



## Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held in the Community Office At 8.00pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Matt Reid (MR)- Chairman  
Ian Hill (IH)- Vice-Chairman  
Nicky Smallbone (NS)  
Terry Jackson (TJ)  
Andrew McAuley (AM)  
Fergus Lapage (FL)  
Roger Beattie (RB)  
Tom Bindoff (TB)  
Tony Williamson (TB)

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan (KT)

**Press:**

David White – Henley Standard

**Members of the Public:**

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135/18 Apologies for absence

Stephanie Van de Pette, Rob Smith, Bob West, Jeremy Bell.

136/18 Chairman's Remarks

MR said that there has been a special Planning Meeting to discuss WAT A only since we last convened.

137/18 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

138/18 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to be signed as a correct record

Three changes were agreed: the first one in Minute 119/18, 'Plot' should read 'WAT'; In Minute 124/18 'chase' to be changed to 'use' and in Minute 127/18 B Planning, the last line AM said, to insert 'to check'

**Resolved:** That with the three changes above, these minutes are a correct record of these meetings and that they be signed by the Chairman.

139/18 Matters arising from the Minutes

Minute 122/18 refers - MR stated that there will be a meeting at SODC this Friday

140/18 Public Questions

There were none notified.

141/18 County Councillors Report

Cllr Stephen Harrod had sent his apologies.

There were several questions /issues raised for SH

1. **A report on OCC Corporate Plan Document.** TW said that he has read this report and it does not say anything about changes to OCC funding etc and he would like to know what will be happening with funding for Adult Social Care, Libraries, Bus Services etc. However, it does say that OCC will need to save £50M and to reduce jobs by 800. TW said it is important that we have a grasp of how this will affect us and our financial obligations.

## 2. Update on Christmas Common verges to WPC

After discussion it was:

**Resolved:** That we invite Steve Harrod to a meeting perhaps two hours over a lunchtime. KT to organise.

### 142/18 District Councillors Report

No report had been received.

### 143/18 To receive the Balance of Accounts, Receipts received and approve the list of Payments to be settled.

NS read out the Balance of Accounts and proposed that the list of payments be settled as per the prescribed process. The receipts were also noted.

*(This list is attached as an addendum to these minutes).*

**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.

### 144/18 Committees:

**A: FINANCE** –27/9/2018 and 1/10/2018 – Nicky Smallbone

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

#### **Meeting held on 27/9/2018**

##### **Watlington Young Peoples Fund**

**Resolved:** That we agree to receive these funds from the Watlington Young Peoples Fund which are to be used for capital expenditure for the benefit of youth in the town.

RB said that this money had been raised from money given from the Anne Brow Centre after the Rainbow Nursery took over the Anne Brown Centre which was previously the Youth Club dedicated centre and they were given the rental money to start up a new centre. Ian Hill, Carol Martin and he have been involved in trying to put the money in an appropriate place to safeguard it.

#### **Terms of Reference**

**Resolved:** That the Finance Terms of Reference be agreed.

#### **Charlotte Coxe**

Nick Hancock had asked to speak on this issue and he gave the following report:

*He asked for Councils enthusiasm and support to secure the future of what is a very valuable community asset.*

*In 1995 OCC proposed closing the library and FOWL was formed. Ten years ago, the library was rebuilt, financial crisis, FOWL pay for one librarian and organise other activities. Very recently OCC need to make spending cuts of £100sm and staff reduction of 100s is proposed. In Watlington there has been a loss of the banks, post office and hardware store. Northamptonshire County Council has had a cash crisis with a £70M shortfall.*

*That is the bad news, but the good news is that The Rainbow Nursery, Primary School, Learning Difficulties group, Saturday story time, adult reading group, family history group, IT help sessions, and book club are all regular users of Watlington Library.*

*The Library is used by around 1500 Watlington people every month, issuing well over 22,000 items last year borrowing by children showed an increase of more than 9% on the previous year, more than all but 2 of the County-run 65 public libraries in Oxfordshire.*

*The opportunity to “take back control” of the Charlotte Coxe Trust is one we must take as in reality OCC have neither time or funds to manage it adequately.*

*When Watlington take over management of the Trust the worst-case scenario is no different from the current scenario. If the Trust ceases to be viable, as with any limited company the assets are sold to cover any liabilities. Success will ensure the buildings are fully utilised, with number 33*

*brought back into use to continue to support not only the library but also other community activities.*

*So now we need to have faith in ourselves and live up to the legacy of Charlotte Coxe, but time is not on our side with elections next year and spending cuts imminent, the Friends will do everything within their power to support this endeavour.*

*I would like to express thanks to those councillors who have supported this so actively in recent months, especially Tony whose energy has been crucial.*

NH thanked Councillors for letting him speak on this issue.

After discussion a vote was taken:

**Vote:** 8 in favour, 1 abstention

**Resolved:**

That WPC instruct LGP solicitors to inform OCC that it accepts all the legal information on leases etc, and the searches made by LGP solicitors, and it has received the OCC accounts for 2011/2012 to 2017/2018. WPC therefore instructs LGP solicitors to ask OCC to proceed with the transfer of the sole trusteeship from OCC to WPC and to communicate with the Charity Commission to this end with the proviso that our solicitors agrees that all the paperwork is in order.

**B: PLANNING** – 18/9/2018 and 2/10/2018- Andrew McAuley

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

AM reported that the meeting on the 18/09/2018 was only to discuss **P17/S3231/O Land at Britwell Road, Watlington** – Amendment 1.

AM said that this is the key development that Watlington will experience. The Developer and members of the public were present. The NPAB gave strong comments to the Planning Committee which were used as the basis of the discussion at the meeting.

The Planning Committee approved the application with a number of comments on specific issues. AM thanked everyone who put in a lot of work in looking at this application and he especially thanked Gill Bindoff and members of the NPAB.

At the meeting on 2/10/2018, There were 9 applications considered and 2 of these were objected to: **P18/S2822/FUL Land to the south of Northend Road, Christmas Common**

Change of use to the existing barn to a residential dwelling and modifications to facilities to change of use. This was objected to as it does not comply with the NPPF para 79, it is not a redundant building. It is neither traditional or long established. It extends the limits of a settlement in the AONB and does not enhance or protect the site. It also represents a change of use and it not supported by policy.

**P18/S1902/O The Bungalow, Shirburn Road, Watlington, Amendment No 3**

This was objected to with the main concerns were being; the trip report is still incorrect, the contamination report is wrong, it is isolated from the village, access along the narrow footpath to the village is unsafe, a design for the whole plot (with PYR1) would be preferable and nothing has changed from the initial application

**SODC Land Supply and the Local Plan** – AM reported that the Minister for Housing has said that Oxfordshire can have a 3 Year Land Supply rather than 5. This will ease pressure on Councils.

**C: STRATEGY**- 27/9/2018 – Andrew McAuley

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

**Committee Terms of Reference**

**Resolved:** That the following updated Terms of Reference (ToR) be accepted by Council:

1. Strategy
2. Pavilion & Sports Field Committee (PSFC)
3. Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Board (NPAB)

#### 4. Planning

##### **Allotment Society**

**Resolved:** That WPC become a member of the Allotment Society at a cost of £55 per year.

##### **WPC representative for WBA**

**Resolved:** That SVP is appointed to be WPC representative on the Watlington Business Association (WBA) Executive Committee.

##### **End of term party**

**Resolved:** That we accept Tony Williamson's offer to host and fund this in his garden. KT will help with the invitation list.

Two dates were suggested, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April or Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April. The Clerk will circulate these dates to Councillors before a date is agreed.

**Welcome Pack** – TJ stated that this will be on-line as it will be much easier to keep up to date, but a bi-fold leaflet will be printed which gives information on how to access it etc. This flyer will be given to new homes and should hopefully steer them in the right direction for local information.

#### **D. OPERATIONS – 19/9/2018 – Tom Bindoff**

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

##### **Pyrton Lane Improvements**

IH had produced a document giving the options for improvements which had been circulated to Councillors.

TB stated that we do need to be thoughtful of any work that is likely to be paid for by developers like Archstone have in their mitigation. IH said that the document has been prepared by the Pyrton Lane Residents Steering Group and explained the reasoning behind the options. He said that OCC have said that they would prefer the Parish Council to conduct the survey and not the residents as it would give it more status. There is another meeting scheduled for this Friday with OCC and the residents. It was noted that the Pyrton Lane and St Leonards Close area included around 60 houses. AM said that the changes will impact on the wider community not just this specific area.

After discussion its was:

**Vote: 8 in favour, 1 abstention**

**Resolved:** That Council agree in principle to the design subject to the Pyrton Lane Residents agreement and that a survey be undertaken to ascertain the views the Pyrton Lane Residents Steering Group.

TW asked if Jason Sherwood (OCC) could be asked for an update on the Edge Road. It was noted that Aaron Wisden is being chased on preparing a business case for applying for funds from the Growth Deal Fund.

**Pavilion Extension for Youth Room, Toilets and Storage** – This has been passed to Strategy Committee for discussion of this in the wider context of youth and sports provision in the town.

#### **E. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 17/9/2018 – Nicky Smallbone**

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

NS said that the committee are having a detailed look at all the utility bills.

#### **F. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD - 17/9/2018 – Gill Bindoff**

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

GB said that the first meeting was about the implementation of the WNDP, with the primary focus being on the Archstone Development and preparing an analysis of the application and the WNDP

policies for the Planning Committee meeting.

**Pyrton Lane Consultation Update** – GB had asked that a factual update to be sent on this to the Examiner:

**Resolved:** That the following update be sent to the Examiner.

‘Watlington Parish Council would like to update you on the status of the Watlington Neighbourhood Development Plan as it is relevant to the examination of the Pyrton Neighbourhood Plan. When the Parish Council responded to the SODC Regulation 19 consultation on the Pyrton NP on 30.04.18 (Response 14) the Watlington NDP had just completed the examination stage and the Examiner’s report had been published. The Plan had 80.9% support at the Referendum held on 28<sup>th</sup> June when many residents of Pyrton were able to vote. The inclusion of parts of Pyrton parish in the referendum area was determined by the examiner of the Watlington NDP. The Plan is now made and was adopted by SODC on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018. The version of the Plan on the SODC website is the Referendum version. The final ‘made’ version, which has yet to be published by SODC, includes some very minor typographical corrections and updated text regarding the most recent Habitats Regulations Assessment.

There is new information regarding the delivery of the edge road which is included in the Watlington NDP which may be relevant to your Examination. All the developers of sites along the route of the edge road (including PYR1 and PYR2) have agreed a draft Memorandum of Understanding regarding the delivery of the new road. They have had meetings with Oxfordshire County Council together and separately and have discussed Grampian conditions and legal agreements such as S106 – the lead officer dealing with the edge road at OCC is Aron Wisdom ([Aron.Wisdom@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Aron.Wisdom@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)). The developers have also had a commercial meeting with Homes England on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Air pollution in the centre of Watlington (designated as an Air Quality Management Area) increased in 2017, in contrast with air quality in other AQMAs in South Oxfordshire. This evidence is included in the SODC 2018 Air Quality Annual Status Report published in May 2018. This updates the information about air quality in Watlington in Response 14 to the regulation 19 consultation. Watlington Parish Council confirms that it would like to be represented at a Hearing if one is held as part of the examination of the Pyrton NP.’

**E. ALLOTMENTS** – There has been no meeting

All documents have now been sent to Allotment Holders and asking them to get in touch if they wish to join the Allotment Committee. NS said that she is hopeful that things will now work better. When we have the nominations, NS will arrange a meeting of the Committee to appoint them in line with regulations.

NS said that she has had some complaints from allotment holders about a resident on Love Lane burning commercial waste in their garden on a regular basis and not attending it to carefully which resulted in the Fire Service being called out. The Fire Officers are dealing with this issue.

#### 145/18 General Issues

**1. Proposal for New Website Arrangement** – Attached to the Full Council Agenda

It was noted that the Finance Committee at their meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September resolved to spend up to £1,000 on upgrading or a new website. SvP has investigated a number of options and found Weebly to be the best one. She was able to construct a working site within a relatively short space of time with relative ease. It therefore would be very easy for anyone to maintain and no specialist technical knowledge is required.

**Resolved:** to purchase the Weebly Pro Plan 2 years subscription and the Tockify Premium Plan. Annual subscription at a cost of Weebly £237 + Tockify £160 = £397 for 2 years. Total per year £199.00.

It was agreed to speak to SvP about the NP Forum website. It was thought that the current website should be frozen and all the NPAB information should now be on the WPC website. This issue to be further discussed at a Strategy meeting.

**2. To agree response to Highways England on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway**  
**Resolved; that we send the following response;**

‘Watlington Parish Council (WPC) would like to comment on the recent publication regarding the proposed Expressway - ‘The Preferred Corridor’ as follows:

- The selected corridor will have a profound effect on Oxfordshire, but the publication contains very little new, useful, information on the proposals
- The Highways England preferred route of the Expressway is still not made public which gives rise to great uncertainty and concern
- Although consultations are planned for a year away beginning in autumn 2019 there is no provision for a democratic decision to be made about the proposed corridor or Expressway route
- There is no evidence to support the claim that ‘environmental and heritage designations have been fully considered’ in the decisions which have been taken. As far as WPC is aware there has been no Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Analysis, Habitats Regulations Assessments or Landscape Visual Impact Assessments carried out.
- It is not acceptable that these environmental assessments have had to be carried out for our local Neighbourhood Plan which will deliver a short re-alignment of a ‘B’ classified road plus a minimum of 260 new homes when the Expressway will affect a huge area of Oxfordshire and be expected to deliver an extra 100,000 new homes in the County.
- There is no evidence to support the claim that Highways England has a policy ‘to move to a net environmental gain’ or how this will be achieved

In view of these concerns the Parish Council would welcome a response from Highways England to explain the disparity between the environmental assessments which have been required for the Watlington Neighbourhood Plan and the apparent lack of similar assessments carried out for a major new route through Oxfordshire. In addition, the Parish Council requests that it is informed of opportunities for public consultation on the Expressway next year and that it is included in the group of stakeholders, local councils and environmental groups which will contribute to future decision making on the Expressway proposals.’

TJ stated that BBONT has launched a legal challenge on the Ox-Cam Expressway.

146/18 WPC adoption of Policies

**Equality and Diversity Policy** – this was attached to the agenda.

**Resolved:** That this be adopted as a WPC Policy.

147/18 Correspondence for Information - List Attached to Agenda

There was no correspondence that needed discussion.

148/18 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

There were no reports.

149/18 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

**Thames Travel T1 Bus Service** – IH reported that for several months a resident of the High Street has been complaining about buses mounting the pavement and driving too near to his house. Because of this the bus company has decided to stop buses at the Cuxham Road roundabout and therefore not coming to the Library bus stop. A lot of elderly residents whose only means of transport is the bus cannot walk that far. As a stop gap the bus company are sending a shuttle bus from the roundabout to pick up from the Library. However, they cannot afford to do this for long and a solution needs to be agreed with OCC ASAP. There is to be an urgent meeting with WPC, OCC and the Bus Company. MR said he would speak with WBA to get their views.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.57PM**