



Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held in the Community Office At 8.00pm on Tuesday 13th September 2016

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill –Chairman (IH)
Matt Reid – Vice-Chairman (MR)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Bob West (BW)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Jeremy Bell (JB)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Nicky Smallbone (NS)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Stephanie Van Pette (SvP) – after co-option item.

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

County Councillor:

Stephen Harrod

In Attendance:

Emily Godfrey- Project Officer for the River Thame Conservation Trust
Nikki Jackson (NJ) –Postmistress

Press:

David White

Members of the Public:

4

120/16 Apologies for absence

Jo Read, Robin Wilson, Jon Lorimer.

121/16 Post Office – WPC response to the Consultation.

Nikki Jackson (Watlington PO) was in attendance to answer any questions.

IH stated that the WPC need to respond to the Consultation on the Post Office moving to the Co-op which needs to be sent back by 30/9/2016.

Questions:

1. Will the current staff be employed by the Co-op? NJ: Do not know how the Co-op would staff it.
2. Will the sorting office be moved elsewhere? NJ: Yes, could move to Wallingford.
3. There is concern about the Co-op having the skilled staff. NJ: Things have got easier over the years regarding the services provided by the use of bar codes etc.

NJ was told by WPC that the Post Office has been an absolute splendid shop and that she will be missed by the community.

After discussion it was:

Resolved: That TW draft a response to this consultation which will be sent to all Councillors prior to it being submitted. Specific points to be included are: thanks to the Post Office for keeping the Parish

Council informed through the process and included in this consultation, WPC is pleased that the Post Office has found a business which can keep the Post Office service available in Watlington; WPC is concerned about how the Coop will lay-out its space to both continue the post office service and for its main business, which is vital to the people of Watlington; WPC is concerned that, although the Post Office informed the Parish Council that staff would have the opportunities provided within the TUPE legislation, the present staff seem to have been kept in the dark about their futures.

122/16 Co-option onto the Parish Council

There were 2 applicants for 1 vacancy, Brian Steer and Stephanie Van Pette.

Both applicants gave a presentation to the Council and were then asked questions. A vote was then taken.

Brian Steer: 0

Stephanie Van Pette: 10

Resolved: That Stephanie Van Pette be co-opted onto Watlington Parish Council.

123/16 Chairman's Remarks

There were none.

124/16 Emily Godfrey – River Thame Conservation Trust – Presentation on reducing pollution in the Chalgrove Brook

EG stated there are many small things that people can do to improve the quality of the water of the River Thames (which Chalgrove Brook is part of). There is a lot of national and local data available. There has been a lot of work done on the Chalgrove Brook by the Trust and also by WEG and volunteers. There has been many improvements and the Chalgrove Brook is one of the 'Jewels in the Crown' and therefore very important. It is a freshwater area and the only chalk stream having brown trout.

The main problem is the water quality issue and with much land being arable or having livestock, nutrients from fertiliser are flushed into the water which cause aquatic plant growth of algae etc which then leads to death of the ecosystem as there is not enough oxygen for fish etc to live. The Trust is working with farmers and land owners to ensure a more sensitive approach to farming. Influencing large organisations can take a lot of time and can be very difficult but making changes at a local level is often more effective as encouraging people to care can influence more rapid change. Small changes that people can make is to use low phosphate cleaning products and by using less of the product and using such things as a laundry ball. Phosphates from washing machines etc that are allowed to run directly into storm drains which go straight into the river. EG said that Aldi stock very good low phosphate products at a reasonable price.

Other changes that can be made to prevent blockages are not to put fat and oil, wet wipes, medicines and tablets and lots of other items down the drain. A drain should just be for rain. Another change that could be made is septic tank management.

EG stated that the Parish Council could help by spreading the work via Facebook, website and articles; making changes themselves and to look for things that might impact water quality. She said that she can always be contacted to be given ideas or concerns about water issues.

EG was thanked for such an informative and interesting presentation and Council agreed to help publicise this in any way that they could. EG will send an article to the Clerk which can be put on our website, Facebook page etc.

125/16 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.

There were no declarations of interest notified.

126/16 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 12th July 2016 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.

127/16 Matters arising from the Minutes

OxLep (Minute 111/16 refers) – It was noted that the OxLep figures should be reconsidered to see whether they need to be re-visited.

Air Quality (Minute 110/16 refers) - We still have had no response from Claire Spendley further to our letter sent on 2/3/2016, and subsequent verbal request for clarification of what Ricardo's response meant as far as modelling the pinch points at the Town Hall. They will be coming to a public meeting in Watlington on 15/10/2016 in the Town Hall.

128/16 Public Questions

Gill Bindoff – The NP Forum have been part of the panel along with the NP Steering Group with the NP Developer meetings in June 2016. The notes on these are now all on the NP website. The NP Forum wish to seek PC approval to hold further meetings with Developers including Providence Land. The wish is to update them on the NP and which sites are currently seeking planning permission. The meetings would be made up of members of WPC and the NP Forum. An invitation to attend these meetings should be given to a Pyrton Parish representative. A meeting is being held with Pyrton Parish this week. GB said that the NP is in a precarious position with the application being in for Wat8 there is a risk that this will precipitate in a domino effect for sites Wat 9,10,11,12 and 7. GB said that the NP Forum would also like to find out what traffic information the Developers have as the more information we can glean the better.

JB said that he would support GB's request to hold further meetings with developers. A vote was then taken.

8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

CARRIED

Peter Richardson – Connect 8 - PR stated that Connect 8 are trying to secure more cabinets. The Christmas Common one is now enabled. There is an opportunity to gain publicity and asked if one of the Parish Councillors would like to be involved. Last week there was a piece in the Henley Standard on broadband in Cuxham. People who have signed up for BT Infinity have said that speeds are worse than they had before. It would be good if people could do speed checks of their computer and let PR know what they are as we do not want people to sign up for a worse service.

It was agreed that MR be involved with the publicity on this issue. PR will liaise directly with him.

129/16 District Councillors Report

Anna Badcock had sent her apologies for this meeting. IH will be organising a meeting with AB and a few Councillors to discuss Chalgrove, Wat8 and NP issues.

130/16 County Councillors Report

SH said that he has had a long day full of meetings today.

Unitary Council - One of the meetings today was on the Unitary issue. There will be a recommendation to the OCC Cabinet that an officer be instructed to look at the Grant Thornton Option 6 which is a Single Unitary Council which devolves power to District Boards which could act autonomously on things such as Planning for example. There would be one Council with 125 Councillors and then Area Boards who could themselves devolve powers to Town and Parish Councillors if they wished.

Press Release sent out by Oxford City Council – SH said that their latest press release (13 Sept 2016) is full of inaccuracies with some defamatory comments. He said that OCC is trying to take the initiative on this issue. SODC are proposing a Multi Unitary Council and OCC wants a single Unitary Council. The Secretary of State will make the final decision.

This issue is a Nationwide Issue. If a Unitary Council is adopted it is predicted that £20M would be saved per year and with a Multi Unitary, £5M per year.

SODC have a lot of money in the bank and if a Unitary Council was adopted this money would be put in a single pot.

Chalgrove Planning Proposal – JB said that over 7,000 responses have been sent to SODC regarding this issue and noted that SODC have only a 3.8 year housing supply and it seems that this is their way

of filling in the gap to give them the 5 year supply they need to have without much thought if this is the right solution for South Oxfordshire. There is the road issue and he asked if it is true that OCC have stated their objection citing inadequate roads etc. SH said that OCC have put in a strong objection to this planning application. OCC want to see more housing built in Culham etc which would be in line for the OxLep figures.

Planning Application for 100 houses in Pyrton – SH said that if Council has anything to say on infrastructure issues to please let him know.

IH thanked SH for attending this meeting.

131/16 Thames Valley Police Report

The following report was received from PC James Hopkin.

Since 1st July 2016 Thames Valley Police received 25 calls from the Watlington area.

Crimes Reported: There were 2 crimes reported to TVP from the Watlington Area of which were a theft from motor vehicle and criminal damage. We also received reports of vehicle parking on the High Street and 3 calls relating to ASB near St Leonards Church.

Parking Concerns in Watlington: Again we have received complaints regarding the parking on double yellow lines down the High Street and in the one way system opposite the Co-Op. The neighbourhood team have issued 11 tickets during July and will continue to ticket vehicles contravening the restrictions. Please can we remind all residents and drivers that parking on double yellow lines causes an obstruction and will be enforced without warning!

Recent Speed Check: The neighbourhood team along with Roads Policing conducted a speed check along the B4009 on Monday 25th July. During this time 23 vehicles with all drivers bar one being given a Fixed Penalty Ticket and 3 points on the road side. One person was caught going too fast for this and will be summoned to court. We shall be conducting many more speed checks over the next few months. Speed limits are there for a reason and we shall be robust with anyone found contravening these limits.

Crime Reduction Advice: With Watlington being a nice quiet village, offenders may take advantage of this and target the area. Now we are in the middle of summer, we are particularly seeing an increase in rural crime, centred on farms and the fields surrounding the village. Again with spring upon us residents are tending to their gardens and allotments, Thame Neighbourhood team are reminding residents to ensure that tools are put safely away in sheds or garages and these are securely locked away.

Even though the mornings and nights are getting lighter, we still recommend leaving a light on, or using automatic timer switches, which will turn on the certain lights as it is getting dark. This will provide the illusion of people being at home.

132/16 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

133/16 Committees:

A: FINANCE – There has been no meeting

B: PLANNING – 2/8/2016 and 5/9/2016 – Jeremy Bell and Bob West

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

The Planning Committee objected to the following applications:

1. **P16/S2364/HH 34 Cuxham Road, Watlington** – Amendment to permitted scheme P15/S0329/HH.
2. **P16/S1112/FUL 40 Ingham House, Brook Street, Watlington** - Amendment
3. **P16/S1897/HH 26 The Goggs, Watlington**
4. **P16/S2638/FUL Land to rear of 14 and 16 High Street, Watlington**
5. **P16/S2650/FUL Newlands, Platts Lane, Northend**
6. **P15/S0941/FUL Land adjacent to St Leonard's Church Prospect Place, Watlington**

1. To appoint new member/s onto the Planning Committee

Resolved: That Ian Hill and Stephanie Van de Pette be members of the Planning Committee.

2. WPC Response to Application P16/S2576/O - Land off Pyrton Lane

The Planning Committee will be considering this at their Planning meeting on 4th October. They can only comment on planning issues and not strategic issues. Should a strategic WPC response be sent?

JB has said WPC has to consider all implications and that the Parish Council should be sending a strategic response. After discussion it was:

Resolved: That WPC send in a strategic response and a special meeting be set up which will include members of the NP Forum which will be an information gathering exercise, following which a draft response will be circulated to members of Full Council prior to it being sent. IH will organise this response.

3. Chalgrove Airfield – There was no further information to discuss.

C: STRATEGY- 26/7/2016 – Matt Reid

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

MR said that he was elected as Chairman and Roger Beattie as Vice-Chairman. There were no recommendations for Council to discuss.

D. OPERATIONS – 20/7/2016 – Bob West.

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

BW reported that the new play equipment has now been installed in the Paddock which looks fantastic and thanked RH for all her work on this project. Operations will discuss the fencing issue at their next meeting. There will be an official opening organised shortly.

1. Red Kites – RB stated that he has contacted Cathy Rose and Jerry Page and will organise a meeting with them shortly.

E. ALLOTMENTS – Nothing to report

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

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – 1/8/2016, 8/8/2016 and 5/9/2016 Council to accept these Minutes

Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

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

There were no nominations for this position.

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.

JB thanked all the people who are working on the NP especially those on the NP Forum. JB said that the NP process is in a precarious state with threats of housing applications being made and larger numbers of housing could be forced onto us. The NP Forum want to do some traffic modelling to try and find out the effectiveness of measures to reduce traffic in the High Street and other roads. We need to know the risks eg if the Chalgrove Development goes ahead what effect would this have on traffic in Watlington. The NP Forum is working with their eyes open but it is a very different situation to that of a year ago.

TW asked if there is enough money to do a Traffic Survey. IH stated that there is some money to do some sort of traffic survey. There has been a grant from Locality for this and the NP Forum are looking to do a cumulative site survey. There is a need to model what each site would do to Watlington. There is also a need for figures on traffic flow when new housing is built. JB said that there are some big traffic questions that need to be answered. Watlington is a bottle neck in the region and hopefully OCC will give us some Highways advice. TB stated that OCC are doing some traffic survey work for

SODC and have said that they will provide information to us. HTC are also doing some traffic surveying and this information should also be available to us.

134/16 Correspondence for Information - List was attached to Agenda

Letter 231 – N James – Historic Town Forums – The Clerk to email to all Councillors.

135/16 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies – To note reports that have been received

1. Town Hall Charity Trust Body

Resolved: That Alison Morgans be co-opted onto the Town Hall Trust Body.

2. Youth Club – IH reported that the Youth Club Committee are very keen on working with the PC. This will be an agenda item for the next Strategy Committee meeting.

3. Watlington Club – a report will be emailed to Councillors.

136/16 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

Charlotte Coxe – TW reported that we are waiting to hear from our Solicitor on this and are also waiting for financial information from OCC.

Age UK – TW said that there is a big consultation on Health which ends at the end of September.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.10PM