



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in the Community Office at 8.00pm on Tuesday 8th September 2015

Present:

Councillors

Ian Hill (IH) - Chairman
Matt Reid (MR) - Vice Chairman
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Jon Lorimer (JL)
Jo Read (JR)
Bob West (BW)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Elizabeth Winton (EW)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Jane Bryant (JBt)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

County Councillor:

Steve Harrod

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock

Press:

David White – Henley Standard

Members of the Public:

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139/15 Apologies for absence

Jeremy Bell (JB) Terry Jackson (TJ) Robin Wilson (RW)

140/15 Chairman's Remarks

IH welcomed all to the meeting and said that he hoped everyone had a good summer. He said that there is a lot of work to be done over the next few months and hoped that all councillors will get involved in what needs doing so that the load can be shared. IH asked for volunteers to distribute the flyer for the NP Launch Event. RH, RB, MR, TW, TB, JR, JL all offered to help with this.

141/15 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

142/15 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 14th July and 4th August 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.

143/15 To accept the Annual Parish Meeting Minutes held 9th July 2015

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

144/15 Matters arising from the Minutes

Stewardship Agreements (Minute 136/15 refers). TW asked if there has been any progress on the bar issue. MR said that he had a meeting with representatives from Football and Cricket last Sunday to discuss issues, one being that of the bar. The meeting was very positive and he is hopeful that things can be agreed shortly. TW said that it is very important that the bar structure is in place and said that the WPC need to be able to see the Bar Accounts. MR said that he hoped that we are close to resolving the Agreement between WPC and the Sports Club.

Ecotec (Minute 128/15 refers). IH reported that we had approached our Solicitor on this issue. He

stated that it is a very ambiguous situation and if we wished to take it further would need to appoint a Barrister which would cost a lot. After discussion it was agreed that a group of Councillors meet up to discuss the situation in the first instance.

Resolved: That IH, MR, JB, TJ and TW have a meeting to discuss this issue and that a paper be drawn up prior to the Strategy Meeting where this issue will be an agenda meeting.

145/15 Public Questions

Watlington Environment Group – Mike Chadwick (MC) - (WEG) on their ideas for improving the brook as a breeding ground for trout – seeking in principle agreement from the Parish Council.

MC who is on the Water Courses Group said that the brook is a spring fed stream coming out of chalk which is rare and we need to preserve and protect this brook. Watlington should be very proud to have this. The water is clean, has a stable temperature and a stable flow which supports the population of the trout. There is a population of trout near the roundabout. Last year the trout were breeding as the conditions were very good. The population is small at the moment but the conditions are good so there is potential to have more. The Water Courses Group would like to enhance the habitat further and increase the level of population. The Group had a visit from a representative from the Wild Trout Trust (WTT) and he identified some opportunities for enhancement. In essence trout need to have a diversity of habitat, food and places to hide and he recommended a number of things to help make a more diverse habitat such as; a certain amount of coppicing, manipulation of gravel areas to help with breeding.

All the labour would be done by volunteers and would be supervised by the WTT. The EA will also have to be involved as this stretch is a main river and they would need to give consent for the works. Any concern regarding flooding or change in ecology would need to be addressed.

MC stated that subject to permissions they would like to do the work needed in the Autumn before the breeding season. If the timing does not work it would then have to wait until Spring 2016.

RB: Asked what happens to the trout at the end of the day?

MC: Trout are sedentary and will hold onto their territory. There was an incident of poisoning in Cuxham earlier this year but the cause has not yet been found.

MR: Is there any link with the schools regarding educational talks if it links in with the curriculum.

MC: This could be done.

JR: How are you going to publicise this?

MC: There have already been articles in the Watlington Times and will be more at the right time.

146/15 District Councillors Report – Anna Badcock

Bin Collection – AB stated that as there were 5 breakdowns today some bins have not been collected. The advice is to leave them out and they will be collected tomorrow. This has been publicised via Facebook, Twitter, website and Radio Oxford. If anyone thinks of other means of communication that should be used to let her know.

Voters Registration Update – The forms were sent out in August only 53% have been received back to date. It is important that these are filled in and returned either by post or on-line.

Current Consultations – There are a numbers of consultations at the moments. AB urged everyone to respond to the consultation on buses as everyone's feedback is considered and listened too.

Recycling - Hangers were put on the waste bins a few weeks back about the new service that SODC is offering to aid recycling. They will now collect small electrical appliances for recycling if they are put out with your black bin in a separate carrier bag. They will also collect textiles that are no longer usable if these are put out in a separate carrier bag alongside your green bin. Please do not include good quality or unwanted clothes. Give these to charity, either at a charity shop or in one of the clothing recycling bins at the Rainbow Nursery or in the Hill Road car park.

MR: Asked where these new items will go to be recycled. AB said she does not know as yet but will let us know. There is a specialist centre in Newbury for small electrical items and they may go

there. Textiles will be sent to East London.

Communication – SODC are looking into ways of communication as they are aware that some people do not use the routes that are presently used for and therefore some people are missing out on information.

Affordable Housing – Affordable Housing for developments under 10 homes is now back on.

Garden Waste – On the 12th October residents can leave double the amount of garden waste out for collection.

Compost Giveaway – This is taking place on the 3rd and 4th October. Full details on the website.

Electrical Blanket Testing – Information on the website.

Didcot expansion and Parkway – There is a lot of information on the website on this.

Lys Mill – AB reported that H&H have moved from this site. BW said they have cleared the site and are using that area for grain storage so there are a number of tractors accessing the site. However it was noted that it is thought that this grain storage permission has expired. AB will speak to the Planning Officer regarding this.

IH thanked AB for attending the meeting.

147/15 County Councillors Report – Steve Harrod

Budget – Work is beginning on this for the next financial year. It is currently expected that around another £60m of savings will have to be made; these will mean some difficult decisions will have to be taken in order to achieve a balanced budget by February 2016. The County Council has already made savings of £204 million since 2010. Further savings of £88 million by 2018 have been planned, so the additional £60m takes the total savings to £352 million. The biggest single budget challenge is the ever-rising cost of Social Care as nearly half of the Council's budget goes on Social Care. By and large, the Council's responsibilities here are statutory, meaning that for the most part, budget cuts fall in other areas. At any one time, just 2% of the population account for Social Care costs.

Household Waste Recycling Strategy – There is a consultation on this going on. However the County Council are approaching Central Government to see if OCC could put a charge on for this service as current legislation does not allow a charge to be made. The charge envisaged would be nominal eg 35p+. This option is not suggested on the current consultation.

Children's Centre – Funding of these early intervention centres is a main point of discussion in OCC and this is being focused on having 8 of these centres rather than 44 and increasing outreach activity. Also more focus to be on people that need this service. A saving of £8M needs to be made out of the next year's budget. There was a demonstration on this outside County Hall today.

RB: if this cut is made there is not much money being spent on the young in Oxfordshire.

TW: The great thing about the Children's Centres at the moment is that families are mixed. If this is changed to only be for people with problems and cutting everyone else out it is really segregating the community.

SH: This will need to be re-organised and OCC will need to focus on who needs this service the most and not for universal use. There has been a group who have looked at all aspects of change and who this will affect services. All issues have been considered.

RB: Chalgrove have a purpose built building what would be done with this?

SH: It could be taken over by a community group or a private organisation. If communities want this service to continue as is, they will need to find a way of doing so. There will be a consultation on this starting soon.

Recycling Road Sweepings- Road sweepings from across Oxfordshire are to be processed at a state-of-the-art new treatment and recovery facility in Ewelme – a move which is designed to boost recycling rates and help cut costs for Oxfordshire County Council who have joined up with Hampshire County Council for this venture.

A Level and GCSE Results – These results have been very good for Oxfordshire.

A40 – Works are going ahead on this road. There has been a public meeting on this. Money had been given by Central Government for this and needed to be spent. The works are likely to take up to a year.

SH said that in his personal opinion OCC needs to increase Council Tax by more than 1.99% but to do this there would need to be a referendum which would cost money. However would the cost of this outweigh the benefits? This will be discussed by OCC.

BW: Asked if there was any chance of getting officers to respond more quickly to our complaints and issues. SH said to highlight any outstanding issues and email him and he would see what he could do to speed up any issues. *KT will send SH an email on this.*

TW: Said that SH's comment on how much money needs to be saved from the budget is very worrying for example the cuts to buses; it will make it unpractical for older people to be able to live in rural areas.

SH: OCC will not turn their back on vulnerable people but they need to cut their coat according to their cloth. He said one option on buses would be to privatise some services. OCC are working in partnership with 'Aspire' providing a bus service in Oxford City and this is proving successful. OCC are working hard on all areas to resolve issues.

TW: Mentioned the furore in the eighties when OCC wanted to close nurseries which then did not happen.

AB: There is a lot of resource going into vulnerable children and a lot has changed on this recently.

SH: The demand on Children's Services has increased greatly.

AB: The Kingfisher Team at OCC is ground breaking.

SH: Central Government talk about having to make very difficult decisions.

RH: Anything that needs doing regarding children's services for our local community I am happy to help with.

SH: It will be important that everyone gets involved with the Consultation.

EW: It would be a shame to lose things that we have.

IH thanked SH for attending the meeting.

148/15 Thames Valley Police Report

No report was received.

149/15 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

150/15 Watlington Post Office – Paper for discussion from Peter Richardson was attached to the agenda.

There was much discussion on this issue. The issue of whether WPC should actively campaign, or set up a group to look into issues etc was discussed. It was noted that WatNext are also looking into this issue. TW stated that we need to have a Post Office in the Town not on the outskirts. It was thought that we should start talking with our local traders to see if any of them wish to take on running a post office.

It was agreed that:

1. Have a discussion with the Business Association - **TW**
2. Approach the Chiltern Business Centre regarding possible space for a PO. – **MR**
3. Approach the pubs?

Peter Richardson was thanked for his paper on this.

151/15 Meeting with John Howell on 22nd September at 7.30pm – To agree issues to raise with him.

Discussion took place on various issues to raise with John Howell.

1. Post Office

2. Barclays Bank
 3. Neighbourhood Plan – JH has a role on this as part of his portfolio. To ask him what protection we have against a pre-emptive planning application before the NP is final.
 4. Broadband. – Is there any further money coming from Central Government?
 5. Future of Children's Centres.
- It was agreed that if Councillors have any specific questions to email KT/IH before the end of the week so that a final list can be sent to JH prior to the meeting.

152/15 Committees:

A: FINANCE – 21/7/2015 – Tony Williamson

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

TW stated that it will be important to have a provisional budget for the NP as soon as possible.

Police office in Community Office

Resolved: That Council agree to renew the police lease on the same basis as the current lease.

Broadband Supplier for WPC – RB asked if the supplier had been changed. IH said that this is being looked at but no decision has been made yet.

B: PLANNING – 4/8/2015 and 1/9/2015- Bob West

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

BW drew attention to the following points sent by Jeremy Bell as he could not attend this meeting.

1. Voted in favour of the principle of Co-opting non-voting members onto the planning committee.
2. Lys Mill. SODC reports that negotiations are continuing with the applicant with the view of securing revisions to the application to address concerns raised by interested parties.
3. Watcombe Manor Ingham Lane. Existing barns to 5 residential units. Objection
4. East End Lodge, Christmas Common. Single story extension. Objection
5. Hampden House, 17 Couching Street. Alterations to two back windows. No objection
6. The Orchard Christmas Common. New garage and outbuilding. No objection.
7. Pilgrim Cottage. 59 Brook St. Removal of internal partition, and new back window. No objection.
8. Howe Combe Farm, Howe Road. New barn style garage. No objection.
9. Old Church Christmas Common. New Semi-detached cottages in AONB. Objection.
10. 1 Spring Lane. Large extension. Objection.

It was noted that at the meeting 1/9/2015, Bob West was present and Robin Wilson had sent his apologies. The Clerk will correct the minutes.

C: STRATEGY – There has been no meeting.

D. OPERATIONS – 22/7/2015 – Bob West

Resolved: That these minutes be accepted by Council.

A number of issues that we have raised with OCC remain outstanding. There are:

1. Pavement on Britwell Road
2. HAMP reassessments.

The Clerk will raise these with Steve Harrod.

Tuck Shop – EW will report to the next meeting.

Summer Sports Programme – RH had worked hard to set this up but due to no take up all events had to be cancelled. RH was thanked for all the effort she put into this. RH said she has now learnt what not to do. EW said that if it was to be done again would need to be done very differently. It was noted that people in Watlington will not book activities in advance. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Watlington Walk Leaflet – Quotes needed.

Footpath 13 – TB said that the work on this will be completed next week by OCC. He will also request that they cut back the overgrowth on the footpath off Britwell Road in the winter.

Recreation Ground Car Park – IH thanked all the volunteers who cleared this car park for their hard work doing so.

E. ALLOTMENTS – Jo Read

Jo Read gave the following report:

George has been back from his summer in France for two weeks. He has re-let the allotments that were given up, and now there are 3 free due to people moving away from the area. A 12-year-old has a plot! (under the watchful eye of his mother). I have been up to the allotments a few times, and am happy to report that an issue with a careless driver now seems to have been resolved, all down to George, of course.

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

Cooker for Kitchen – The cooker has been disconnected due to safety reasons after vandalism. The Sports Sections have asked that this be replaced. This item has not been budgeted for within the PSFC budget.

Resolved: That a new cooker to be purchased from the Pavilion Account.

Report on Progress on Watlington Sports Club Agreement- IH reported that the WTFC and the WCC have now signed the Stewardship Agreements and we are now looking to put in an Agreement with the Sports Club, which is being worked on at the moment.

IH also reported that there are a lot of pavilion maintenance issues. The boiler needs to be serviced for example. Doors and handles have had to be mended/replaced. It will be important that these issues be addressed when we are looking at the budget for 2016/2017

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP -20/8/2015

To appoint the remaining 2 members to the Steering Group. At present this consists of IH, TB, TJ and JB.

Resolved: That MR and TW be appointed as the other two members needed for this committee of six.

One meeting has been held and at this it was agreed to set up a NP Forum Launch Event which will take place on Wed 30th September at the Memorial Club. The community wants to be more involved and this will give them the opportunity to do so. A flyer is in the process of being prepared and this will be delivered to all households in the parish.

153/15 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.

209) P Richardson asking for agreement on various points- *Response needed from Full Council – Agreed that an outreach meeting should take place. Regarding the Howe Road CLP, IH stated that this document did not meet several requirements such as proof of community meetings etc. It would be difficult to link this with the NP as it does not deal with land use.*

Resolved: That IH/KT speak to SODC regarding this issue prior to a response being sent.

214) Resilient Communities Fund – attached - *FC to discuss if any Application to be made as deadline September 2016.*

Resolved: That this be dealt with by the Operations Committee.

229) SODC – Street Cleaning Payments for Watlington - FC Noted this.

230) SODC – Street Cleaning Payments – passed to Finance –FC Noted this. This may have implication on the budget. IH will be attending a SODC meeting on this.

233) SODC: Town and Parish Forum 4 November at Didcot Civic Hall – 2 representatives needed to attend.

Resolved: To ask MR and TB to attend this.

254) Caroline Lye re daffodils at entrance to Watlington – attached – It was noted that WiB will be doing this and to ask them to liaise with CL. It was agreed that we would prefer that the native ones be planted.

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.

257) Nigel and Sara Shepard re Traffic incident and damage to thatch, 42 Chapel Street - Attached to agenda. This was discussed and it was stated that at this point the pavement is very narrow and putting bollards in this location could impede pedestrians and especially ones with push chairs and wheelchairs. It was thought that we could potentially support subject to OCC approval.

154/15 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

Youth Club – Jo Read gave the following report.

Has not re-opened after the summer break as there is no committee in place - yet.

Gill and Jamie had a meeting last week, but unfortunately the people who expressed an interested did not pick up the "post" about the date - nor did I!

Gill is, however, confident that the Club will re-open at some point in the not-too-distant future.

Jamie is writing individually to the interested parties, and they hope to arrange a meeting at the end of September/beginning of October. Gill and Jamie (and possibly myself) are hoping to do a bit of publicising on a Saturday in the High Street.

155/15 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.10PM