



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 24th February 2016 At 10am in the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Bob West (BW) - Chairman
Tom Bindoff (TB) - Vice-Chair
Ian Hill (IH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Rachel Huckvale (RH) (only for item 16/19(b))
Jane Bryant (JBt)
Tony Williamson (TW)

Officer:

Sarah Pullen

13/16 Apologies for Absence

Terry Jackson, Liz Winton.

14/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th January 2016 which were accepted by Council on the 9/2/2016 to be agreed as a correct record

Resolved: that these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

15/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

16/16 Matters arising

There were none other than agenda items.

17/16 Outstanding Issues

i) **Drain Cover- Watcombe Road** – KT has contacted Openreach (Ref THOAVP88). The latest update is that a new cover and frame has been ordered. Still not repaired. Contacted again on 4/2/2016 not helpful. Will re-contact.

ii) **Play Inspection Report** – KT is working through this.

iii) **Breedon Path weeding** – IH will speak to our Gardener, Tracey. TW said that there was a similar problem on the path in the Churchyard. The level needs building up so the water soaks away into the grass. TB said that it needs a soakaway. BW to do a site inspection and report back to the next meeting.

iv) **Recreation Ground Car Park and Lighting** – Residents are happy with the arrangement to put on the two street lights along the path for a specific period in the morning and evening in the darker months. They would be on a timer. We have received one quote and will obtain another one or two.

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

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

18/16 OCC Issues

i) **Area behind Library** – Mike Young has cleared this area and a letter of thanks has been sent.

Issues to be updated on following the meetings with Keith Stenning in Watlington and Christmas Common.

1. **Pavement on Britwell Road beyond The Goggs**- OCC have designed a build-out scheme for this location which is awaiting approval. TW said that we need to see the design. There is a possibility that OCC will implement the scheme in the next financial year.

2. **Hamp Assessments** – OCC have agreed to resurface the bad section of Love Lane by the school.

3. **Brook Street** – This work is still under guarantee and KS has contacted the contractors.

4. **Cobbles outside Public Conveniences** – The Operations Committee will have a look at this to see if it is something that we can do ourselves as it was thought that grouting should bring up the level.

5. **Drainage and Street Lighting** – Awaiting OCC response. KT has asked SH to chase up. The High Street started flooding after resurfacing. There is no OCC money for street lighting.

6. **Speedwatch issues** – KT has put in an order to OCC for traffic surveys for Howe Road and Brook Street. This information has also been requested by the NP Group. KT to chase up OCC for dates. Speedwatch will be doing some speed surveys next week. Dragons Teeth for Howe Road would be a cheap solution and the residents have asked for this. There would be no traffic regulation needed for this and would cost about £200. To move the 30mph limit out at Howe Road would be very expensive.

Regarding making areas 20mph, this can be done and we would need to put the request to OCC who would then consider it. BW said that doing this would not give us any more enforcement but TB disagreed with this. ***Agreed that 20mph limits be an agenda item for the next meeting.***

7. Updates on any other issues discussed at these meetings.

Christmas Common – Keith Stenning had recommended putting posts in the verge to prevent parking on the verges and also to protect the verge from passing traffic. Some residents want to get the footpath reinstated. IH said that Robert Barber has contacted him and said that other local residents would be opposed to this. KS said that he thinks that the bollards should be put up and a local resident has offered to pay for them. It was agreed that the residents need to deal with OCC direct on this issue.

19/16 Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

i) **Dog Fouling Issues** – The problem with the dog bags dispenser in the Recreation Ground was discussed in that as soon as it is filled up people are coming and taking them all so there are none left for people to use. It was suggested that we put a sign up saying that people can collect dog bags from the Parish Office. It was agreed that we try putting them back next month to see if the problem has gone away. It was noted that it is only a couple of people who are abusing this. KT to speak to Bob Thomas regarding this.

ii) **Half Pipe** – To be painted end of April/May. We need to check where the paint is. BW to speak to the resident who volunteered to help with this task. IH to put a piece in the Watlington Times that we are looking for volunteers to paint the ½ pipe.

b) Paddock

New Play Equipment Project - RH reported that she has spoken to SODC and they have put in a recommendation to Cabinet to allocate the full amount requested. Watlington Support Fund and the Doris Field Charity have both been approached also for grants. However with the Parish Council contribution taken into account this still leaves an approximate shortfall of £5K. Rainbow Nursery and the Watlington Pre-School have said that they will help fundraise for this. Once the additional funding has been secured then RH will contact Playdale hopefully to progress this. It was suggested that the WBA also be approached. A suggestion was made that we contact the developers in Hill Road to see if we could get some Section 106 money. TW said that S106 money was usually limited to the location of the building and requested that we request the S106 information for this project from SODC. It was also thought it would be worth approaching Waitrose, Co-op and Bentley Productions. Playdale would need a 3 month timescale before installation can take place.

20/16 Property

a. Car Park

i) **Car park clearance/drainage ditches** – The car park gully clearance will be this weekend on Saturday 27th pm and Sun 28th am. A skip has been ordered and will be put by the Clothes Bin. Notices have been put on cars alerting them to this. Drainage ditches will also be dug on the Watcombe Road side.

ii) **Enforcement of two hour bays**-we have received numerous complaints about non-enforcement. There was much discussion on this issue. IH said that he has been in contact with a Parking Agency that might be possible. We would need to send the photos of the offending cars to them and they would then send out letters. However IH was not sure if this enforcement company would work as there are few issues such as signs etc which need clarification. IH will write to them. In our Car Park Order we are only allowed to charge up to £70 whereas this company's charge would be higher.

It was agreed to repeat the car park survey which was done 5 years ago. TW asked about costs of doing this. TB said it would be done by volunteers and KT was to be asked to give TB the information from the last survey. (NOTE: Since the meeting OIH has provided this information.) It was agreed that we get costs for signs which tell people about the overspill car park at the Pavilion. Agreed to also contact WBA and put a piece in the Watlington Times (IH).

iii) **Car Park Re-arrangement** – This was passed to the NP Forum. David Parker's plan allowed for another 6 spaces by re-arranging the parking. The Operations Committee should investigate the cost of re-marking. We need to decide whether to change the layout when next the re-marking needed to be done.

iv) **Request from Co-op to surface the unofficial path to Watcome Road in the corner of the Hill Road Car Park** – TB said that he thought we should block this path off completely and the Co-op would be happy for this to happen.

Resolved: To put up a post and rail fence in this corner. The Co-op to be asked for a donation towards the cost.

b. Public Conveniences

Updating of the facilities –No update.

c) Pavilion/Recreation Ground – There were no issues to discuss.

21/16 General Issues

1. **TRELLO** – IH has put some comments onto the Operations board. We need to keep trying to get this into use as the main action list for operations.
2. **Footpath 13a** – This has all been done. Remove from Agenda.
3. **Watlington Walk Leaflet** – KT will look at available funds once she has updated the budget figures.
4. **Chapel Street- Speeding and near misses** – A resident had contacted us regarding this issue and requested a number of traffic changes. It was noted that there is mainly a problem at school start and finish times. The road outside number 10 was too narrow to install a bollard. KT to write and say that WPC cannot support her suggestions. KT also to pass this information onto our PCSO.
5. **Berinsfield Contract** – Any additional tasks, football club pitches grass cutting.
IH said that both the Football Club and the PCC want tasks put onto the WPC contract. The Football Club are losing their grass cutting volunteers and would like us to add this onto our contract by the end of February and are chasing WPC for a decision. This is complicated by the fact that the Football Club do not think they should pay all the cost of doing this. The Football Club do have a mower. They want the pitches to be cut fortnightly. After discussion it was:
Recommended: That the Football Pitches grass cutting needs to be self-financing and the contracts would need to be kept separate and not as part of the WPC contract. The PCC one would also have to be a separate contract. The Finance Committee will need to discuss the contractual side of this issue.
6. **Times of future Operations meetings** – Some Councillors are unable to attend the daytime meetings. This issue to be discussed at next month's evening meeting.

22/16 Correspondence

1. **K is for Kitchen** – Bin outside the shop. TW and IH agreed that this had already been agreed by the previous Council but appears to have got lost in the change of Council. IH to find records for previous decisions so that action can be taken if the budget allows.
2. **Carolyn Evans** – Parking at the bottom of Hill Road – As discussed enforcement of the 2 hour limit and a sign in the car park about the Recreation ground car park should help with this issue. KT to reply to C Evans. There will also need to be a sign at the Pavilion.

23/16 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

1. **Recreation Ground Tuck Shop for holiday times** –deferred until someone is interested in taking this on. TW said that he has joined the U3A and they may be interested in doing this as they have many groups. TW will contact them regarding this.
2. **20 mph limits** – to be included on March 2016 agenda

24/16 Any Other Business

Lights in Recreation Ground – RB said that he came into Watlington at 9pm a few days ago and there were boys playing football in the Hill Road Car Park as it was well lit. He asked that we discuss lighting in the Recreation Ground at the next meeting.

Tree Report from Martin Gammie – KT to chase him up for this report.

Oxfordshire Together – IH reported that we have just had an email from OCC regarding this. We will need to consider what we could reasonably do with regards to grass cutting, salt bins, footpaths etc. All members to investigate this and this will be an agenda item for the March Full Council meeting.

Town Clean up for the Queens 90th Birthday – As we are carrying out a spring clean of the car park on the previous weekend it was not thought appropriate to have a second volunteer task.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.50AM

