



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8.00pm on Tuesday 13th October 2015

Present:

Councillors

Ian Hill (IH) - Chairman
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Jo Read (JR)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Robin Wilson (RW)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

County Councillor:

Steve Harrod

Press:

David White – Henley Standard

Members of the Public:

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156/15 Apologies for absence

Matt Reid, Jane Bryant, Elizabeth Winton, Bob West.

157/15 Chairman's Remarks

There were none.

158/15 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

159/15 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 8th September 2015 to be signed as a correct record

Resolved: That the minutes from the meetings above be agreed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman

160/15 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none other than agenda items.

161/15 Public Questions

There were none notified.

162/15 District Councillors Report

Anna Badcock had sent her apologies for this meeting.

163/15 County Councillors Report – Stephen Harrod

Budget – There is some very hard work going on for preparing the budget for 2016/2017. OCC will be announcing the areas that are being considered for making savings later this month. There will be road shows and a consultation so residents can give their views. ORCC is organising the meeting for Town and Parish Councils on 9/11/2015.

Children's Centres – IH had a meeting on this issue with Mark Gray and produced a note on this for Councillors. There will be extensive consultation on the proposed cuts in the autumn before any decision is taken.

Refugee Crisis – OCC's only obligation is to protect unaccompanied young children. There are 50 of these in care at the moment.

High Sheriff's 2015 Community Integration Awards –Details are on SH's monthly update.

A40 and Roadworks at Wolvercote and Cutteslowe roundabouts – These works still continue.

Watlington Issues:

Traffic Survey at Christmas Common – This has been done and KT received the results this afternoon.

Pavement on Britwell Road beyond The Goggs- SH stated that this is with the OCC Section 106 Team to see if there is any funding available.

Pound Close/Pyrtton Lane issue – SH said that there are no issues here at the moment. The streams are all dry.

Hamp Assessments – The list for the roads to be re-assessed is with Keith Stenning.

Cuxham Road –collapsed road into brook – This is on a list to be repaired. SH will try to find out the date it will be repaired and let KT know.

Brook Street sinking – SH is chasing this.

Area behind Library – SH will look into why we have not had a response to our note to Greg Stacey.

Howe Road markings, dragon teeth etc – TJ to give the details to KT who will then contact OCC.

Sign at top of Howe Hill – It was noted that this is really dirty. KT will take photo and request OCC to clean.

Questions to SH:

RH: With regards to the Children's Centre are the 3 meeting dates that she has seen the Public Consultation?

SH: Not sure what else there will be at this stage.

RW: With regards to the future of the recycling centres he has noticed a lot of flytipping recently.

SH: This will be part of the whole discussion of OCC savings but flytipping is the responsibility of SODC and this would not be able to be quantified in advance.

TW: Would much prefer to keep Oakley Wood open and pay a nominal payment than have to drive much further afield.

SH: He is actively pursuing having a charge for using the site and keep it open. He has also taken up this issue with John Howell.

IH: A WPC response has been sent on this consultation.

TW: What is the difference between the salary of Peter Clark and Jo-anna Simmons?

SH: Said he did not know.

164/15 Thames Valley Police Report
No report had been received.

165/15 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.
Resolved: That the Balances of Accounts and the list of payments be settled and that they be signed by the Chairman

166/15 Any Issues to raise following the meeting with John Howell

Post Office – It was noted that we need to keep up with this issue. TW will monitor the situation. He contacted the Business Association on this issue but has not heard anything back.

Neighbourhood Plan – TB said that JH was very enthusiastic about this and offered to help us with anything we may need help with including getting more funding. We can rely on him for support if we need it. It was noted that JH is a Government Representative on their NP Working Party and therefore is very knowledgeable about changes in planning law etc.

167/15 CIL Consultation following the Examiners request that SODC supply additional information to explain/support some of the CIL matters/proposals. Deadline for us to comment is 19/10/2015. This was discussed and it was noted that this did not seem to have any bearing on Watlington.

Resolved: That we note this consultation and do not respond. KT to inform SODC.

168/15 Committees:

A: FINANCE – 29/9/2015- Tony Williamson

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

Budget 2016/2017 – TW stated that this is very important and there are many areas that the PC may need to spend more money on in the light of cuts in OCC and SODC spending. IH has written a piece in the Watlington Times asking for residents views on what areas they think are most important to fund. He has made a list of 6 items and has asked which of these, in order of preference, are most important to be funded by WPC. This will also be put on our website and Facebook page. IH said that regarding proposed withdrawal of street cleansing grants in 2016 from SODC the Scrutiny Committee sent this issue to be re-looked at.

Annual Return- BDO

Resolved: To approve the External Audit and to note that there were no matters/issue that BDO need to bring to Council's attention.

Sport Club Barriers/Dug Outs – Asking the WPC to purchase/own and add to Asset Register and our Insurance.

Resolved: That subject to the approval of Beechwood Estates WPC will purchase, own and insure the remaining barriers and the dug-outs as this is on land that WPC lease.

Pavilion Bar Accounts – TW said that he is very anxious that there is a proper structure in place and that he hoped this is achieved very soon.

B: PLANNING – 6/10//2015- Robin Wilson

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

TJ stated that the 'Countryside Officer' referred to should have said 'Countryside Access Officer'. This was noted.

Land adjacent to St Leonards Church – This was a contentious application in regards to the views of our community. The committee was very small in number and after listening to the speakers for and against the application they decided to vote against this application because of a number of issues.

17 Cuxham Road – The committee objected to this application on the grounds that the site was too small for this development.

C: STRATEGY – 22/9/2015 – Tony Williamson

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

Speedwatch – TB said that the SpeedWatch operations have now started. There have been 2 sessions to date. He said that they got a couple of speed readings which were over 50 in a 30 area. TB said that at the moment they are looking for evidence of speeding. There will be another operation done tomorrow. JR said she would be happy to help with this in school holidays.

Grant for Churchyard – A meeting has been arranged with Mike Gardner to discuss this issue.

Safeguarding Children – TW has written a note on this and is awaiting comments from EW.

D. OPERATIONS – 16/9/2015 – Tom Bindoff

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

Pyrtton Lane – It was noted that there are some very bad potholes in this area.

Paddock Play Equipment – RH is getting quotes for new play equipment hopefully in time for the next meeting.

Car Park – TB reported that he will be organising a working party to do clean up and to dig some drainage ditches to see if this will help reduce flooding on the Watcombe Road side. A skip will be needed.

Watlington Walk Leaflet – TW has obtained a quote from the original author of this map. He said that this map is of tremendous value to the town.

E. ALLOTMENTS – There has been no meeting.

JR said that there are no issues to report.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 21/9/2015- Ian Hill

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

IH reported that since this meeting the Football Foundation Support Day has taken place. This went very well and the Football Club was praised for its successes. They were happy with both the Business and Maintenance Plans and also the Stewardship Agreements. It is hoped that we have a signed agreement with the Sports Club also in place before too long and this will then sort out the Bar issue. IH congratulated MR who attended this meeting as the WPC representative.

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP – 15/9/2015

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes.

IH stated that this meeting was just about arrangements for the NP Launch which has now taken place. The Launch went very well and about 120+ people attended. The video was a great success and he thanked Peter Richardson and Rachel Gill for organising this. Many people signed up to help progress the NP and there will be a meeting this Thursday to discuss how to get things now moving and to decide on the briefings for the Advisory Groups etc.

169/15 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.

279) V Lombi – Asking for us to twin with Mogliano in Italy- This has been acknowledged and it was agreed that this be passed to the Strategy Committee to look at. RH to get in touch with Alan Craddock to find out his experience with the Watlington-Mansle link.

287) Lee Brown SODC – Interacting with SODC on-line – asking for our views.

Resolved: That the Clerk respond to this request.

170/15 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

Youth Club – JR stated that she attended a meeting today with Gill Cottell and Jaime Hazeldine to discuss the re-opening of the Youth Club on Tuesday nights. There are now 4 people on the Committee but a Chairman has not yet been elected. It was agreed that we help publicise for new members for this committee.

Children’s Centre – IH had a meeting with Helen Rints on this issue and a note of the meeting is available.

WEG – They had a visit to the Pumping Station which was very interesting. Following this visit IH has responded to Samantha Wingrove’s concerns about this site.

171/15 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

Charlotte Coxe Charity – IH said that he had emailed all Councillors with a report of the meeting which took place on the 8th October. Peter Clark has been promoted and Nick Graham will be taking over this role.

IH stated that it was a mostly positive meeting and there was a strong feeling that this charity should be transferred to a local body and run in the same way that the Town Hall Trust Body is and would be made up of Parish Councillors, residents of the Parish and/or representatives of Watlington organisations. The Charity Commission were supportive of the idea of this transfer. RH stated that she had attended a FOWL meeting and they are very keen to be involved at the earliest opportunity. TW and IH would be happy to attend a FOWL meeting to discuss this issue with them.

There are a number of issues that would need to be resolved before the change could be made eg The County Council would wish to have a long lease of 35 High Street for the Library at a peppercorn rent, starting on the date that the trusteeship is changed. OCC would produce a draft lease document. There was a suggestion that a 60 years lease would be appropriate. Also paperwork would have to be submitted to the Charity Commission and this would be done by OCC.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.42PM