



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held in the Community Office at 8.00pm on Tuesday 11th October 2016

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill –Chairman (IH)
Matt Reid – Vice-Chairman (MR)
Bob West (BW)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Jeremy Bell (JB)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Nicky Smallbone (NS)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Stephanie Van Pette (SvP) –8.25pm
Rachel Huckvale (RH) - 8.30pm

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock

Press:

David White

Members of the Public:

4

137/16 Apologies for absence

Roger Beattie. Robin Wilson, Jon Lorimer.

148/16 Chairman's Remarks

IH reported that Jo Read has resigned from the Council due to work commitments and her involvement with the Youth Club which is taking up a lot of her time and which she will continue to do. Thanks were given to JR for all her work since she has been on the Council. IH will send her a formal thank you letter from Council.

IH also congratulated Tony Williamson on his forthcoming wedding and wished him all the best.

149/16 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

150/16 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 13th September 2016 to be signed as a correct record
The following amendment was agreed: Page 45 Minute 128/16, 'gleam' should read 'glean'.

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

151/16 Matters arising from the Minutes

Meeting with Anna Badcock, Minute 129/16 refers. IH reported that MR, JB and himself met with AB. There was discussion about the Chalgrove proposal and the Land at Pyrton Planning Application. JB said that there was also discussion about Air Quality and its importance. It is also important that we see the information from Ricardo on this and we need to press to get this. JB said that there are more and more appeals being supported by NP's so Chalgrove is under huge pressure to complete their NP. Chalgrove is the most developable site and is owned by HCA but it does have disadvantages such as

the infrastructure issue. AB said at the meeting that if Chalgrove goes ahead Watlington needs to be ready to give their requirements as the consequences for Watlington would be quite enormous with regard to schools, roads etc so we need to be bold in our thinking.

IH stated that OCC's preferred option for development is Culham as it is near a railway line, on a main route and is nearer to better employment. However Chalgrove would be able to be developed more quickly.

Consultation on Health, Minute 136/16 refers– TW said the deadline has now been extended to the end of the year.

Air Quality, Minute 127/16 refers. IH reported that SODC did do some house to house calls in Couching Street and Brook Street last Friday so they will have got some local opinion. SODC will be at the Town Hall this Saturday 15th October from 10am to 2pm. IH said that he is unable to attend but hoped that some Councillor will go to this. He stated that SODC's proposals for improving air quality does not match up to the modelling that IH has done on the effect of removal of the on street parking (which has been circulated to all Councillors).

TB said that there does not seem to have been much promotion of this event and suggested that we distribute an A5 flyer about it. SODC have not mentioned the removal of parking spaces and residents need to know about this. TW said also that how many residents are aware of the major strategy by OCC of the on-street parking being there to slow down traffic for the sake of pedestrian safety. TB also stated that SODC have not come to the Parish Council direct on this issue and that we need them to come and have a meeting with us.

The following wording for the A5 was agreed and KT will arrange printing and TB/TJ and NS will help with distribution around the relevant parts of town. NS said that she will deliver to Orchard Walk as the SODC proposals would also impact on them.

'Air quality in Watlington

Dear Residents

*You may have received a card from SODC informing you of the consultation at the **Town Hall on Saturday 15th October 2016 from 10.00am to 2.00pm.***

You may also have had a visit from SODC officers as part of their consultation on the council's proposals to reduce air pollution in the town centre. The parish council has not been able to obtain any evidence from SODC that the proposal to remove on-street parking along Couching Street and Shirburn Street will have the effect of reducing air pollution. Until such evidence is forthcoming the parish council will oppose the strategy to remove the parking and create a 'freight clearway' as they have named it.

Improvement of air quality in the town is essential for public health but, without supporting evidence, the parish council has no confidence that the current SODC proposals would be effective. In addition, the on-street parking was introduced in order to slow traffic speeds and improve the safety of pedestrians.

Please visit the event in the Town Hall on Saturday if you can and make sure that your views are heard, whether you are in support of or against the SODC proposals. '

Post Office, Minute 121/16 refers. TW reported that he has sent the Parish Council's response on the consultation. They have said that if we are concerned about aspects of the Royal Mail such as the Post Box and Sorting Office that we need to contact them direct. Regarding the Post Office mail vans, they will be centralising the Sorting Office and this will not be an issue in Watlington.

Regarding the Post Box outside the Post Office we need to look at where the 3 nearest ones are and if they are within a certain distance they may not install one in the centre of Town. The nearest post box is the one in the Car Park, which not many people are aware of as the slot is at the back which cannot be seen and there is no notice on the brick pillar (due to vandalism) TW said we should be making a case that this is not an adequate alternative to the High Street box and also to find out how much it is used.

After discussion it was agreed that we need to have one in the High Street and that TW contact the Royal Mail on this.

The responses to the Consultation are not yet known

152/16 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

153/16 District Councillors Report - Anna Badcock

SODC Air Quality Drop In – AB urged everyone to go and visit this which is taking place on Saturday 15th October in the Town Hall between 10am and 2pm. She said it is vital that SODC have resident's

views. BW said that it is vital that we see the Ricardo report. IH said he has spoken to Claire Spendley asking if we can see the modelling and that he first raised this with SODC in March 2016. IH said that he will send copies of all emails sent to SODC on this issue to AB. TW said that when he represented WPC at the last Annual Town and Forum meeting that he was assured that SODC would consult WPC on Air Quality and have a meeting with us but they still have not done this. They seem to be consulting everyone apart from the WPC. TW also stated that what they are proposing to do goes against OCC Strategy. Air Quality measures must not be at pedestrian safety cost. AB said that the PC should look into installing an ANPR system so that prosecutions can take place. IH said that this is being looked at within the NP. AB said she also asked if the pinch point at the Town Hall had been taken into consideration and it had not. AB said that once she receives IH's email she will follow up this issue.

Growth Board Figures – SODC have said no to these. It is very well known what SODC thinks of these as they are having to take a lot of housing and SODC think that this should wait for the Oxford Local Plan to be published. Oxford are claiming that they do not have any space for housing but they could have higher density and could also look at green spaces.

Business and Infrastructure Consultation – This ends this Friday (14/10/16). SODC are looking at what they can do to get more people involved in consultations as it is good to get all views. This then drives the strategy of such things as should we be encouraging home workers, big warehouse developments for example.

Technical consultation on implementation of neighbourhood planning provisions in the Neighbourhood Planning Bill – This consultation ends on 19/10/2016. AB said that it is important that people respond to this as NP's are taken seriously in Planning Appeals.

Recycling – Only clear bags can be used in the Green Bins. The refuse people will leave the recycling if in black bags or if they cannot see what is in them. They should leave a notice if this is the case.

Electric Blanket Testing – This is taking place at various venues in South Oxfordshire during October. TJ said that WPC will be having a stall at the Christmas Fair telling people about how they can help the environment by doing such things as using low phosphate product.

IH thanked AB for attending this meeting.

154/16 County Councillors Report

Steve Harrod had sent his apologies for this meeting. His monthly report has been circulated to all Councillors.

155/16 Thames Valley Police Report

KT reported that our PCSO James Hopkin has been moved to Thame and our new PCSO will be Lewis Carpenter. There was no report sent.

156/16 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.

157/16 Committees:

A: FINANCE – 27/9/2016- Tony Williamson

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

Precept Recommendation for 2017/2018

Resolved: To defer any decision on this until the November Finance meeting and the December Full Council meeting.

Budget 2017/2018 –TW asked that all spending committees discuss their budget requirements for the following year before the next Finance meeting on 29th November.

Audit 2015/2016 – This has been completed by the external Auditor BDO. There were no issues arising

Resolved: That this report be accepted by Council and to note that no action is needed.

B: PLANNING – 4/10/2016 – Jeremy Bell

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

JB said that the Planning Committee objected to the Land at Pyrton application with extensive reasons for objections.

On the Lys Mill application, Mr Copas was invited to speak. He apologised for the H&H issue upsetting the people of Watlington but said he was helping a local business. The application is to regularise the use of the buildings on this site. The Committee resolved to hold a site visit and then consider this application at a further meeting.

The committee refused the application for 26 The Goggs but approved the Parslow House amendment. All other applications considered were approved.

C: STRATEGY- There has been no meeting.

D. OPERATIONS – 21/9/2016 – Bob West

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

BW reported that we are progressing the urgent works needed to some of our trees namely in the Paddock and will be discussing the trees on Gorwell with Martin Gammie. The committee are hoping to put in place a schedule of tree works which will be needed in the future.

Traffic issues at Christmas Common were discussed and this will be the main agenda item at the Outreach Meeting on the 7/1/2016 which will be held in the Fox and Hounds at Christmas Common. BW and RH are trying to resolve the I-play issue. The works needed to the fencing at the Recreation Ground has been commissioned.

E. ALLOTMENTS – To appoint a representative

Resolved: That Nicky Smallbone be appointed as the Allotment Representative.

F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 29/9/2016 – Ian Hill

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

IH said that the meeting was productive and it is hoped that the WTFC and WCC can agree and sign the Stewardship Agreements soon. It seems that the WTFC and WCC may have found a way of agreeing on how to work together within the Sports Club which should be agreed at the Sports Club AGM which means that there will be a stronger control over the bar.

It was noted that we need to look at when the septic tank needs emptying.

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – There has been no meeting.

1. Appointment of a new Member following the resignation of Ian Hill

There was no appointment made. To be an agenda item next month.

JB stated that the meetings with Developers are still on-going. Wat8 has come in with a planning application (Land at Pyrton) and it could be that applications may come in on Wat1, 9, 11, 12. The issue of how extra traffic is dealt with is very important and the Chalgrove proposal will affect Watlington greatly. Traffic routes have not been established or modelled for this site so it is difficult to know how this should/could be incorporated into our NP.

The NP Forum will be doing a Traffic Survey shortly but the brief is not yet finalised as they are waiting to see what information will be available from the HCA Traffic Survey. The HCA results will be presented at a meeting on the 31st October which will give their recommendations and conclusions for Chalgrove. There are some forecasts on extra traffic which has been challenged as they did not seem to be enough. IH will be attending the HCA Meeting on the 31st October.

158/16. **Local Government Finance Settlement 2017 to 2018 – Consultation.** Response Deadline 28/10/2016- OALC have advised that we should respond.

The link to the full consultation paper can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-finance-settlement-2017-to-2018-technical-consultation>

TW said that there were four main issues that we need to address and he had circulated a paper on this in advance of the meeting.

This issue was discussed and then voted on: **Vote:** 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

Resolved: That WPC oppose the restriction on Parish Councils because of the way Government, Counties and Districts are pressing costs down to Parish Councils.

TW to draft a response and circulate it to Councillors prior to it being sent.

159/16 Correspondence for Information - List was attached to Agenda

Letter 263 – SODC Invitation to the Town and Parish Forum on 2/11/2016 – MR and TB to attend.

160/16 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

Watlington and Chalgrove Children's Centre – SvP reported that the WPC may be asked to take over employment of staff. A group of parents and school representatives are meeting to try and find a way of operating in the future. The school will deal with the maintenance costs of the building. They are also thinking of setting up a 'Friends of the Children Centre' group. Chalgrove PC have given a commitment to helping. The current OCC budget is £105,000 pa. Helen Rints had prepared a proposal for £60,000 pa but now the group, with reduced services think they can run it for £35,000pa. The group will be approaching businesses etc for funding. OCC have a pot of money that each Children Centre can apply to which would be a maximum of £30,000 over a three year period. They are also looking into implementing a small charge for the sessions which are currently free.

Due to Standing Order 3(w) and with the time being nearly 10pm it was:

Resolved: That the meeting be allowed to continue until 10.15pm at the latest.

IH stated that we would need to have any request from the Children's Centre by the middle of November when the budget for 2017/2018 will be looked at by the Finance Committee and any requests can be discussed.

Watlington Club – IH said that he has had a request from the Club if we would be interested in supporting them about having a Beer and Food Festival in the Town after they had a very successful Beer Festival.

Resolved: That we support/help with publicity with them doing this and IH and RH would be happy to deal with them on this.

Watlington Support Fund – TW reported that they are meeting the full cost of having a defibrillator at the Town Hall and are meeting the remaining cost of the one at the Pavilion.

161/16 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

Ted Backhouse's Estate – IH reported that the Estate has given another £5,000 to the WPC to be spent on finishing the Paddock new play equipment and the remainder to be spent on things that Ted would have approved of .

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.10PM