



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015 At 11.00 am in the Community Office

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Bob West - Chairman  
Robert Barber – Vice-Chairman  
Ian Hill  
Tim Horton  
Tony Williamson  
Linda Nicholson – Co-opted member

**Officer:**

Denise Allnutt

**Members of the Public**

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14/15 Apologies for Absence  
Elizabeth Winton.

15/15 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st January 2015 which were accepted by Council on the 10/2/2015 to be agreed as a correct record  
**Resolved:** That these minutes were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

16/15 Declarations of Interest  
There were none.

17/15 Matters arising  
There were none other than agenda items.

18/15 Outstanding Issues

i) **Signs bent in Car Park** – BW will speak to Tom Bindoff.

ii) **Safety Inspection Report for Recreation Ground** – KT has ordered the works agreed to be done by Playdale. TH reminded the committee that money will also be needed for the play bark which will be ordered separately and volunteers will be needed to help spread the bark perhaps in the Easter Holidays.

iii) **Traffic Survey at Christmas Common** – RB and KT are organising for this to be done by OCC

iv) **Posts on Christmas Common verge** –RB/KT are attending to this issue.

19/15 Issues update from discussion with Keith Stenning

1. **Pavement on Britwell Road beyond The Goggs** – BW read out the email from Keith Stenning, OCC which said *'We attended last week to install the dropped crossing as discussed, however the gang quickly realised that buried in the adjacent bush was an existing crossing point so they cleared back the vegetation and exposed the footway, negating the need for the new crossing point. We also pushed back the barrier by the green entrance to enable crossing by the existing crossing point by the barrier'*

The committee to take a look at what has been done.

2. **Pound Close/Pyrtton Lane issue** - TH reported that the gullies have been cleared in this location which although it has improved this winter we still need to keep an eye on it.

20/15 Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

i) **Dog Fouling Issues** - Stoop and Scoop/ Green Dog Walker Scheme/Dog Fouling Enforcement.- EL has asked about the enforcement aspect of this.

**Resolved:** That this item be deferred to the next meeting when EL will be present.

ii) **Winter work on Pavilion beds by WIB** –TH reported that quite a lot of work has been done in cutting back etc. A lot of rubbish was found and cleared. This area could do with some planting on the left of the pavilion. TW asked if TH could give the PSFC information on this issue so it can be discussed at their next meeting.

iii) **Hedge and Scrub works – various locations including the Car Park** – The two quotes from Ayres and Davy for these works were discussed in detail.

**Resolved:** That we accept the quote from Owain Devey subject to him agreeing to make a discount and BW to speak to him to see if he would reduce the total bill by £100-£200 of the total amount. It was agreed that we need to make it clear that he is to do only doing the section of hedge by the half pipe and a few metres beyond - not the full length back to the Pavilion.

Also that the section of car park hedge backing onto Watcombe Road between the corner and the entrance ramp needs to be cut to the height of the '2 hour parking' sign post which is approx 8-9 feet rather than the 6ft agreed for the Johnson's Alley length.

To note that the works to the car park hedge will be taken out of the car park budget, all other works will be from WPC's general budget.

iv) **Recreation Ground Car Park** – We are still awaiting the scaled plan from Neil Boddington. TH said that this needs discussing soon so the bid can go to the Finance Committee for consideration in the 2016/2017 budget. RB said that what had been on the sketch plan would pose a serious threat to the trees due to compaction of the root-zones.

*To be an agenda item for the next meeting.*

b) Paddock

1. **Fencing options** – On-going.

**Actions:** Metal Fencing – KT has some prices, Wooden Fencing – RB to research. Hedging- RB to pursue. Prices and information to be brought to the March meeting. It was noted that a decision on fencing will need to be made in March so that the hedging can be planted in the Spring.

2. **Play equipment** – Report has been received – TH said that he thinks that everything will last at least another year but ideas should be discussed for the future.

*To be an agenda item for the next meeting.*

3. **Path by Library End of Paddock** – We have had one quote for these works. BW will speak to Neil Allen regarding this.

4. **New Plants for Paddock** – Tracy has ordered some and the ground has been mulched this week in preparation.

21/15 Property

a. Car Park

i) **Car Park Entrance/Watcombe Road Works Co-op**– These works are likely to take 3-4 days and it has been agreed with the Co-op that their lorries can reverse into the car park for the duration of these works and use Johnson’s alley to wheel their delivery trolleys to the Co-op. The Co-op had previously agreed to install a bell bollard on the Hill Road corner but we need to have it confirmed in writing whether they will bear the whole cost of doing this, which will be approximately £800 + the labour costs, or just the labour costs.

**In conclusion:**

- The Co-op will undertake the Watcombe Road resurfacing works which will take between 2-4 working days.
- The Co-op to be asked to confirm that they will pay for the bell bollard and installation. RB said that if they do not agree to pay for this then the WPC should consider paying for the bollard and ask the Co-op to cover the installation.
- The Co-op have our permission to reverse into the Hill Road Car Park for the duration of these works and take their deliveries down Johnson’s Alley and KT has sent a letter to the Co-op regarding this issue.
- The Co-op also agreed to reset the kerbs on the Hill Road corner.

ii) **Works to Drains** – TH said that RB, KT and himself met on site with the Co-op Contractor for the works above to look at the drainage issue.

After detailed discussion on site it was concluded that the 2 gullies parallel to Watcombe Road have been severed by putting in the pathway/ramp by the noticeboard. One solution would be to build a new trench across the car park. The Co-op Contractor (Ian) will be coming back to us with some prices.

BW said he will check the levels in the car park with a laser measure.

**In conclusion:**

- The proposal is to build a new trench across the car park with a metal grid on top of it which will withstand traffic.
- BW will check the levels in the car park with a laser measure.
- Awaiting figures from the Co-op contractor for trench proposal.

iii) **Hedges in Car Park** –Discussed above in item 20/15.

iv) **Enforcement of 2 Hour Car Park Spaces** – IH has done a survey on the car park of the two hour parking bays. It was noted that 9 two hour spaces were occupied for 6 hours. It was agreed that we will only put reminder notes on the cars that overstay the two hour period until the spaces have been marked out properly. IH has also visited the Chiltern Business Centre to explain about the two hour parking spaces.

*Marking of the two hour bays to be an agenda item for next month.*

b. Public Conveniences

i) Updating of the facilities –BW/TH still need to meet to discuss the draft tender of works. It was noted that a local resident is giving the conveniences extra deep cleaning treatments.

22/15 Water Treatment Outfall Monitoring Group

The Operations Committee notes the Thames Water Document 'Watlington Drainage Strategy' (November 2014). While welcoming an approach towards cleaning the local brooks and ensuring public health, the Committee is concerned about the rate of progress on this scheme.  
**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That we establish a 'Water Treatment Outfall Monitoring Group'

#### 23/15 General Issues

1. **Summer Sports Programme** – KT has sent a letter to SODC on this but no reply has been received. KT to chase this up.
2. **Phone Box at Christmas Common** – It was noted that WiB will be repainting, replace missing glass panes in this phone box.
3. **Howe Road and Accidents** – Awaiting response from OCC.
4. **HAMP and Ecotec and 'after works' in Watlington** – It was noted that IH is compiling a comprehensive list about all damage which has been caused by the works and the diversions in place. It was noted that this list needs to be completed very soon as the work in Watlington is nearly completed.
5. **Skips in High Street** – Referred to the Strategy Committee meeting in March.
6. **Footpath W13 (Willow Pond Path)** – TH has spoken to Steve Harrod about cutting back the hedges.
7. **Environment Agency Grants for surveying culverts** – TH said that we need a survey of culverts as many in Watlington are in a bad state.
8. **Streetlife** – Asking if we could introduce them to local groups. They have just launched in Didcot and are a new local community website for South Oxfordshire. Visit [www.streetlife.com](http://www.streetlife.com)  
*Agreed to be an agenda item for the next meeting.*

#### 24/15 Correspondence

1. Wallgate–Contract renewal needed for Public Conveniences  
**Resolved:** That this contract be renewed. KT to arrange this.

#### 25/15 Future Issues for Discussion

Shown above in the agenda items.

#### 26/15. Any Other Business

**Britwell Road** – It was noted that the road is very muddy in this location and has been caused by the Pig Farm. A letter to be sent to OCC on this issue of very dirty vehicles coming onto public roads.

**Hill Road** – This has been much damaged due to the works on a Hill Road building site. The verges have been destroyed and the Christmas Common Road has also been damaged. A letter to be sent to the owner of the site by the WPC and to SODC asking about their plans for reinstatement of the verges and other collateral damage.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1PM**