolved: That this issue be discussed by the Strategy Committee meeting on the 25th November..

162/14 Committees:

A: FINANCE - There has been no meeting.

B: PLANNING –14/10/2014 and 4/11/2014 – Robert Barber

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

P14/S3268/HH 6 Cuxham Road – Erection of a two storey rear extension and a single storey front extension. Formation of vehicular access and provision of hard standing to accommodate off-street parking spaces. The Committee objected to this application.

P14/S2692/HH 1 Pyrton Lane – SODC have granted permission for this even though WPC objected to this application stating that the loss of an attractive hedge in a Conservation Area. Fence would be an urbanising feature in an area of a rural character.

P14/S3144 - SODC Prior approval application for change of use of 4 High Street. It was noted that conversion of offices to residential without planning permission is allowed until May 2015 unless the building is listed, there are highway implications or there would be a risk of flooding or contamination issues. 4 High Street is not listed although it is attached to a listed building and therefore falls into having Permitted Development rights and the Parish Council is not allowed to make any comments on this.

C: STRATEGY – There has been no meeting

D. OPERATIONS – 22/10/2014- Bob West

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

BW said that was a busy meeting and our County Councillor Stephen Harrod and the OCC Area Engineer, Keith Stenning were in attendance which was very useful. A number of issues are being followed up by them which includes the flooding problem at Pyrton Lane/Pound Close which as been a long standing issue.

The following tree works were resolved to be attended to: The Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*): located adjacent to the war memorial in the High Street and the Cherry (*Prunus avium*): located in the pavement on the northern side of Brook St to the west of the junction with Couching St.

Willow Hedge in Paddock – If any Councillor has any ideas about this please give them to the Clerk.

Car Park Hedges

Resolved– That we cut the hedge alongside Johnson’s Alley and the hedge alongside Watcombe Road to a height of 6 foot.

E. ALLOTMENTS –There has been no meeting

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

It was noted that the Football Club have put forward Paul Griffiths as their second representative on the PSFC.

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – There has been no meeting.

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CORE COMMITTEE- 6/10/2014 and 3/11/2014 – Nick Hancock

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

NH stated that the committee are now preparing for Consultation 2 which will start on 2/12/14 and finish on 16/1/2015. 5 workshops have already been run and 6 more are being planned for before Christmas. We have had the traffic survey report from TPP and there will be a formal presentation to the community on Monday 24th November at 7.30pm in the Memorial Club. Rachel Gill the NP Assistant has had to have an operation on her shoulder and is unable to type at the moment but Peter Richardson has offered to help and is collating information on behalf of the NPCC. Registration is going through with the Data Protection Register. It was noted that no data should leave the office as a point of principle. NH said that he will try and set up a date for a presentation to Councillors to update them before the start of Consultation 2 if possible. NH thanked all his committee members for all the hard work they are putting into the NP.

It was noted that a lot of responses have been received from the businesses in the town on the Business Survey. TH stated that we need to get some external input on issues such as how attractive is Watlington to businesses. This is a valid issue for people to look at. NH said that the NPCC would love to do an external survey but money is an issue. However the committee will look again at this issue after Consultation 2 and they will also look into identifying a source for funding of this. Consultation 2 will be focused on the 2 main issues raised by Consultation 1 which were Traffic and Housing. However it was noted that Employment is also a major issue to be looked into.

I. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP – 28/10/2014 – David Tindale

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Procedure of Appointment of new NPCC non-councillor member

Resolved:

1. That the NPCC defines a skill set for the person to be appointed.
2. Advise the NP Steering Group of the description by mid November.
3. Advise the December Full Council if a suitable person is identified by the NPCC either by advertising or by other means.

It was noted that a letter is being sent to Gill Bindoff.

163/14 Correspondence for Information – **List was Attached to Agenda**

Correspondence will only be discussed if urgent and if it cannot be passed to the relevant committee to discuss.

No correspondence was discussed.

164/14 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies – **To note reports that have been received**

No written reports had been received.

Town Hall Charity Trustee Body – The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13th November.

165/14 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

DT reported that were waiting for Mark Francis – OCC – about the implementation of therevisions to the parking on Shirburn Street and KT will follow this up.

IH reported that the Youth Club have asked for a meeting and it was agreed that IH and TH meet with them.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10PM