



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 8pm In the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:	Tom Bindoff (TB) – Vice-Chairman
	Ian Hill (IH)
	Rachel Huckvale (RH)
	Roger Beattie (RB)
	Terry Jackson (TJ)
	Tony Williamson (TW)
	Fiona Paterson (FP)
	Fergus Lapage (FL)
Co-opted Member:	Jenny Wilkinson (JW)
Officer:	Kristina Tynan

40/17 Apologies for Absence
Bob West.

41/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd March 2017 which were accepted by Council on the 11/4/2017 to be agreed as a correct record
One amendment was agreed (Minute 35/17, 2c) 'not used' to be changed to 'given'.
Resolved: That these minutes, with the amendment shown above, are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chair of this meeting.

42/17 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest notified.

43/17 Matters arising
Noticeboard on Old Post Office – This building will be a Charity Shop called Mercy in Action. TW had approached them about keeping the noticeboards for adverts. They have no interest in taking this on but agreed that this could be done by Age Concern. A suggested donation of 50p for each advert to be donated to Age Concern. Mercy in Action have said they would like it to be free. There would be no benefit to Age Concern to do this. KT will contact the Manager of this shop and discuss this with her.

44/17 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues

1. Unofficial path to Watcome Road in the corner of the Hill Road Car Park – **Will hopefully be done soon.**
2. Sports Field Tree Cutting – Our tree wardens have been asked if they would be able to cut the lower branches of the Horse Chestnut trees on the corner of the field. **This has been done.**
3. Car Park cleaning of this area – on the list for the Community Payback Team/Neilsen's Global Day- **It was thought that this would be too much for Neilsen's and KT to request the Payback Team do this. She will also make contact with Diane Majors about the other jobs we have suggested and which she says would be possible.**

4. Message in a Bottle – Promotion of this – **Still awaiting bottles from the Lions Club to be delivered.**
5. Recreation Car Park Marking out – Plan from KW has been received –**Neilsen’s to do this on their Global Awareness day.**
6. Painting of Community Office – **We have asked the Community Payback Team to do this. Awaiting their agreement.**
7. Car Park hatching opposite disabled bays – **Bob Thomas will do this in dry weather.**
8. Dog Waste Bags – **RB/KT will get these ordered.**
9. Easter Egg Hunt – **RH said that the event was will attended and very successful. There has been an article and photos in the Henley Standard. It raised £525 which will be shared between Rainbow Nursery and The Watlington Hoard Fund.**

45/17 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

1. **Trees in Watlington** – TB said he has looked at the Hornbeam and Cherry Tree in the Paddock and they have both been pruned. He thought that they had been a little too lightly pruned.

2. **Footpaths**

a) Footpath 13 – IH has spoken to the Agent for the landowner of this path and his view was that the owner would not mind if the path was made better. TB said OCC said they would send a quote for doing this work. **KT will chase this up.**

b) Any other Footpath Issues- TB said that Johnson’s Alley (by the Hill Road Car Park) is not on the Definitive Footpath Map so does not have any protection as a right of way.

46/17 Open Spaces

1. **Recreation Ground /Sports Field**

a) Dog Fouling – We are awaiting proposals from the WTFC and WCC

b) **MUGA Proposal for Recreation Ground** – RB said that there was a meeting on site with NS, IH and Sports Sections members. The area they are considering is that of the tarmacked basketball pitch. The Sports People first mentioned this in the PSFC Committee as an idea to be investigated and they would be eligible to apply for grants for this. RB asked for the Committee’s agreement in principle to investigate this idea further. **This was agreed.**

IH mentioned that the other idea from the meeting was to just install a wall (Allotment side of the Basketball Court) as it seems that teenagers seem to want a wall to kick a ball against. At present they are using the wall of the pavilion to do this and causing damage to shutters and guttering. It was noted that this would be a much cheaper option.

c) **Youths Climbing on the roof of the pavilion** – RB said that youths are doing this by climbing up the lighting pole. We have purchased some anticlimb paint which will be put on this pole and hopefully deter this happening. The PSFC are also investigating CCTV.

2) **Paddock**

a) Street Party in memory of murdered MP Jo Cox – Weekend of 17th/18th June– RB,RH and FP are leading on this event. Alex Tait (Gorwell) is also interested in helping organise this. This will be a get together for the whole community and be part of a national celebration of what we have in common. It was agreed that this group meet with AT and report back on the programme of events to the next meeting.

b) New Play Equipment Paddock Project – The Fencing has been delivered. Two quotes for installation have been received. After discussion it was:

Resolved: That we accept the quote from Dave Pullen at a cost of £550 and ask him to install the fence ASAP.

c) Performance Stage – There was a meeting held last night on site with IH, TJ, TB, KT, Sarah Pullen and Tim Horton. Ian Donaldson left £2000 in his will for a bandstand/performance stage. KT circulated a number of papers by email to Members on this today for information.

Watlington Concert Band are very keen to progress this and the idea has been looked at for a number of years. It was suggested that what was needed was a Community Working Group to look at this issue and come back with suggestions to this committee. It was noted that a shed for storage would also need to be part of this issue. RH said that FOWL are looking into putting up a shed for storage and that it may be good to have one with a combined use as the areas are so close together.

Resolved: That a Community Working Group be set up to look at ideas for a Performance Stage. TJ, TW and FL will be the Parish Council representatives on this. TJ to arrange a meeting and invite interested people from the community including Sarah Pullen and Tim Horton. The brief should include the examination of whether, overall, the idea of a performance area would work for the Paddock alongside all the other activities that take place there, and if so what design would be most appropriate.

3) Other Areas

a. Triangle on Cuxham Road – Discussion took place on the use of this space. TW suggested that he finds it difficult to justify spending public money on looking after this space which has no value to the community and consideration should be given to selling it.

Agreed to defer to the next meeting to allow the tree wardens to report.

48/17 Property

1. Car Park

Enforcement to be discussed at the next meeting. It was noted that the noticeboard at the main car park entrance needs to be re-varnished which Neilsen's could possibly do. KT to ask Bob Thomas if he can repair the frame. TW said that we should consider using Johnson's Alley to extend the car park.

2. Public Conveniences

a) **Updating of the facilities** – Trident have been commissioned. Awaiting agreement on proposal from SODC. KT has chased up SODC on this.

49/17 General Issues

a) **Winter Maintenance Plan** – SvP has produced a draft plan which IH has reviewed-

Resolved: That this be agreed and put up on the website etc in September.

b) **Red Kites** – TJ – a revised leaflet had been given out to Members.

Resolved: That this leaflet be agreed and distributed to Watlington residents. The addition of the WPC information to be put on the last page. It was also agreed to put up posters on this issue around the town and TJ/RH will do these.

KT stated that she had been in touch with the Environmental Health Officer at SODC on this issue and she had sent an email with some useful information on it. KT will email this to Members. It was noted that these birds are protected and WPC are unable to put laws onto the feeding of them etc.

c) **Watlington Walk Leaflets** – TW said that we have re-produced the Town Walk last year but supplies of the other 3 Walks are now very low. A cost for re-printing 5000 of all 3, including some minor changes would be £1365. It was thought that these are very useful and that we should reprint the remaining 3 walks.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: The budget for 2017/2018 is currently £535.00 and that we should increase it by £830 to allow for the re-printing of 5000 copies of each 3 walks.

d) **Hearing Loops in WPC Buildings-** TW/KT had done some research on this and it could be done in the Parish Office for an approx. cost of £200. It was thought that this should be done and it was agreed to refer it to the Finance Committee.

e) **Emergency Services and Fire in DG Homecare** –A note from JW had been circulated to Members. Discussion took place on this and it was agreed that we should see how we can help the Fire Service improve their numbers and whatever else we could help with including encouraging businesses giving permission for their staff to become reserve Fire Fighters. It was noted that the lack of affordable housing was also an issue. Fire hydrants not working in the Town and also cars being parked over them was a concern.

Resolved: That we invite the Watlington Fire Officer to a meeting to discuss this issue. KT to organise this.

f) **War Memorial Planting** – TJ asked about the annual cost of planting this. KT said that for the last financial year the total cost was about £625 but a donation for half the amount is given by Griffith and Partners. KT said that the winter pansies were offered to residents when the beds were replanted for the summer and this will be done again this year. Action KT/Bob Thomas to advise residents when the plants are removed so they can be reused.

g) **Neilsen’s Global Awareness Day** – A list of items that we need to obtain/purchase for this day

- Marking paint for Car Park in Rec and the Machine. Bob West to be asked to make a template prior to the 11th May. FL to oversee this work with BW.
- Dark Green Exterior Satinwood Wood Paint for wood on half pipe. 2 x tins
- White Exterior Wood Gloss – for gates to the Town (It was thought that Neilsen’s could do the gate by the entrance to the Rec)
- Tools for scraping out cobbles by Public Conveniences (2 needed. Roger Beattie)
- Varnish for Noticeboard on Hill Road Car Park entrance
- Hi Viz Jackets (they bring their own gloves).
- Brushes for painting

50/17 Correspondence

There was no correspondence that needed discussion.

51/17 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

1 Enforcement of 2 Hour Bays – When recommendations are received from the NP Infrastructure Report.

2. Recycling Bins for the Town – At an appropriate time.

5217 Any Other Business

Compost – TB asked that KT phone SODC to see if they give away compost to local Parish Council contractors.

Brook Street Trench – TB said that we are still awaiting comments on this and he has sent Keith Stenning a photo.

1 Old School Place, Gorwell, Watlington, Oxon. OX49 5QH. Tel: 01491 613867.

Email: wpc@watlington-oxon-pc.gov.uk Website: www.watlington.org