

# Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council in the Community Office Held at 8pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Ian Hill – Chairman  
Tony Williamson  
Robert Barber  
Barry Adby  
Harvey Batten  
Nick Hancock  
Charles Rowton-Lee  
Tim Horton  
Ted Backhouse  
Rhian Woods

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan

**District Councillors:**

Angie Paterson, Anna Badcock

**Thames Valley Police:**

PC Ian Kent

**Press:**

Jennifer Maxfield – Henley Standard

**Members of the Public:**

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114/11 Apologies for absence

David Tindale, Nick Greaves, Roger Beattie, Di Tolan, Roger Belson.

115/11 Chairman's Remarks

Ian Hill welcomed back all Councillors after the summer holidays and said that he hoped all members had a good break.

116/11 To receive Declarations of Interest

*To receive any declarations on interest from Councillors relating to items to be considered at the meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Councils Local Code of Conduct.*

Olympic Torch – Tony Williamson declared an interest in this item as his son is a Director of the Olympic Torch Team. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

117/11 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011 to be signed as a correct record

**Resolved:** That these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

118/11. Matters arising from the Minutes

**St Leonard's Church** - Tony Williamson asked to make a personal statement. He said that he had written to Christopher Evans stating that his role as Project Manager for the St Leonard's Renewal had come to an end. He said a copy of his note to Christopher Evans and papers explaining his decision could be made available. This would mean that in future he would expect to declare a non-prejudicial interest rather than a prejudicial interest in any Parish Council discussions that might take place on the project, including the future of the church hall.

**The Paper Shop** (Minute 104/11 refers) – This issue was raised by Angie Paterson at the last meeting and Ian Hill has now had some correspondence from the owner on this issue. He stated that this has not progressed any further and until the dispute is settled there is no progress likely to be made.

**33 High Street** (Minute 110/11 refers) – Tony Williamson stated that he is the Parish Council representative on Age Concern which has involved him in 33 High Street. There has been discussion in the past about building 3 houses on this site in order to raise the money for the Library extension. In all past discussions the view was that the purpose of the Charlotte Cox Charity was for the people of Watlington and also for the building and the future of the Library. He said that when 33 High Street became involved with the Library extension it was stated that any profits gained were to be put towards the library extension scheme, £70,000 from the sale of 33 High Street (at the time to Age Concern), was part of the original financing scheme for the Library. This was the position at that time.

Tim Horton stated that whatever the past position was there is now a new scheme in place. There needs to be a meeting, with the Working Group (consisting of Ian Hill, David Tindale, Tim Horton, Charles Rowton-Lee, Nick Greaves, Rhian Woods) set up with some urgency. Tony Williamson stated that he would like to be member of this Group.

**Resolved:** That Ian Hill arrange a meeting to discuss 33 High Street as soon as possible.

119/11 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

120/11 District Councillors Report – Angie Paterson, Anna Badcock

The summer period is a quiet time with no meetings.

**The Paper Shop** – Angie Paterson stated that she is keeping a check on this to see when any progress is made on the legal issues.

**Application P11/E1145 – Land to Rear of Post Office**– Anna Badcock said that she has been approached by some local residents regarding this application. It was noted that WPC have refused this application. It was hoped that if the SODC Officer recommendation is to approve that the District Councillors would take to committee.

**May 2011 Election** – Tim Horton asked about the meeting about the Enquiry of the Election and stated that one point is that the Returning Officer is seeking some recompense from the Printers. There was a bad service to Parish Councils and there should be, at least, significant reductions of charges to Parish Councils as they should not suffer financially. Robert Barber stated that he watched the meeting for 4.5 hours on the webcam and made a number of points:

1. The Returning Officer was generally disrespectful to Councillors.
2. The Returning Officer did not express personal regret or apology.
3. The buck stopped with the Returning Officer but he did not take responsibility for anything. He blamed everyone else and accepted no blame.
4. Cost of Enquiry- he stated that this would be covered by the recompense by the Printers.
5. The Returning Officer was dismissive of some Councillors stating that they should have been involved with the Terms of Reference.
6. When the Returning Officer was challenged about the 2000 missing votes he said that the outcome

would be the same. No one challenged it within 21 days. However no one knew how many votes had gone missing .

The District Councillors noted these comments.

**SODC and Vale of White House** – It was noted that both these Councils are separate entities but work together on some items to save costs. Angie Paterson stated the phone systems were currently a frustration but that work is being done to rationalise them. Rhian Woods complained about her personal experience with contacting Building Control over the summer.

**Watlington Speaks** – Tony Williamson stated that the aim of this was heading towards a Local Plan for Watlington. He noted that Woodcote and Thame have been identified to pilot Neighbourhood Plans under the Government ‘Frontrunner’ scheme and asked if previous Local Plans are now irrelevant? Angie Paterson said that best practice guidance on neighbourhood plans was yet to be published and this is what the pilot schemes are helping with. However it is expected that existing local plans will be part of future neighbourhood plans.

Ian Hill thanked both District Councillors for coming to the meeting.

#### 121/11 County Councillors Report

There was no report.

Tim Horton stated that Roger Belson is not attending many of our meeting so it would be very useful to know when he will be attending so questions can be prepared for him prior to the meeting.

#### 122/11 Thames Valley Police Report – PC Ian Kent

**Rural crime / suspicious activity** - The car parks serving Watlington, including those at the local beauty spots continue to attract criminal activity and are subject to regular Police patrols as they are currently part of a specific tasking for Response and Neighbourhood teams . The Operation focuses on Theft from Motor Vehicles which includes valuables that are often left on view in parked cars.

Rural crime remains a concern both nationally and locally with a recent increase in reports of various thefts including farm machinery and dogs. Officers from the local NH team have focused on the rural area around Watlington and Chalgrove and are currently operating Operation Maginot and Muddy to assist in the prevention and detection of these crimes.

**HGV contravention of Weight Limit** - HGV contravention of weight limit in the Watlington area is listed as a local Priority as it continues to be raised in various consultation meetings with the Neighbourhood Team (NT) . As a result local Operations have been conducted ( most recently on 25/08/11 ) with Trading Standards. Further operations are planned to include enforcement of speeding / seatbelt and mobile phone use legislation. The local NH team continue to work closely with Trading Standards on this issue and fully support their initiative, Lorry Watch.

**Parking issues junction 6 M40** - Lewknor Parish Council have now confirmed they are in receipt of their survey results . The Local N H team continue to liaise with LPC through their Parish meetings and will assist if required in any future joint partner / stake holder meeting over this issue. The Local NH Team are continuing to monitor and enforce where necessary over this issue .

The double yellow lines on Hill Road Lewknor have now been re painted by OCC Highways and are therefore being enforced through the Fixed Penalty Notice system by Police together with enforcement for any other offences identified for example obstruction of pavements / junctions in this area.

**Speeding issues locally**- As per previous updates TVP have taken over speed enforcement via the previous Safer Roads Partnership enforcement vans. They are now deploying locally on the B4009 and

at other sites. Since the change over our Roads Policing dept have received numerous "Bids" from all NH teams across South Oxfordshire and the Vale area requesting various site attendance therefore results of our area bids are still awaited as resources are limited . In addition speed enforcement will be carried out by local NH officers during targeted combined operations for HGV / Mobile phones etc.

As always if the PC has any local issues raised through their community contact / consultation which it wishes to raise with the local NH team then please pass these onto myself or PCSO Diane Greenwood.

123/11 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

Tony Williamson read out the Balance of Accounts and proposed that the List of Payments be settled.

**Resolved:** That the Balance of Accounts be approved and the List of Payments be settled and these both be signed by the Chairman.

124/11 Committees:

**A: FINANCE** – Tony Williamson

There has been no meeting.

**B: PLANNING** – 2/8/2011 and 6/9/2011 – Rhian Woods

**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted by Council.

The Committee objected to the applications below:

**P11/E1145 Land to rear of Post Office, Watlington** -Demolition of garage/store & car repair workshops and erection of 4 x 2 bed houses.

**P11/E1324 and P11E1347/LB East End House, 46 Shirburn Street, Watlington**

All other applications were approved.

The Agenda Item to discuss the Proposal to empower local was delegated for discussion by the Strategy Committee due to time constraints.

**C: STRATEGY** – 26/7/2011- Ian Hill

**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted by Council.

**Website – [www.watlington.org](http://www.watlington.org)**

**Resolved:**

1. That we maintain a separate Business Directory on the WPC website directory.
2. The Business Directory to be a directory of all businesses providing services within the Parish showing only a one-line entry.
3. That we include a link to the Watlington Business Association website

**Buses**

Ian Hill reported that the revised 101/106 bus service started last week with some buses now going to Cowley. He stated that the 9.40 bus from Watlington is very small and is full up by the time it gets to Cowley. It would be better if a bigger bus was used. Tim Horton stated that in the future some buses may be double deckers but in the short term is was:

**Resolved:** That we write to Thames Travel asking if it is possible to have a larger bus for the 9.40 service.

Tim Horton also remarked that there is big gap between the 7am bus and the 9.40am bus and this issue is being discussed. It was agreed that we should maintain pressure to bridge this gap.

Tim Horton gave out a paper which stated that he continued to liaise with Go-Ride over the summer months and they have had discussions with other parishes. Issues being discussed are a Sunday Service, Friday and Saturday Night services and an extension in route to J6 of the M40. The Government have

£279,356.00 for allocation to rural travel and the Council needs to take a view on various points.

**Resolved:** That this issue be discussed by the Strategy Committee and that Tim Horton prepare a detailed paper on this. It was also resolved that Strategy be delegated to make a decision on this.

**D. OPERATIONS – 22/6/2011- Barry Adby**

**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted by Council.

**Car Park Survey** – The Committee feel that there is no need at present for any further surveys to take place apart from recording numbers of cars at the start and end of each day.

**Temporary Toilet in Recreation Ground** – Barry Adby thanked Ted Backhouse for opening these every morning and locking up every night. Ted Backhouse said that they were respected by users and that this experiment was very successful.

**Trees in Recreation Ground**

**Resolved:** That we ask SODC to put TPO's on the line of trees that border Lampits Close as shown below:



*Map Showing Trees in the Recreation Ground*

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

**F. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD** – Tony Williamson

There has been no meeting but one is scheduled for next Monday.

**G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – 14/7/2011**

**Resolved:** That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Tim Horton said that was concerned about the SODC Core Strategy still being up in the air and that perhaps decisions should wait until we know more. We know so little about the housing allocation and we should look at this issue in the context of getting it right with SODC Policy and the best solution for Watlington within their Plan. Harvey Batten stated that the ORCC Survey showed there is a need for Affordable Housing in Watlington and that we should continue pursuing this issue. It was also noted that the 2 Watlington Schools are full. Tony Williamson said that we should have a strategic view and of course it would be dependant on us finding a suitable site.

125/11 Watlington Library – Parish Council response.

Ted Backhouse said that Philip Pinney is preparing a final paper on this issue which he will forward to us when it is completed.

**Motion on the Library from Ian Hill**

**Vote: 9 in favour, 1 abstention**

**Resolved:** This council notes that the proposal given in the OCC consultation on the future of library service in Oxfordshire would result in a reduction in the staffing in the Watlington library to a third of the current level. They suggest that the shortfall in staffing will be covered by volunteers. In our opinion the basis on which this proposal is made is seriously flawed and discriminates against rural communities such as Watlington. The decision to carry out a “zero base” assessment which assumes that a library service is being started from scratch but then apply it to the existing library locations is perverse, but the major problem is that this assessment uses five measures, four of which are essentially the same “Is this a large community”. There is for example no attempt to assess how far residents of the County would need to travel to reach a library and how long this trip would take, which is surely a key requirement for providing a distributed library service that serves the whole County.

This Council asks the County Council to take careful note of the comments made at the consultation meeting held in St Leonard’s Church, Watlington on 18 July and reconsider their proposal in order to provide a more equitable distribution of library funding, and hence staff, to the existing well-used libraries in the rural communities of the County.

Ian Hill to submit our comments to OCC

126/11 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 No 926 – Salt Bin filling** – OCC will fill all salt bins once and we can pay for extra Salt Bags (which will need to be stored) if we wish. Council to make a decision regarding this.

**Resolved:** That we accept the one fill of our salt bins and the one tonne bag of salt but that we do not pay for any extra Salt Bags. BA/KT to find some suitable storage for the free salt bag.

**Letter No 943 – SODC have not secured funding for the Boiler in the Town Hall to be moved to accommodate the SODC Air Quality Monitoring machine.**

**Resolved:** That this be an issue for the Strategy and Town Hall Committee to discuss.

127/11 Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

No reports were received.

128/11 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

*To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council*

**Diamond Jubilee Meeting 16/9/2011** – Tim Horton and Ian Hill to have a pre-meeting to discuss this.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.55PM and went into Confidential Session to Accept the Affordable Housing Confidential Note 14/7/2011. This note was accepted and no discussion took place.**

**Confidential Items**

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: THAT under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items of business of the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 7,8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

