



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 10.30am in the Community Office

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Barry Adby – Chairman  
Bob West – Vice-Chairman  
Ian Hill  
Tim Horton  
Robert Barber  
Linda Nicholson – co-opted  
Harvey Batten

**In Attendance:**

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan

**Members of the Public:**

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01/14 Apologies for Absence

Tony Williamson, Neil Boddington.

02/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013 which were accepted by Council on the 10/12/2013 to be agreed

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

03/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

04/14 Matters arising

**Mansle Gardens** – TH reported that the pergola is now finished and he thanked all who helped with this project.

05/15 Outstanding Issues

1. **Hedge in Car Park** – Awaiting quotation from Nigel Adams
2. **Parish Controlled Trees** – RB has spoken with Martin Gammie about these and he will be writing up a proposal for them.
3. **Howe Hill Hedges** – David Goldworthy at OCC was dealing with this issue but he has now left. David Platt has taken over this over. He will be coming to Watlington in the near future to introduce himself.

**4. Pothole by Car Park** – We have chased up Scion and hopefully it should be done before the next meeting. TH said that perhaps we need to look at another company to do this sort of work for us at some point.

**5. Howe Road Phone Box** – British Telecom have dealt with this.

06/14 Property

a. Car Park

i) Drains in Car Park

**a) Discussion after site visit which took place prior to this meeting**

BA reported that the drains are working quite well at the moment. It was noted that the operation of the drains depends on keeping them clean and mucked out regularly. Discussion took place on putting in sleepers which may help in keeping the gullies clear so that they can flow. It was noted that a core problem is that when the ramp was installed they cut off the drain to a soakaway but this could be reconnected to a nearby one.

The top drain is blocked and needs to be cleared out again, this was done a few months ago but has filled up again.

It was noted that the full report from OPC has been received and the relevant parts will be printed out and sent to all Councillors.

**Resolved:** To obtain some quotes to connect the drain under the ramp to a soakaway from some builders as soon as possible.

It could be that we could address the drains in 2 phases. Firstly get the basics working which could be a relatively cheap option, BW said it could be 1 days work for a crew, and then look at any further works that could be done at a future time. HB said that he will seek quotes for this work.

**b) Should we consult Monsoon on drains?** Note from TH 13/12/2014

It was noted that we have now received the drain map from Monsoon.

ii) **Car Park Entrance** - TH/NB

BA said that he does not think it worth pursuing a new entrance scheme at present as there does not seem to be any funding from other sources available. OCC have stated that they cannot help in any way with this. HB said that given the budget restraints and not knowing how much the Neighbourhood Plan will cost that this scheme should not be furthered at this time. RB said that it would not be appropriate to spend money on this at this time and said that where we were planning to put the new ramp we now know would be over the soakaway that we want to use. This scheme would be a luxury item and is not essential and we should not be spending Parish Council money on this. RB said that if we want to spend money on the car park maybe we should consider tarmacing the bellmouth at Watcombe Road.

TH stated that he understands that the soakaway would be an impediment to the proposed new entrance scheme but the new entrance would be much better for pedestrians and disabled people and thinks we should still pursue money for the entrance scheme with the Co-op as the cut back on the corner needs to be addressed and a conversation could be had with them if not for the new entrance scheme but for the tidying up that area and that the Co-op could feel some liability. TH proposed that we meet with the Co-op to discuss all the car park and Watcombe Road issues and said that he would like to be part of this.

**Resolved:** That we email the Head Office of the Co-op asking for a meeting with them. TH/KT to

arrange this.

IH said that the Co-op lorries are churning up the bank of the car park which means that the bank is being eaten up. BA stated that this should not happen it is just bad driving. The tarmacing of the road, posts and bank etc are all issues that need to be addressed.

b. Public Conveniences

i) **Updating of the facilities** –TH said he has spoken with a plumber about works needed. He will produce a draft tender document.

c. Community Office

i) **Painting of the inside of the community room** – It was thought that our caretaker could do this on wet days. The Clerk to liaise with Jaine McCormack and LN regarding a colour scheme.

7. Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

i) **Signs for Recreational Areas** – This has been referred to the Finance Committee so can come off this agenda.

ii) **Hedge around Sports Field**-It was agreed that we do nothing until the sports field issue regarding the cricket and football use of the field is sorted out.

iii) **Bike Racks in Town** – An article had been put in the Watlington Times asking for suggestions for locations of these but no responses have been received. TH said that WIB are prepared to pay for some bike racks and they will suggest some locations and type of racks to this committee. TH said that Terry Jackson is now Chair of WIB

b) Chalk Pits – RB reported that Nigel Adams is halfway through the work which includes re-coppicing a whitebeam to 5ft and also the removal of a whitebeam and an ash tree which was beyond WEG doing. He is also doing an experimental technique on the hawthorne scrub by laying it at ground level which is like a laid hedge but on the ground which will give a new habitat for invertebrates. This work is costing £650 and is being paid for by the Chiltern Conservation Board

8. General Issues

1. **Johnson's Alley** – RB reported that Owain Devey is doing the works needed on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February which includes taking out all the overhanging ivy and all the scrub and also the sycamore tree will be removed. RB stated that this work is exempt from Conservation Area regulations and we have this in writing from SODC. The cost will be £350 and RB said it will make a tremendous difference to this area getting this work done.

2. **Post Box at Christmas Common** – RB reported that just before Christmas this post box was stolen and it was reported to the Police. It was a George V1 one and asked that we pressure Royal Mail to replace it.

**Resolved:** That we write to the Royal Mail and request a replacement post box in this location.

3. Outstanding Issues from the Outreach Meeting. RB/KT to do this.

a) **Northend Road Gritting** – BA said that he has spoken with OCC on this and they have said that roads are prioritised on safety grounds for gritting and this road is not classed as 'recognisable' for gritting. After discussion it was:

**Resolved:** That we write to OCC and request that this road be gritted.

b) **Lines at foot of Watlington Hill** - This was discussed at length and it was thought that it would

be best to try white lines just on the bend at the foot of this hill which would help with safety issues.  
**Resolved:** That we contact David Platt at OCC and ask him to look into putting a white line in this location.

4. **Collection point for Tassimo T-Discs through Terracycle** – The Clerk to investigate how this works.

6. **Street Lighting at the Town Hall** – no lights –BA reported that SEC should be fixing these lights today however no-one seems to know why the lights at the Fish and Chip shop are not working but this is being investigated. OCC are also moving the belisha beacon 6” further away from the road as it keeps being hit .

TH stated that he is concerned about the quality of the white lining in the zebra crossing and also the white lines on Shirburn Street. BA said we were assured by OCC that when they were doing the white lining on Britwell Road they would also white line other areas but this did not happen.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk send an email about white lining not being re-done.

7. **Litter Bin at Town Hall** – Should this be replaced? Discussion took place on this and it was:

**Resolved:** That we replace this bin with a similar wooden slatted bin and to spend up to £200 on this. TH/KT to agree the exact bin to order.

9. Budget and Financial and Staff Issues

1. **Grass Cutting Tender from April 2014** – map of current schedule was attached to the agenda.

**Resolved:** That we send out the tender for quotes and that we hope to have these back so that his can be discussed at the next meeting with a recommendation to Full Council.

2. **Caretaker’s schedule** – referred from Finance – Agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

10. Action List

To note any outstanding actions if needed and to note completed actions on the caretaker list – **Not discussed.**

11. Correspondence

1. J Howell – Additional signage on the M40 – **Noted.**

2. Oxfordshire Area Ramblers – Parish Path Wardens – **Noted.**

3. Temporary Traffic Order – Pishill 3 February 2014 – **Noted.**

4. SSE – Govt feed in Tarriff charge – **Noted.**

5. Dog Trust – Would we like to hold a free dog chipping event in Watlington? **It was thought this was a good idea and that the Pavilion could be used for this. BA/KT to look into this.**

6. M Francis – New Entrance to Car Park – OCC would not be able to contribute to this scheme in either financial or officer time for the design process – **Noted.**

12. Future Issues for Discussion

**Paddock** – various issues– WIB will give us a wish list after visit by Sue Goss.

**IPlay** – March

**Skateboard ½ pipe** – TH has got some information and quotes on this – March.

13. Any Other Business

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12 NOON.**