

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 11th September 2012

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Chairman
Robert Barber
Ted Backhouse
Barry Adby
Tony Williamson
Tim Horton
Rhian Woods
Nick Greaves
Harvey Batten (from 9pm)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock

County Councillor:

Caroline Newton

Press:

Janine Rasiah

Members of the Public:

1

97/12 Apologies for absence

David Tindale, Charles Rowton-Lee, Roger Beattie, Nick Hancock.

98/12 Chairman's Remarks

Ian Hill welcomed all Councillors back after the summer break. He reported that Council has received a letter of resignation from Di Tolan, for personal reasons. It was agreed that he writes to Di expressing Council's thanks for the work and the help she gave, especially with planning issues whilst she was a Parish Councillor. He said that she has indicated that she would be willing to be co-opted onto the Planning Committee if they wish to consider this.

99/12 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were none.

100/12 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 10th July 2012 to be signed as a correct record

Tony Williamson stated that he was only present once and it was agreed to remove one of his names.

Minute 109/12 – The penultimate line should also include Chalgrove and it was agreed that this be added.

Resolved: That with the above changes these minutes be agreed as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman

101/12 Matters arising from the Minutes

Ian Hill reported that the Clerk has now set up an Action List from Meetings which is on the table to be viewed. This shows which actions are completed, on-going or not yet down. This should help everyone to know what actions need to be done.

Rhian Wood requested that this be regularly emailed to Councillors.

102/12. Public Questions

There were none notified.

103/12 District Councillors Report – Anna Badcock

Paper Shop – Ian Hill reported that we have received a letter (N^o 157) from the Solicitors of the Trust that own this property stating that the dispute against the Co-op has now been resolved and that they will be starting work on refurbishing the building shortly. Tim Horton said that any help the District Councillor can give to push things along would be helpful. AB said that she will write to the Solicitors on this issue.

Economic Development of the Town - Tim Horton asked about page 4 of the August Watlington Times which is titled ‘SODC kick start smaller towns’, which refers to an SODC Spokesperson. He asked who this was. AB said it could be someone from the press office but did not know. TH asked if she could find out and let him know. TH stated that Council will be writing to SODC on the economic development of Watlington. TW stated that for a period of time Watlington was always referred to as a Market Town and SODC recognised that it was different than other towns, being a hub to a lot of smaller villages who are dependant on Watlington and Watlington also dependant on them using our services. At present SODC just seem to lump Watlington in with all the other villages. This point will also be put in the letter.

AB said that she totally agreed with this and said that Watlington is 20 minutes away from all the larger towns such as Didcot, Henley, Thame and Abingdon and that Watlington is very much a rural hub. AB said she could talk to the Cabinet Member and ask for him to have a meeting with Council. RW said that we should tread carefully as if they think that there is a high degree of services in Watlington then they could propose huge housing developments. AB said that there is an Affordable Housing Seminar on the 26th September which she will be attending. IH said that Watlington has had a housing needs survey conducted by ORCC two years ago.

Changes in Benefits – AB reported that there are to be changes in benefits which may affect some residents adversely. She asked that if anyone contacts the Council regarding this issue to pass them onto her or the team at SODC. The changes will probably come in during the next economic year. The SODC team are working very hard trying to judge what will happen.

Ward Boundaries – The Watlington ward will change but the parish boundary remains the same. There will be only 1 District Councillor for the ward. The total number of SODC Councillors will be reduced by ten.

TH told AB that he will be asking a question on the Core Strategy at the next meeting which will include planning assumptions for the green belt around Oxford. AB said that it was probably best to address the question to Angie Paterson. If WPC have any specific thoughts she asked that they be given to SODC offices so that they can take them into account. TH said that he will send his question to both District Councillors.

Neighbourhood Plans – AB said that doing a plan is crucial as Watlington will be allocated a number of houses.

Ian Hill thanked Anna Badcock for her report.

104/12 County Councillors Report – Caroline Newton

Big Society Fund – CN reported that she has received no bid for this. There is £10,000 available for community schemes which benefit the community. It has quite a broad range so if anyone knows of any projects that may require funding please contact her. The time limit on this is it has to be used by the end of the financial year. She stated that Lewis Batten has been in touch with her regarding a possible new skatepark facility.

This to be a Strategy Committee agenda item for the next meeting.

Education Strategy – This has been adopted by OCC. This means that OCC will help any school who wishes to become an Academy.

Triathlon 2012 – This is being held this Sunday, 16th September and a number of roads will be closed around the area.

TH congratulated CN on the article on Page 5 of the Watlington Times(Aug 2012) about the money available from the Big Community Fund.

105/12 Thames Valley Police Report

Ian Kent had sent his apologies but has sent the following report which was read out by the Chairman.

1. Our parking / speeding deployments remain ongoing in the area however our resources have been stretched over this period by the Olympics and Paralympics . We have been receiving assistance with Roads Policing locally , most recently with speed enforcement in the Shirburn area. I am encouraging these officers to pay attention to the Christmas Common area also.

2. Rural crime remains a concern and officers have been deployed on operation Migrate over the past weeks which has paid particular attention to the rural areas around Thame (Watlington area) , Henley and Wallingford sectors .

3. The five police beat areas that make up Thame sector ie Thame , Chinnor , Watlington , Wheatley and Chalgrove areas currently have four beat Police officers allocated within the local Neighbourhood Policing Team, following the recent retirement of PC Hounslow, the beat officer for Thame, confirmation has now been received that this beat officer is not to be replaced locally within the team.

Point 3 above was discussed and it was agreed that this be a Strategy Committee agenda item for the October meeting.

106/12 To receive the Balance of Accounts and approve the list of Payments

Tim Horton read out the Balances of Accounts and proposed that the payments be settled.

Resolved: That the Balance of Accounts be agreed and the list of payments be settled and signed by the Chairman.

Correspondence Letter No 177 from Youth Club Management Committee – Request for £3000 which is in the WPC Budget. Copies of their Accounts and Budget were also provided.

It was noted that in previous years the amount allocated has been £1000, however WPC put in an additional £2000 into the budget if they should need it. This was due to the OCC no longer giving the Youth Club Committee the Ann Brown income. Tim Horton stated that the additional £2000 was put in the budget if needed and now they seem to be expecting it all. He stated that he is enthusiastic in supporting them with a youth worker in principle. He said his is pleased with the detail provided.

The grant allocation will be an important issue to discuss for next year and particularly whether it should be continued at the higher level. However what the Youth Club Committee have not provided is a 3 or 5 year development plan. He then stated that we do not have enough detail as regards financial and staffing issues.

He stated that he is enthusiastic in supporting them with a youth worker in principle. He proposed that this matter be delegated to one of the committee to further discuss this. He also said that a Service Agreement between the Youth Club Committee and the WPC is needed and that more information should be sought from the Oxfordshire Association of Youth Clubs to see how other parish council's have made arrangements with their youth clubs. TH said that if this £3000 grant is given it is by far the largest grant that Council have given. He said that he personally has a lot of questions to ask.

Tony Williamson said that he hoped that the £3000 would be paid for this financial year and that the other issues and questions are taken up before the next years grant amount is allocated. Robert Barber stated that this money was allocated for this financial year and that we should pay it. Tony Williamson reported that the Youth Club Committee are looking ahead and working on a 5 year plan. Ian Hill said that we could given them £1000 with a discussion in Committee about the £2000.

Robert Barber said that we are not qualified to judge whether the youth worked and club is being run correctly. Tony Williamson then said he cannot see why we cannot pay the £3000 for this financial year but for future years we will need to have a serious discussion with the Youth Club Committee and what details we will require. He then proposed that we pay the full amount now.

This was then voted on and 6 were in favour with 3 against

Resolved: That we pay the Youth Club Committee their £3000.

It was agreed that for next year we will require a Service Level Agreement with the Youth Club Committee and this issue to be discussed by the Strategy Committee as to what needs to be in it. The Youth Club also need to be aware of what we will require. Tim Horton said that we should ask OAYC for information regarding oversight and inspection. He said that the Service Agreement will need to be comprehensive if a substantial grant is allocated. This proposed extension to the Pavilion on PC land also needs to be considered.

It was proposed that this issue be passed onto Strategy to be discussed at the next meeting and in the meantime we seek what information we can from the Youth Club and OAYP. This was voted on and 8 were in favour with 1 abstention.

Resolved: That this issue to be a Strategy agenda item for the next meeting and that the Clerk and Chairman seek information from Oxfordshire Association of Young People (OAYP) and the Youth Club.

Tim Horton to draft up a list of items that we need to seek information on.

107/12 Committees:

A: **FINANCE** - There has been no meeting.

B: PLANNING – 7/8/2012 – Rhian Woods

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

Three applications were considered, 2 of which were approved and 1 was objected to on the basis that not enough information was supplied.

54 Love Lane (Amendment) – David Tindale went to the SODC Planning meeting to represent WPC as we had objected to this whereas the officer recommendation was to approve it. DT reported that he was advised that they would not change their opinion on a amendment. He also said that he had to wait for 3 hours for the application to be heard. He deemed the exercise to be fruitless. RW stated that she still thinks it was a good idea to have a representative as if WPC do object they should send a representative to show the strength of feeling. RBr advised that he has had the same experience as DT the last two times he has attended a SODC meeting on behalf of WPC.

C: STRATEGY – 17/7/2012

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

The Old Paper Shop, High Street, Watlington

At the July Fully Council it was Resolved: That we write to the Chief Executive of SODC, asking that he intervenes over the continuing vacancy of the former Paper Shop . To ask his advice as to whether compulsory purchase through the District Council is now an appropriate means of relieving the problem of this site.

It was noted that following receipt of letter No 157 from the Trust's solicitor that this now does not need to be done.

Resolved: That this is now withdrawn.

40mph on Howe Road – IH reported that OCC accepted part of the change we had proposed and they will now progress this issue.

Local Transport Meeting – The Clerk has contacted the County Councillor on this but a letter still needs to be sent on this.

Letter to Copas Farm – Robert Barber stated that he will draft this letter

Car Park Order – Ian Hill has drafted 2 versions which will be discussed at the next Strategy meeting.

Picture Gallery for Website – This has been ordered by the Clerk. We will be asking for pictures to be put up on it.

Storage in the Town – The letter has gone out to all organisations and some replies have already been received. We will consider this issue at the November Strategy meeting.

Links with Icknield Community College – IH is happy to deal with them at the moment but would like to see someone take over at some point.

Cycle/Pedestrian Way to Junction 6 – IH/TH will draft the letter on this issue.

TH stated that he has had a further communication from Sustrans on this issue and they do have some available funds for projects.

GoRide – WPC have been made aware that perhaps some people do not have the correct contact number to contact them and the correct details have been put into the next Watlington Times.

Public Transport – TH reported that he had attended a meeting with all the 5 involved Councils, in Chalgrove. One issue is that GoRide are willing to take on a work experience person who would look at the Oxford bound services. The September issue of the Watlington Times will have the information on this position. It was noted that the Sunday service in the first part of the year did better than the service on a Saturday. They are taking on average 18 residents. However it was said that the weather could be a big factor and it did rain a lot during the period looked at and the poor weather might have affected numbers. GoRide are hoping that the June and July figures will increase. There was some concern that GoRide have casually changed times of buses etc. It was agreed that no changes will be made to the timetable until the annual review. There is a hope that this service may be able to run as a commercial service after March 2013.

D. OPERATIONS – 25/7/2012 – Barry Adby

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

BA reported that the last meeting there was a walkabout the town which brought up 25 issues which either have or are in the process of being dealt with. Some will be discussed at the next meeting. These are all shown on the Action List.

Playground Seminar on 22nd September – A note asking if any resident would like to attend this was put in the August Watlington Times. However we have had no interest shown in this. RW suggested it went into this week's school newsletter. HB said he would attend if there were no takers for this from

parents in the school.

E. ALLOTMENTS –There has been no meeting.

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

G. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – There has been no meeting.

H. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP- There has been no meeting

108/12 **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 177- Youth Club Management Committee – *Requesting their grant payment – letter attached*
This was discuss above under the Finance Committee item.

109/12 **Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received**
There has been reports received.

110/12 **Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair**
To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council

Lawrence Clerk our local Olympian - It was agreed that WPC send a letter to him congratulating him on his fantastic performance in the 100m race in the Olympics as he lives within the Parish.. It was agreed that the Chairman send a letter to him.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.56pm